

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE

Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland 2017

Experimental Statistics – Data under development

8th December 2017

These statistics are currently being developed and have been published to involve users and stakeholders in their development, and to build in quality and understanding at an early stage.

Key Findings

- As at June 2017 there were 562,230 acres in community ownership, this is 2.9% of the total land area of Scotland.
- There are 492 land parcels/assets in community ownership owned by 403 community groups.
- An additional 437,770 acres has to come into community ownership to achieve the target of having one million acres of land in community ownership by the end of 2020.

1. Introduction

The Scottish Government has a target of there being one million acres of land in community ownership in Scotland by the end of 2020. The Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication will track progress towards this target. The 2017 release is the first Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication and contains the current estimate of the area of land recorded as being in community ownership.

The area of land is an estimate as not all land owned by community groups will be known to the Scottish Government. In addition, the recorded area is likely to be an underestimate as some land parcels/assets are recorded as having no area. This is likely due to the area of existing buildings that have been purchased or transferred in community ownership not being known or being too small to record so have been recorded as zero.

The publication is being released as experimental statistics as the data collection method is still being developed to resolve quality issues with the underlying data. Further information on the data issues are given in [Section 4](#) and details regarding improving the data quality are given in [Section 5](#).

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2. Background

2.1 One million acre target

The Scottish Government has a target of there being one million acres of land in community ownership in Scotland by 2020. The target of one million acres of land being in community ownership was set with the intention that it would focus minds to spread the benefits experienced by communities already owning land much more widely.

The Scottish Government acknowledge that it is an ambitious target, but see it as not only important in its own terms, but as a driver to step up and encourage a greater appetite for and interest in community ownership and remain committed to maintaining this momentum to increase the area of land in community ownership.

There is an increased focus on land reform as a result of a number of approaches that are being implemented. The [Community Empowerment Act \(Scotland\) 2015](#), and the [Land Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) both take steps to widen the opportunities for communities to take on ownership of assets, whilst simplifying the process. The [Scottish Land Fund](#) and the [Empowering Communities Fund](#) both provide opportunities for communities purchasing land parcels/assets to access funding.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 frames ownership or control of land or buildings as the key element within effective community-led regeneration or development. Not only can community ownership help to safeguard or enhance local facilities, it is also seen as a means to generate income for community activity, increase community confidence and cohesion, enable communities to have more control over their futures, and support economic regeneration and sustainable development of the community.

2.2 Definition of community ownership

In relation to measuring progress towards the one million acre target the following definition was agreed upon:

- '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, reflected within current Scottish Government policy and current legislation as well as the implicit objectives of the one million acre target.
- A relevant 'community body' 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 body should:
 - Have a clear definition of the geographical community to which the body 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; and
 - Have evidence to demonstrate a sufficient level of support/community buy-in.
- 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 (i.e. from the Forestry Commission Scotland), manage and jointly own (i.e. Equity stake) assets, it was agreed that for the purposes of the target the definition should be restricted to outright ownership.

2.3 Experimental statistics

Experimental statistics are Official Statistics that are undergoing development. They are defined in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) as: 'new Official Statistics undergoing evaluation that are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development as a means to build in quality at an early stage'.

Principle 4, Practice 5 of the Code instructs producers to release experimental statistics to achieve continuous improvement in statistical processes; Protocol 1, Practice 5 states that producers should 'involve users in the evaluation of experimental statistics'. There is an emphasis across the Government Statistical Service to consult users during the review of statistics, and to make experimental series available during this period to assist in the quality assurance, development and familiarisation of the statistics.

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics promotes and supports the release of experimental statistics to involve users in their development at an early stage; however, it is likely that the statistics will not be fully compliant in all areas due to their nature as 'data being developed'.

The Scottish Government releases experimental statistics to engage with users and understand their needs as part of compliance with Principle 1 of the Code. The statistics may also be released to help develop methods and improvements in quality under Principle 4 of the Code, and it is important that these developments are fully discussed alongside the statistics. The statistics should always be supported by appropriate guidance and commentary to inform users about their strengths and weaknesses, particularly in relation to use under Principle 8 of the Code (Frankness and Accessibility).

The reason for these statistics being classed as experimental statistics is because they are based on a new and developing data source. As such time is required:

- To receive informed feedback from users and potential users of the statistics; and
- To improve the quality of the underlying data.

As such the Scottish Government would welcome feedback on the publication. Please provide any feedback to the following email address: CommunityLandStatistics@gov.scot

3. Commentary

3.1 Area of community owned land (Table 1)

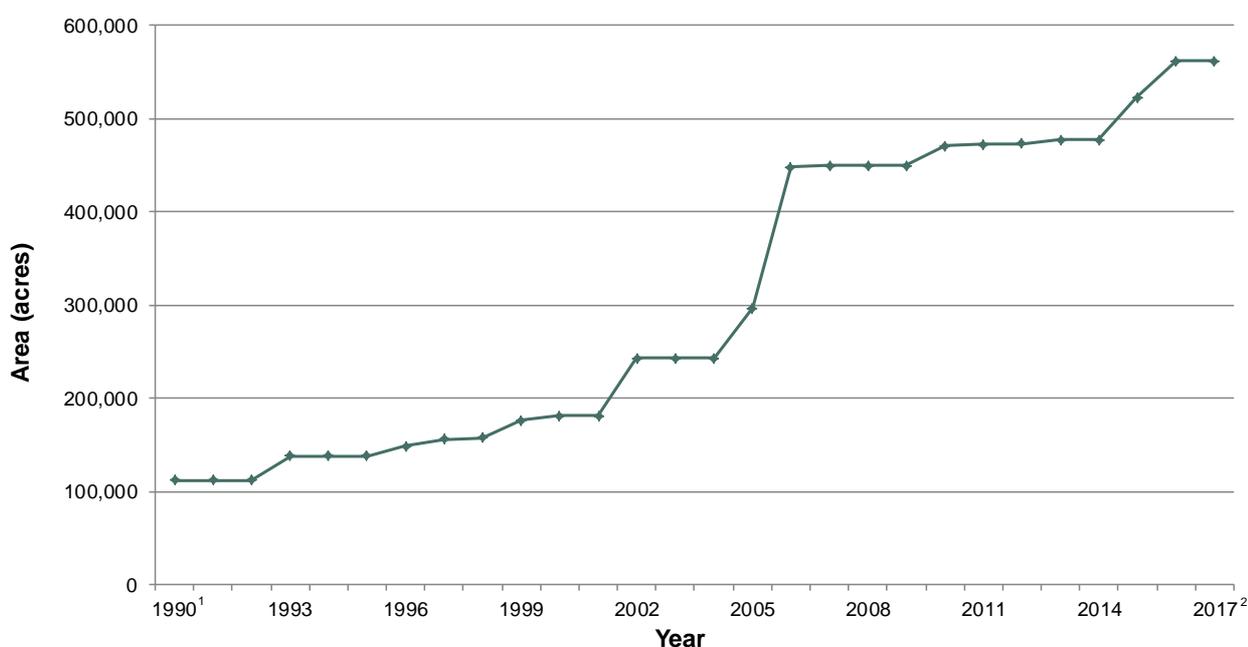
As at June 2017 there were 562,230 acres in community ownership this is 2.9% of the total land area of Scotland¹, which is 19,252,132 acres. An additional 437,770 acres has to come into community ownership by the end 2020 to achieve the target of there being one million acres in community ownership.

The area of land in community ownership can decrease as well as increase. If a community group dissolves or sells one or more of their land parcels/assets to an individual/organisation other than another community group the area associated with these land parcels/assets will no longer count towards the target of there being one million acres in community ownership by the end of 2020.

Since 1990, there has been more than a fivefold increase in the area of land in community ownership from 112,158 acres to 562,223 acres. The area of land in community ownership has generally been steadily increasing since 1990, although in some years the increase has been much larger. The purchase of one or a small number of substantial estates or woodland areas in any one year can have a large influence on the increase in area of land in community ownership. This can be best illustrated by looking at the increase of 151,556 acres recorded in 2006. The purchase of just two land parcels/assets accounted for over 99% of the increase recorded in 2006.

The total recorded area of land in community ownership since 1990 is shown below in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Recorded Area of Community Owned Land, 1990 to 2017



Notes:

1. Where the year of purchase/transfer of the land parcel/asset is unknown it has been defaulted to 1990, the start of the series.
2. Data for 2017 are only until the end of June.

¹ [Standard Area Measurements \(SAM\) 2016, ONS](#)

By the end of June, six additional land parcels/assets had come into community ownership during 2017. This equates to an additional 94.23 acres being in community ownership during the first six months of 2017. It is likely that when figures are available for the full calendar year, the increase in the area in community ownership seen in 2017 will be larger as in both 2015 and 2016 around 25 land parcels/assets were purchased or transferred into community ownership, accounting for around 40,000 acres. Although the large increases in area recorded in 2015 and 2016 were largely due to the purchase or transfer of three land parcels/assets, two in 2015 and one in 2016. Therefore, the overall increase recorded in 2017 will greatly depend on the size of any additional land parcels/assets that come into community ownership in the remainder of the year.

3.2 Size of and number of land parcels/assets ([Table 2](#))

The majority of land currently in community ownership has been acquired in the form of whole estates, predominantly crofting estates, and forestry or woodland. Table 2 illustrates this in that the six land parcels/assets that are greater than 30,000 acres, 1.2% of the total number of land parcels/assets, comprise 63.0% of the total area of land in community ownership. A further 22.8% of the total area of community owned land is made up of the seven land parcels/assets that are greater than 10,000 acres but are less than 30,000 acres in size. In contrast 39.0% of the land parcels/assets are less than or equal to one acre in size. These 192 land parcels/assets account of less 0.05% of the total area in community ownership. In addition, 89 (18.1%) of the land parcels/assets either have an area of zero recorded or no recorded area. In many of these cases these land parcels/assets are existing buildings that have been purchased or transferred into community ownership.

3.3 Local Authority breakdown ([Table 3](#))

When looking at the community owned land parcels/assets below Scotland level please refer to [Section 4.2](#) for further information regarding how the location of the land parcels/assets are currently recorded, and the current data quality issues.

Community ownership is widespread across Scotland with only two of the 32 Local Authorities having no land parcels/assets recorded as being in community ownership, the two Local Authorities being Falkirk and Renfrewshire. While community ownership is widespread across Scotland the area of land in community ownership, is concentrated in just two Local Authorities: Highland and Na h-Eileanan Siar.

These two Local Authorities combined contain 93.7% (527,252 acres) of the land in community ownership in Scotland. Na h-Eileanan Siar on its own contains over two thirds (385,340 acres) of the area of land in community ownership and Highland contains just over a quarter (141,912 acres) of the area. The area of land in community ownership in Na h-Eileanan Siar accounts for 51.0% of the total area of the Local Authority. While for Highland the community owned land only accounts for 2.2% of the total area of the Local Authority.

While the number of land parcels/assets owned, as well as the actual number of community groups, remains around a quarter of the total in Highland this is not true for Na h-Eileanan Siar. Only 41 (8.3%) of the 492 land parcels/assets in community ownership are in Na h-Eileanan Siar. With 33 (8.2%) of the 403 community groups known

to own land parcels/assets being in Na h-Eileanan Siar. Five of the six land parcels/assets that are greater than 30,000 acres are in Na h-Eileanan Siar. These five land parcels/assets consist of 309,571 acres, which accounts for the large proportion (55.1%) of the total community owned land being in Na h-Eileanan Siar.

3.4 Scottish and UK Parliamentary constituency breakdowns (Tables [4](#), [5](#) and [6](#))

Breakdowns on community ownership are also available by Scottish Parliamentary constituency ([Table 4](#)), Scottish Parliamentary region ([Table 5](#)) and UK Parliamentary constituency ([Table 6](#)). Similarly to as shown by the Local Authority data community ownership is widespread across the country but concentrated in the highlands and island. This is best illustrated by looking at the 'Highlands and Islands' region in Table 5. This region contains 97.5% (548,128 acres) of the land in community ownership and 60.4% (297) of the land parcels/assets in community ownership.

Of the 73 Scottish Parliamentary constituencies 21 (28.8%) do not contain any community owned land and 13 of the 59 UK Parliamentary constituencies do not contain any community owned land. The constituencies that do not contain any community owned land parcels/assets are predominately more urban areas.

4. Data Issues

The current database used to produce the Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication has a number of issues. It was initially compiled by collecting data from a wide range of organisations involved in community land ownership, this includes [Highlands and Island Enterprise](#); the [Big Lottery Fund](#); the [Development Trusts Association for Scotland](#); and [Community Land Scotland](#). This approach was taken as it is not possible to identify community groups that own land from existing registers. The Scottish Government is working to address these issues and improve the quality of the data currently held on community ownership. In order to do this a survey of all the community groups, known to the Scottish Government, to own land parcels/assets is being carried out. Further information on this is given in [Section 5](#). Going forward, the data that will be collected on new land parcels/assets that are either purchased by community groups or are transferred to them will also be improved, with all the required information being collected at the outset.

The main issues with the current database on community ownership are:

- The area of the land parcels/assets;
- The location of the land parcels/assets; and
- The date of purchase or transfer of the land parcels/assets.

As purchases or transfers of land parcels/assets into community ownership can be lengthy processes some land parcels/assets currently included in the database may not actually have been in community ownership as at June 2017. This will result in an overestimate of the area of land in community ownership at that time. The majority of these purchases and transfers will be completed so the area of land will then be in community ownership and

will count towards the target of having one million acres in community ownership by the end of 2020.

These land parcels/assets were included in the database as they were included in one of the administrative dataset supplied by one of the four organisations involved in community ownership. The land parcels/assets were included in one of the databases as a community group were in the process of completing the purchase or transfer. Further information on the data sources are given in [Section 8.1](#). This data issue should also be rectified by the survey of all the community groups known to own community land that is being undertaken.

It is also acknowledged that there will potentially be a number of land parcels/assets, especially smaller land parcels/assets and those that have not received public funding, for example those bequeathed as legacies, in community ownership that are not known to the Scottish Government. Therefore, these land parcels/assets and any area associated with them will not be included in the estimate of community owned land. This will result in an underestimate, which cannot be quantified, in the area of land in community ownership.

4.1 Area

With the aim of having one million acres in community ownership by end of 2020 it is important that accurate information on the area of each of the land parcels/assets is recorded. Of the 492 land parcels/assets 73 (14.8%) have a recorded area of zero acres. While for a further 16 (3.3%) land parcels/assets the entry for area is missing. Many of the land parcels/assets that have no area associated with them could be existing buildings that were purchased or transferred into community ownership. As a result the community groups may not have thought to identify the land area associated with the building. It is also possible that when information on the land parcel/asset was initially collected the area was either not known or was not recorded. In a small number of cases the land parcels/assets may not have any area. For example, if the asset was a mode of transport such as a community owned bus or ferry.

As 18.1% of the land parcels/assets currently recorded have no area attached to them this will likely result in an underestimate of the area in community ownership. It is not possible to quantify the potential level of underestimation in the area of community owned land. The average area figure for the land parcels/assets that have an area could be used to estimate the missing area but doing this will be unlikely to give a good estimate of the missing area. This is largely due to the fact that the majority of land parcels/assets with missing areas will be existing buildings with small areas associated with them. Although, there could also be a small number of land parcels/assets with a much larger area, such as community woodlands.

As the area of these missing land parcels/assets is established this will affect the time series for the area of land in community ownership. As a consequence updated data will be released in the relevant Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication or tables release.

4.2 Location

When looking at the community owned land parcels/assets at geographies below a Scotland level, in most cases the address and postcode that is currently recorded is for the community group itself. This may be different from the address(es) and postcode(s) of the land parcel(s)/asset(s) itself/themselves.

This could potentially mean that land parcels/assets could be located in different sub-national geographies compared to the address of the community group. It is not currently possible to quantify what, if any, effect that will have on the distribution of sub-national data between the different geographies.

This lack of individual location data at a land parcel/asset level is the reason the data have not been broken down by the [Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification](#). The actual location of the individual land parcels/assets is required to categorise them using this geographic breakdown. In future years, when improved geodata are available consideration will be given to releasing the data broken down by the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification.

If any of the land parcels/assets move sub-national geographies as a result of their actual locations being recorded as opposed to the location of the community group itself, the changes to the sub-national geographies will be detailed in the relevant Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication or tables release.

4.3 Purchase or transfer date

Currently the year of purchase or transfer is unknown for 101 (20.5%) of the 492 land parcels/assets, which account for 19,914 acres in community ownership. The purchase or transfer date may be unknown for these land parcel/assets because they have been in community ownership for a long period of time, so that those currently involved in the group do not have exact records of when the land parcel/asset was purchased or transferred. Alternatively the date of purchase or transfer may not have been recorded when the record of the land parcel/asset was initially made known to the Scottish Government.

So that the area of these land parcels/assets can be included in [Table 1](#) and [Figure 1](#) without being classified as having an unknown purchase or transfer date, they have been defaulted to having a year of purchase or transfer of 1990. It should be noted that it is likely that area of land in community ownership in 1990 will be an overestimate as a result. Twelve land parcels/assets do have pre 1990 purchase or transfer dates. These land parcels/assets account for 92,244 acres (82%) of the 112,158 acres recorded as being in community ownership in 1990.

When the purchase or transfer dates of these 101 land parcels/assets are established, where possible, this will affect the time series for the area of land in community ownership. Any changes made to the time series as a result of the actual purchase or transfer dates being known will be detailed in the relevant Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication or tables release.

5. Future Improvements

In order to improve the quality of the data held on community ownership all community groups, known to the Scottish Government to own land parcels/assets, have been contacted and asked to participate in a survey. The community groups were contacted by post as the Scottish Government only had postal addresses on record for the community groups. As well as being sent paper versions of the survey community groups were also given the option of completing the survey online.

As part of the survey the community groups have been asked to provide a contact email address, as well as the correct address that should be used for correspondence and a phone number where one is available. This will allow future contact with the community group to be carried out electronically. This should make any future correspondence with the community groups more efficient, thus reducing burden on the community groups themselves.

Primarily the survey is being carried out to fill gaps in the current data held by the Scottish Government on community ownership. In addition further details on the land parcels/assets in community ownership have also been requested.

Firstly, the community groups have been asked to confirm that the Scottish Government holds the correct information on the land parcels/assets that they own and if not, correct it as required. The community groups are being asked to confirm the number of land parcels/assets they own as well as the area and year of transfer or purchase of each of the land parcels/assets. When the records are currently not known, the community groups have been asked to provide the area and purchase or transfer dates for the land parcels/assets that they own.

The community groups have also been asked for information on the location of the land parcels/assets that they own. It is hoped that in all cases at least a postcode for the land parcel/asset can be provided. Community groups have been asked to provide Ordnance Survey grid references or geodata for their land parcels/assets if they have either. Geodata are information about geographic locations that are stored electronically. Geodata can be stored graphically as a map or as a database of geographical data such as grid references. Community groups have been asked to supply maps of their land parcels/assets if they have them.

Community groups have then been asked to provide information on what their land parcel/asset actually is and what it is used for. For example if the land parcel/asset is an area of land is it used as crofting land or is it woodland. Further information on the transfer or purchase of the different land parcels/assets has also been requested. If the land parcels/assets were purchased, as opposed to transferred or obtained as a gift or legacy, the price paid for the land parcels/assets has been requested.

Finally, the community groups will be asked to provide the relevant details on any land parcels/assets that they own that the Scottish Government does not currently have a record of.

The information collected as a result of the survey will then be added to the database help on community ownership. This will then enable a more accurate and fuller picture on the level and type of community ownership in Scotland to be known.

6. Future Publications

The purpose of this first release of the Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication is so that a baseline for the area of land in community ownership, as well as the number of land parcels/assets and community groups owning land parcels/assets, can be established. While the database on community ownership currently has data gaps and only contains data for this first half of 2017 this is the initial estimate of community owned land. Progress towards the target of having one million acres of land in community ownership in Scotland by the end of 2020 can now be monitored and assessed.

In future years the release of the Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication will cover a whole calendar year period. As such the Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland 2018 publication will not be released until the summer of 2019.

In future years, the database on community ownership will be built on by the collection of new data from community groups directly. This will be in addition to the data received indirectly as administrative data from the organisations involved in community land ownership listed in [Section 4](#).

As there would otherwise be a gap of over a year between the release of the first two Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publications, there will be a release of updated tables in summer of 2018. This release of tables will contain data for the full 2017 calendar year. The data collected as a result of the survey of community groups that is being carried out will also be incorporated into the updated tables that will be released next year.

7. Reference Tables

Table 1: Recorded Area of Community Owned Land, 1990 to 2017

Year	Area Total (acres)	New Area (acres)
1990 ¹	112,158.50	-
1991	112,161.74	3.24
1992	112,162.74	1.00
1993	138,012.74	25,850.00
1994	138,178.74	166.00
1995	138,179.01	0.27
1996	148,680.33	10,501.32
1997	156,156.43	7,476.10
1998	157,476.15	1,319.73
1999	176,597.25	19,121.10
2000	180,731.25	4,134.00
2001	180,984.48	253.23
2002	242,706.75	61,722.28
2003	242,982.02	275.27
2004	243,171.29	189.27
2005	296,522.71	53,351.42
2006	448,078.39	151,555.69
2007	449,944.12	1,865.73
2008	449,974.35	30.23
2009	449,982.49	8.14
2010	470,965.49	20,983.00
2011	472,205.64	1,240.15
2012	473,395.76	1,190.12
2013	477,174.43	3,778.67
2014	477,287.75	113.32
2015	523,136.44	45,848.69
2016	562,135.67	38,999.23
2017 ²	562,229.89	94.23

Notes:

1. Where the year of purchase or transfer of the land parcel/asset is unknown it has been defaulted to 1990, the start of the series.
2. Data for 2017 are only until the end of June.

Table 2: Recorded Area of Community Owned Land and the Number of Land Parcels/Assets by Sizeband of the Land Parcels/Assets as at June 2017

Sizeband of Land Parcel/Asset	Area of Land (acres)	Percentage¹ of Total Area	Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned	Percentage¹ of Land Parcels/Assets Owned
Greater than 30,000 acres	354,164.00	63.0%	6	1.2%
Greater than 10,000 acres but less than or equal to 30,000 acres	127,917.10	22.8%	7	1.4%
Greater than 1,000 acres but less than or equal to 10,000 acres	69,004.43	12.3%	24	4.9%
Greater than 100 acres but less than or equal to 1,000 acres	8,227.71	1.5%	29	5.9%
Greater than 1 acre but less than or equal to 100 acres	2,850.70	0.5%	145	29.5%
Less than or equal to 1 acre	65.96	0.0%	192	39.0%
No area recorded ²	-	-	89	18.1%
Scotland³	562,229.89	100.0%	492	100.0%

Notes:

1. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
2. For some land parcels/assets there are currently no area figures available. In many cases this relates to the purchase or transfer of an existing building to a community group.
3. Scotland totals for area of land may not equal the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

Table 3: Recorded Area of Community Owned Land, Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned and Number of Community Groups as at June 2017 by Local Authority

Local Authority¹	Area of Land (acres)	Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned²	Number of Community Groups³
Aberdeen City	0.50	3	3
Aberdeenshire	10,747.55	25	19
Angus	3.60	2	2
Argyll and Bute	16,122.64	74	53
City of Edinburgh	2.88	5	5
Clackmannanshire	28.40	2	2
Dumfries and Galloway	381.22	18	17
Dundee City	0.57	1	1
East Ayrshire	129.97	11	6
East Dunbartonshire	0.20	1	1
East Lothian	107.80	4	3
East Renfrewshire	0.20	1	1
Falkirk	-	-	-
Fife	145.82	11	10
Glasgow City	8.41	15	12
Highland	141,912.28	122	107
Inverclyde	0.76	7	2
Midlothian	6.70	6	5
Moray	4,687.53	29	22
Na h-Eileanan Siar	385,340.05	41	33
North Ayrshire	342.82	19	18
North Lanarkshire	5.66	3	3
Orkney Islands	61.92	23	17
Perth and Kinross	1,225.77	9	9
Renfrewshire	-	-	-
Scottish Borders	412.97	17	16
Shetland Islands	7.47	14	11
South Ayrshire	0.23	3	2
South Lanarkshire	54.23	6	5
Stirling	480.17	12	11
West Dunbartonshire	9.73	4	4
West Lothian	1.85	4	3
Scotland⁴	562,229.89	492	403

Notes:

1. The Local Authority relates to the registered address of the community group and not the location of the land parcel/asset. Potentially land parcels/assets could be located in different Local Authorities to the registered address of the community groups that own them.
2. For some land parcels/assets there are currently no area figures available. In many cases this relates to the purchase or transfer of an existing building to a community group.
3. Community groups can own multiple land parcels/assets.
4. Scotland totals for area of land may not equal the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

Table 4: Recorded Area of Community Owned Land, Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned and Number of Community Groups as at June 2017 by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency

Scottish Parliamentary Constituency¹	Area of Land (acres)	Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned²	Number of Community Groups³
Aberdeen Central	0.50	3	3
Aberdeen Donside	-	-	-
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	165.59	1	1
Aberdeenshire East	138.83	6	6
Aberdeenshire West	10,357.98	13	7
Airdrie and Shotts	-	-	-
Almond Valley	1.85	4	3
Angus North and Mearns	3.00	1	1
Angus South	0.60	1	1
Argyll and Bute	16,119.54	70	50
Ayr	-	-	-
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	85.64	7	7
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	84,216.49	54	47
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	128.52	13	7
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	28.40	2	2
Clydebank and Milngavie	-	-	-
Clydesdale	51.13	4	3
Coatbridge and Chryston	-	-	-
Cowdenbeath	37.00	1	1
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	2.40	2	2
Cunninghame North	282.52	17	16
Cunninghame South	60.30	2	2
Dumbarton	12.83	8	7
Dumfriesshire	335.07	7	6
Dundee City East	0.57	1	1
Dundee City West	-	-	-
Dunfermline	-	-	-
East Kilbride	-	-	-
East Lothian	107.80	4	3
Eastwood	0.20	1	1
Edinburgh Central	-	-	-
Edinburgh Eastern	0.50	1	1
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	1.20	2	2
Edinburgh Pentlands	-	-	-
Edinburgh Southern	-	-	-
Edinburgh Western	1.18	2	2
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	266.27	11	11
Falkirk East	-	-	-
Falkirk West	-	-	-
Galloway and West Dumfries	46.15	11	11
Glasgow Anniesland	-	-	-
Glasgow Cathcart	2.00	1	1
Glasgow Kelvin	-	-	-
Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn	3.60	5	5
Glasgow Pollok	0.20	1	1
Glasgow Provan	1.50	1	1
Glasgow Shettleston	-	-	-
Glasgow Southside	1.11	7	4
Greenock and Inverclyde	0.76	7	2
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	0.10	1	1
Inverness and Nairn	1,006.00	4	4
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	1.68	1	1
Kirkcaldy	15.69	4	4
Linlithgow	-	-	-
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	10.63	1	1
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	4.40	3	3
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	149.00	9	7
Moray	4,687.05	27	20
Motherwell and Wishaw	3.26	1	1
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	385,340.05	41	33
North East Fife	82.50	5	4
Orkney Islands	61.92	23	17
Paisley	-	-	-
Perthshire North	1,116.37	6	6
Perthshire South and Kinross-shire	109.40	3	3
Renfrewshire North and West	-	-	-
Renfrewshire South	-	-	-
Rutherglen	3.00	1	1
Shetland Islands	7.47	14	11
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	56,689.78	64	56
Stirling	480.17	12	11
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	0.20	1	1
Uddingston and Bellshill	-	-	-
Scotland⁴	562,229.89	492	403

Notes:

1. The Scottish Parliamentary Constituency relates to the registered address of the community group and not the location of the land parcel/asset. Potentially land parcels/assets could be located in different Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies to the registered address of the community groups that own them.
2. For some land parcels/assets there are currently no area figures available. In many cases this relates to the purchase or transfer of an existing building to a community group.
3. Community groups can own multiple land parcels/assets.
4. Scotland totals for area of land may not equal the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

Table 5: Recorded Area of Community Owned Land, Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned and Number of Community Groups as at June 2017 by Scottish Parliamentary Region

Scottish Parliamentary Region¹	Area of Land (acres)	Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned²	Number of Community Groups³
Central Scotland	5.76	4	4
Glasgow	11.41	16	13
Highlands and Islands	548,128.31	297	238
Lothian	9.13	12	11
Mid Scotland and Fife	1,880.16	34	32
North East Scotland	10,752.71	33	27
South Scotland	1,085.61	60	49
West Scotland	356.81	36	29
Scotland⁴	562,229.89	492	403

Notes:

1. The Scottish Parliamentary Region relates to the registered address of the community group and not the location of the land parcel/asset. Potentially land parcels/assets could be located in different Scottish Parliamentary Regions to the registered address of the community groups that own them.
2. For some land parcels/assets there are currently no area figures available. In many cases this relates to the purchase or transfer of an existing building to a community group.
3. Community groups can own multiple land parcels/assets.
4. Scotland totals for area of land may not equal the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

Table 6: Recorded Area of Community Owned Land, Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned and Number of Community Groups as at June 2017 by UK Parliamentary Constituency

UK Parliamentary Constituency¹	Area of Land (acres)	Number of Land Parcels/Assets Owned²	Number of Community Groups³
Aberdeen North	0.50	3	3
Aberdeen South	-	-	-
Airdrie and Shotts	3.26	1	1
Angus	3.00	1	1
Argyll and Bute	16,122.64	74	53
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	2.33	6	5
Banff and Buchan	192.85	9	9
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	266.27	11	11
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	83,375.84	41	35
Central Ayrshire	60.30	2	2
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	-	-	-
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East	2.40	2	2
Dumfries and Galloway	46.15	11	11
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	532.90	17	14
Dundee East	1.17	2	2
Dundee West	-	-	-
Dunfermline and West Fife	37.00	1	1
East Dunbartonshire	0.20	1	1
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	-	-	-
East Lothian	107.80	4	3
East Renfrewshire	0.20	1	1
Edinburgh East	0.50	1	1
Edinburgh North and Leith	1.20	2	2
Edinburgh South	-	-	-
Edinburgh South West	-	-	-
Edinburgh West	1.18	2	2
Falkirk	-	-	-
Glasgow Central	0.70	5	2
Glasgow East	-	-	-
Glasgow North	0.10	1	1
Glasgow North East	5.00	5	5
Glasgow North West	-	-	-
Glasgow South	2.00	1	1
Glasgow South West	0.61	3	3
Glenrothes	10.63	2	2
Gordon	87.45	5	5
Inverclyde	0.76	7	2
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	2,484.31	15	14
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	127.87	8	3
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	15.69	3	3
Lanark and Hamilton East	0.10	1	1
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	-	-	-
Livingston	1.85	4	3
Midlothian	6.70	6	5
Moray	4,687.53	29	22
Motherwell and Wishaw	-	-	-
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	385,340.05	41	33
North Ayrshire and Arran	282.52	17	16
North East Fife	82.50	5	4
Ochil and South Perthshire	137.80	5	5
Orkney and Shetland	69.39	37	28
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	-	-	-
Paisley and Renfrewshire South	-	-	-
Perth and North Perthshire	1,116.37	6	6
Ross, Skye and Lochaber	56,052.13	66	58
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	3.00	1	1
Stirling	480.17	12	11
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	10,467.25	11	5
West Dunbartonshire	9.73	4	4
Scotland⁴	562,229.89	492	403

Notes:

1. The UK Parliamentary Constituency relates to the registered address of the community group and not the location of the land parcel/asset. Potentially land parcels/assets could be located in different UK Parliamentary Constituencies to the registered address of the community groups that own them.
2. For some land parcels/assets there are currently no area figures available. In many cases this relates to the purchase or transfer of an existing building to a community group. In these cases either the area of the footprint of the building is unknown or is too small to record so has been recorded as zero.
3. Community groups can own multiple land parcels/assets.
4. Scotland totals for area of land may not equal the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

8. Notes

8.1 Sources

The data included in the Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland 2017 publication are based on combining administrative datasets from four organisations involved in community asset ownership. They are: [Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#), who have responsibilities to support community ownership in their area; [Big Lottery 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 research secondee from the [SRUC](#) into Scottish Government; who had been tasked with identifying as many community groups as possible that own land parcels/assets.

The work undertaken showed that the most feasible way to collect data was from these overarching organisations initially, and then to verify the data held in the longer term with the community groups themselves. It is not possible to identify community groups that own land parcels/assets from information currently held on Scottish Government, Land Registry or Local Authority systems, which explains the approach taken in this collection.

Following the collection of data on community ownership, the data were cleaned and quality assured by Scottish Government statisticians. The quality assurance procedure involved:

- removing duplicate entries;
- confirming addresses of the community groups as locations of the land parcels/assets were not included in the majority of cases and in some cases only the postcode for the community group was provided; and
- identifying where area figures were given in hectares and converting them to acres.

This method of collection also explains why the geographic breakdown is based on the address of the community group rather than current mapping or geodata for the land parcels/assets themselves.

8.2 Feedback

This is the first time the Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland publication is being released and it is being published as experimental statistics. Thus, the Scottish Government would welcome feedback on the publication. Please provide any feedback to the following email address: CommunityLandStatistics@gov.scot

8.3 Other

Land area figures for Scotland have been taken from the Office for National Statistics' Standard Area Measurements (2016) for Administrative Areas in the United Kingdom: <https://ons.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=a79de233ad254a6d9f76298e666abb2b>

When converting area figures from hectares to acres conversion factor of 1 hectare to 2.47105 acres was used. The figures and percentages figures given in tables have been independently rounded, so they may not always sum to the relevant totals.

The following symbol is used throughout the tables in this publication: - = nil

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Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Neil Henderson

RESAS, Q Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Telephone: 0131 244 4374

e-mail: CommunityLandStatistics@gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics.

are available via an alternative route.

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors.

Please contact CommunityLandStatistics@gov.scot for further information.

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: 0131 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

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