

Rural Land: Delivering for Scotland

Sponsored by:

Galbraith

GILLESPIE MACANDREW

Keynote Speakers



Stephen Young, Director of Policy, Scottish Land & Estates

Since 2019 Stephen has led the SLE policy team, formulating policy positions, advocating on members behalf and providing policy advice to members on a wide range of policy issues. From a farming background, Stephen has built a range experience within rural businesses, ranging from rural tourism, agricultural co-ops as well as facilitating farmer and rural business monitor farms and benchmarking groups. Stephen has a degree in Rural Business Management from Aberdeen University and a Masters in Management from St Marys University, Nova Scotia.



Lord Offord of Garvel, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland

Malcolm Offord (Lord Offord of Garvel) was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to the Scotland Office in 2021. A businessman by trade, he was born and educated in Greenock and graduated in Law from Edinburgh University in 1987 before embarking upon a 25 year career in The City of London. He returned to Scotland in 2014 and established the private equity boutique Badenoch & Co which invests in Scottish SMEs, that focus on manufacturing their products at home and selling abroad. He is a regent of Edinburgh University and a Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

SLE Chairman



Mark Tennant, Chairman, Scottish Land & Estates

Mark has been SLE's Chairman since April 2020. His career has ranged from tending refugees to investment banking. Until 2017 Mark ran Innes Estates, a 4500-acre low ground estate in Morayshire, the centre of which is Innes House, a 17th century Scottish Renaissance house where the family has run weddings and corporate events for over 20 years. He has now handed it over to his son. Mark became SLE's Vice-Chairman Policy in 2018. His main focus over the past year has been developing its work on a post-Brexit integrated land management approach which delivers increased productivity as well as helping meet climate change targets.

SLE Chief Executive



Sarah-Jane was appointed as Chief Executive of Scottish Land & Estates (SLE) in December 2019, the first woman to hold this role in the organisation's 110-year history. Her role involves overseeing the policy work of the organisation, directing all external and internal communications and leading on lobbying and representational work alongside senior management responsibilities relating to the organisation. Sarah-Jane represents SLE on a large number of external stakeholder groups, she is a member of the Scottish Government's Women in Agriculture Taskforce and the Climate Change Emergency Response Group as well as a recipient of the Farmers Club Windsor Leadership bursary.

Conference Host



Claire Taylor, Conference Host & Chair

Claire specialises in communications within agriculture, food and the rural environment and is a regular columnist and commentator on TV, radio and print. She works part-time with rural marketing and communications team, Jane Craigie Marketing and is a 2023 Nuffield Scholar, tackling the topic, 'Turning the tide on the anti-farming agenda' with her travels taking her to South America, New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and parts of Europe. Claire grew up on a small beef farm on the west coast of Scotland, where her family run a kennels and cattery business and breed Belted Galloway Cattle. She studied Politics and International Relations at Edinburgh University, before going on to work at the BBC and the Scottish Farmer, where she led their political coverage. Claire is a passionate storyteller and writer and shares her views on the issues that shape rural Scotland

Speakers: Where we are on the land reform journey?



Robert Scott-Dempster - Partner, Head of Land and Rural Business

Robert heads the market leading Land & Rural Business team at Gillespie Macandrew and is accredited by the Law Society of Scotland as a specialist in agricultural law. His expertise includes agriculture and landed estates, rural businesses, ownership structures, capital taxation and succession. Robert has acted in some of Scotland's most high profile transactions and has first-hand experience of dealing with community and crofting community purchases, acting for both private individuals and communities. Robert is Chairman of the Scottish Land & Estates Legal Committee.



Sarah Madden, Policy Adviser (Rural Communities), Scottish Land & Estates

Sarah joined Scottish Land & Estates in October 2021. She is a graduate of the University of Stirling with a BA (Hons) in History and Politics and MSc in Human Rights and Diplomacy, delivered by the UN Institute of Training and Research. Sarah previously worked for parliamentarians in both the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments, and is the lead for Land Reform, Planning and Rural Communities here at Scottish Land & Estates.



Shona Glenn, Wellbeing Economy Leader, BIGGAR Economics Ltd

Shona is an economist and MBA with nearly 20 years experience in economic development spanning both the public and the private sectors. She has a particular interest in rural development and in the role of capital formation in the economy. After starting her career with the City of Edinburgh Council, Shona joined BiGGAR Economics in 2009, where she focused particularly on the assessment of non-market economic benefits. In 2017 she joined the Scottish Land Commission to lead the policy and research function of the (then) new organisation. During this time she led the Commission's research on concentrated land ownership in rural Scotland and work with Scotland's Vacant and Derelict Land Task Force. Shona re-joined BiGGAR Economics in early 2021 to lead work on the wellbeing economy. Since then she has focused on developing a structured process for assessing contributions to Scotland's national outcomes.



Nick Halfhide, Director of Nature & Climate Change, NatureScot

Nick leads NatureScot's drive to reverse the current decline in nature, and work with nature to tackle climate change. I am working to protect 30% of Scotland's land and sea by 2030, restore habitats and species across Scotland, and increase the way society values nature and all the benefits it supplies. I have 30 years experience of working with nature in Scotland. As well as working for NatureScot for over a decade, I have held posts in the Cairngorms National Park Authority, the Deer Commission for Scotland, and South of Scotland Enterprise.



Crawford Mackay, Partner, Galbraith

Crawford provides consultancy, agency and valuation advice across the rural and energy sectors. He has an in-depth understanding of the rural property market and specialises in the purchase of estates and renewable energy assets. He is a trusted adviser and has provided purchase advice to private and institutional clients on some of the country's most significant estate transactions. Prior to joining Galbraith Crawford was based in London where he was employed by a major institutional landowner with responsibility for the asset management of a diverse land and mineral portfolio.

Case Study Speakers:



James Palmer, Development Director, Penicuik Estate Partnership LLP

As a professional, I am a property and land development surveyor, based in Edinburgh and with over fifteen years of experience throughout the UK and internationally. I have been working at Penicuik Estate for the last two years, having identified an unparalleled opportunity to bring fresh, future thinking to the Estate's emerging 50-Year Vision. The focus has been on creating value through ideas, strategy and relationships, taking an ambitious but largely traditional Estate business and growing the areas that distinguish the exceptional from the standard. From previous positions as land and property developer with Buccleuch Property and partner with international property



Andrew Bruce Wootton, CEO of Atholl Estates

Graduated from Acadia University in Canada. Returned to UK and qualified as a chartered surveyor, apprenticing on Lothian Estates and Buccleuch Estate during 1990s. Joined Atholl as Estate Factor in 2000, a title that developed to CEO more recently to move with the times.



Lianne MacLennan, National Campaigns Manager, Scotland's Regional Moorland Groups

Lianne MacLennan is the National Campaigns Manager for Scotland's Regional Moorland Groups, a collection of sporting estates from across six regions of Scotland. They encompass rural working communities from the shores of Loch Ness in the Highlands right down to the lower regions of the Southern Uplands. Through the grey mountain ranges of the Monadhliaths, down through Royal Deeside and over the rolling glens of Angus, their work also takes in the sights and sounds of Tayside and Central Scotland. Having started the first group in 2015 Lianne has played a key role within the groups developing initiatives such as 'Estates That Educate' and 'Game For Giving'.

Panel Debate Speakers: Are we doing enough?



Dr Kirsten EH Jenkins, Lecturer in Energy, Environment and Society, Edinburgh University

Kirsten Jenkins is Lecturer in Energy, Environment and Society within the Science, Technology and Innovation Studies group at the University of Edinburgh and Programme Director for the Energy, Society and Sustainability MSc. Her background is as a sustainable development and human geography scholar, with research interests that centre on energy justice; energy policy; science, technology, and innovations studies; transitions theory and sustainable energy provision and use. Alongside her lectureship, Kirsten serves as Managing Editor for the journal Energy Research and Social Science, Associate Fellow of the Durham Energy Institute, and external examiner to postgraduate programmes in Development, Environment and Policy at SOAS University of London. Kirsten also runs two large international energy social science networks and works on research grants related to fuel and transport poverty, inclusivity in the energy transition and Just Transitions.



Dee Ward, Owner Rottal Estate

Dee owns and manages Rottal, an upland estate in the Angus Glens. For the last 19 years he has been actively involved in creating a sustainable, biodiverse and wildlife abundant landholding alongside a sustainable livestock farming & sporting operation. The Estate is WES Level 2 Accredited, and has recently won the Bronze Award in the UK wide Purdey Awards for Game & Conservation. **Dee is also Vice Chair Policy at SLE.**



Ailsa Raeburn, Chair, Community Land Scotland

Ailsa is a former Chartered Surveyor based in Argyll with many years' experience in property development, management and regeneration. She is Chair of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust. She also served as a Director on the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust. As Head of the Community Assets Team at Highlands and Islands Enterprise, she was responsible for the development and management of the Scottish Land Fund, in partnership with Big Lottery Scotland, and on behalf of Scottish Government. At Community Land Scotland, Ailsa has worked with colleagues to support urban and rural communities across Scotland to acquire and develop locally important land and buildings. She also supports the Team on policy development and advocacy, focusing on legislative opportunities to further transformational change for communities. Ailsa is also a member of the Boards of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Crown Estate Scotland.



Ian Davidson, Independent Advisor, Scottish Land Matching Service

Following spells in farm management joined Scottish Government RPID initially as an inspector in 1991. Held various posts including Principal Agricultural Officer for South East area and Head of Agriculture Development through the last CAP reform. Latterly held post as Head of Agriculture Policy Division before retiring in spring 2019. Since September 2019 set up and manage the Scottish Land Matching Service for Scottish Government. SLMS is a free service offering independent advice and facilitation to people considering joint ventures in farming and crofting throughout Scotland. Vice Chairman of Waverley Housing a registered social landlord based in Hawick. Scottish Enterprise statutory representative on the Farriers Registration Council for Great Britain.



Clare Acheson, Partner Galbraith

Claire is a Partner at Galbraith having joined the firm in 2010 as a graduate and qualified as a rural chartered surveyor in 2012. She is involved in the management and sale of a number of Highland estates and carries out a wide range of valuation and professional consultancy work.