



NESAAG – May 2023

Stephen Young
Director Of Policy



Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands



Priorities

- **Agricultural Support Transition**
- **Introduce Land Reform Legislation (public Interest & transparency)**
- **Create New Crofting Opportunities**
- **Implement Good Food Nation Plan**
- **Implement Licensing of Grouse Moor Management**
- **Increase planting & peatland restoration**



A Journey...



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The Contribution of Rural Estates to Scotland's Wellbeing Economy

February 2023



Natural Capital



£35.1 billion

Economic Capital



£88.7 million

Human Capital

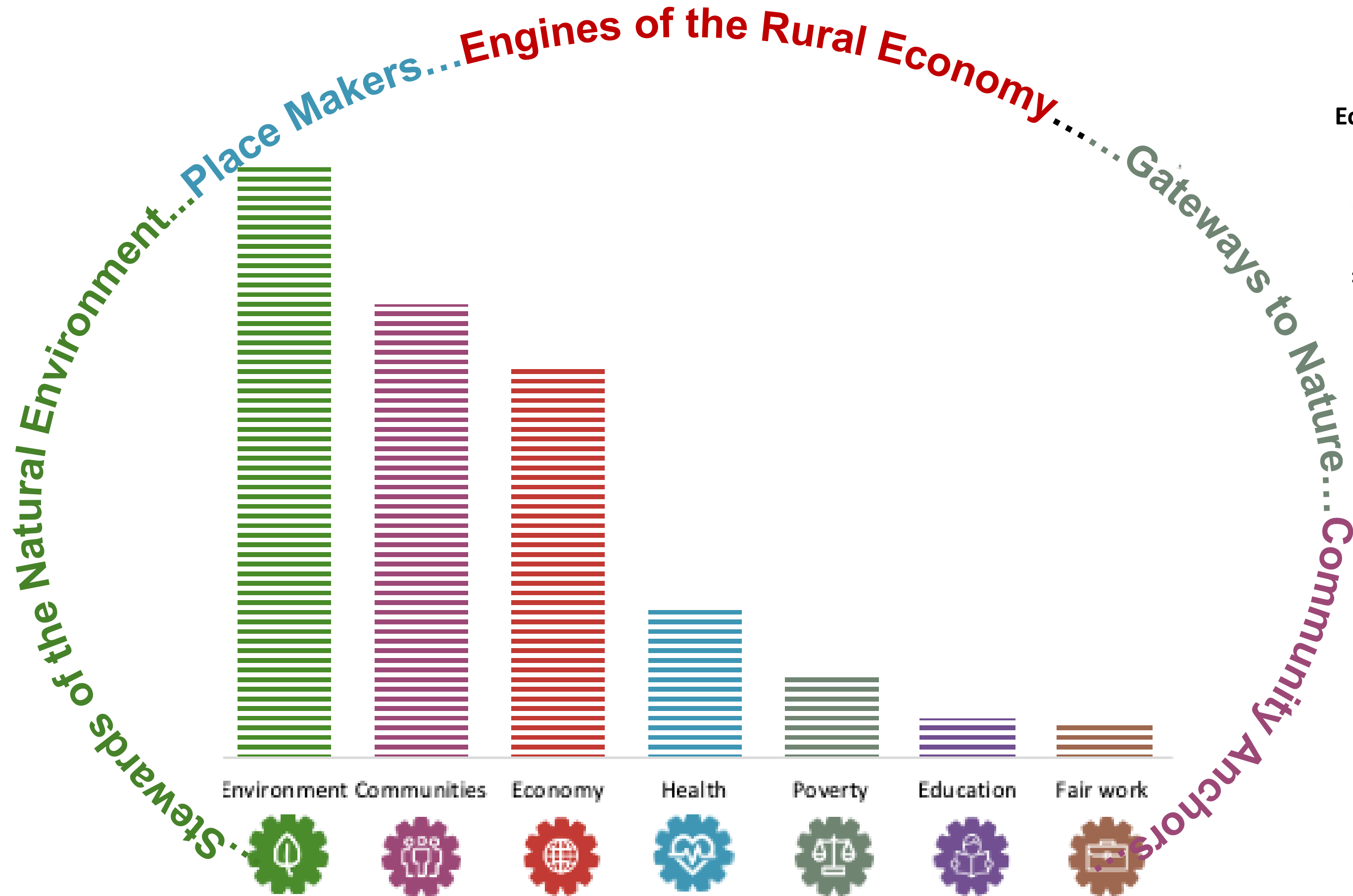


£25.5 million

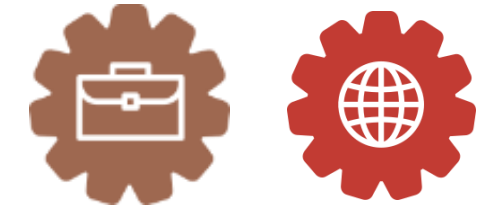
Social Capital



£1.2 million



Local Economic Drivers



Rural estates create wealth and employment across rural Scotland. This enhances wellbeing by enabling people to prosper in places where opportunities may be limited.

➤ £2.4 billion GVA and 56,300 jobs

- Core operations = £294 million GVA and 9,500 jobs
- Supply chain = £193 million GVA and 6,600 jobs
- Enterprise support = £1,892 million GVA and 40,200 jobs

➤ 80% impact in rural areas

- 1 in 10 rural jobs

Rural Estates' Contribution to Scotland's Wellbeing Economy

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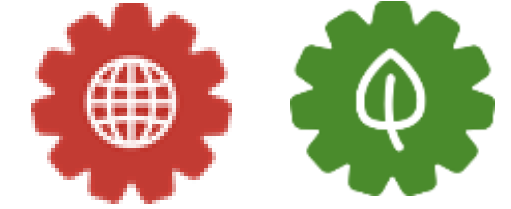
➤ Secure and satisfying work

- Average length of service for estate staff = 15 years
- 95% earn at least the living wage

➤ Entrepreneurial activity

- One in five estates provide space for local businesses

Stewards of the Natural Environment



Rural estates help sustain the wellbeing of future generations by protecting and enhancing Scotland's natural environment and supporting the roll out of renewables

➤ 4 out of 5 estates engaged in conservation

- Sustainable agriculture and land management
- Habitat restoration
- Wildlife conservation

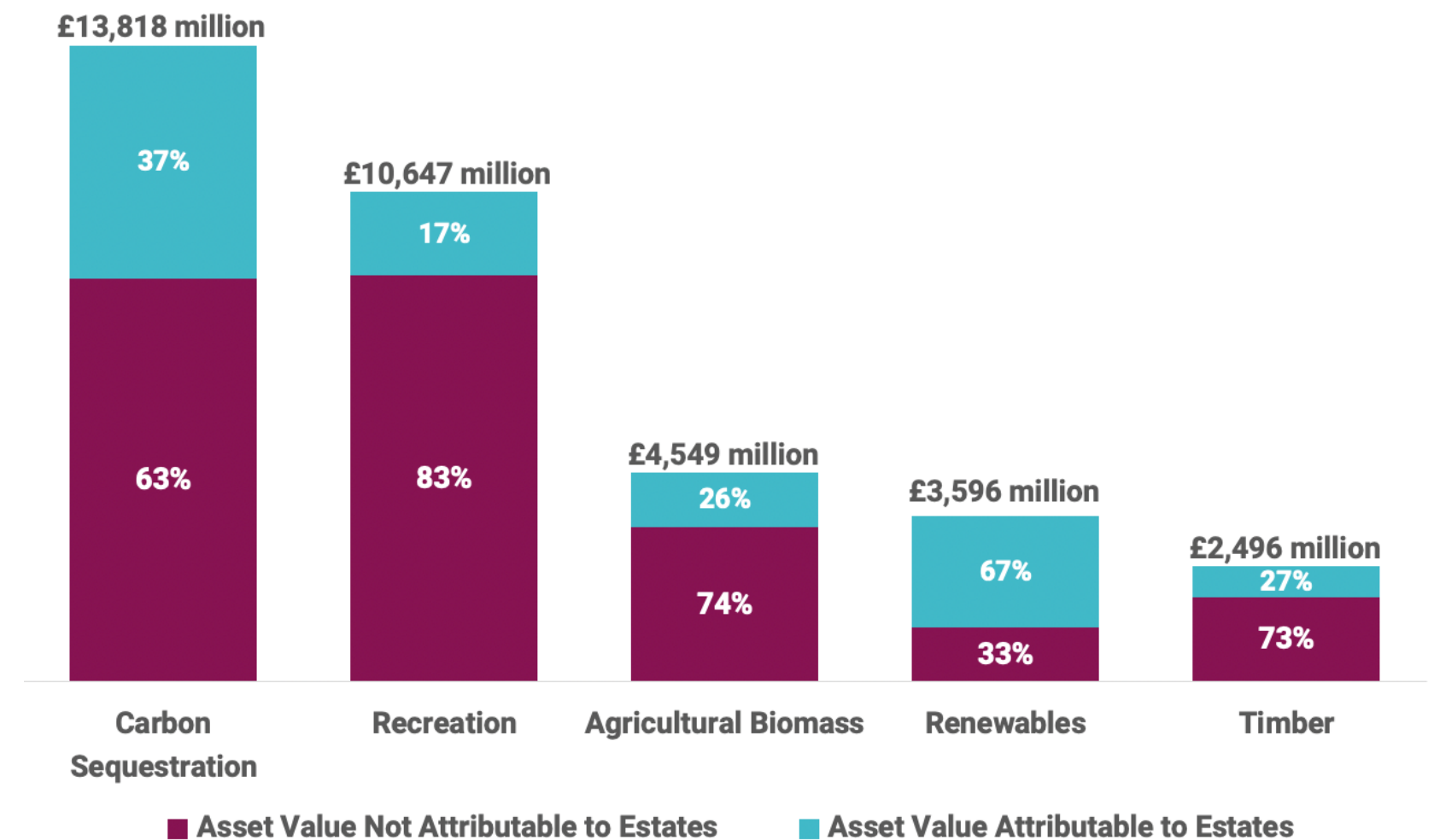
➤ 64 accredited Wildlife Estates

➤ 96 protected nature sites

➤ £35.1 billion natural capital assets

- 17% of Scottish total

Estates' Contribution to Scotland's Natural Capital Asset Base



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Place Makers



Rural estates provide homes across rural Scotland, supporting population retention and wellbeing by helping to create resilient communities that people enjoy living in

- Rural estates provide homes for c. 13,000 families
 - 760 new homes (including at least 210 affordable homes)
- Vital role in rural population retention
- Leaders in public interest led development
- Enabling £16.6 million capital investment

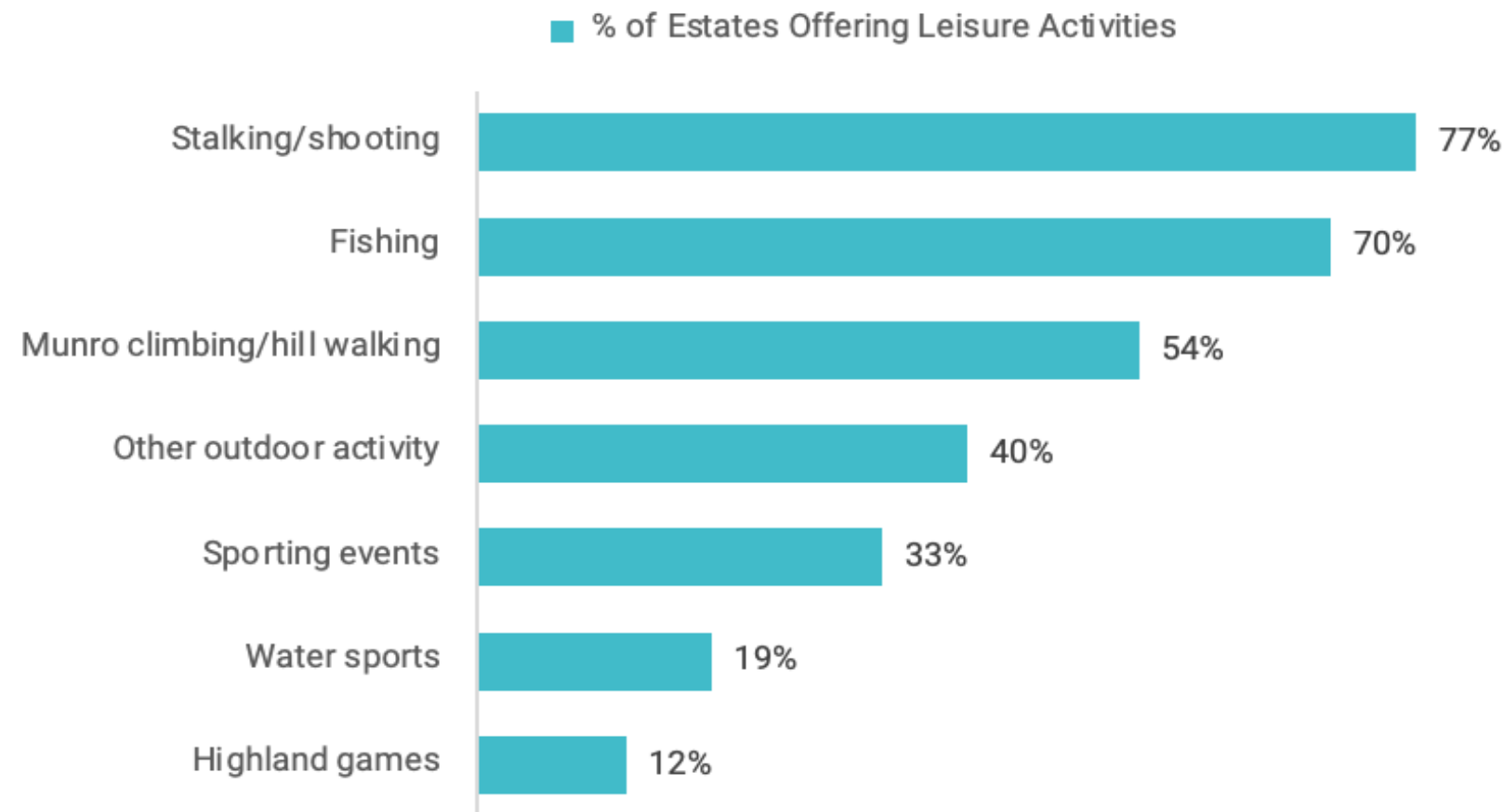
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Gateways to Nature



Rural estates make an important contribution to Scotland's wellbeing economy by enabling people to spend time in nature and helping them to learn from the experience.



- 5.4 million day visitors engaged in recreational activities
 - 2,000 parking spaces
 - 1,880 km paths
- 16,500 educational field trips
- More than 300 apprenticeships
- £25.5 million value added to Scotland's stocks of human capital

Community Anchors



Rural estates play an important role in building resilient rural communities by enabling agricultural enterprises to flourish and supporting empowered communities.

➤ Rural estates play an active role in local community life

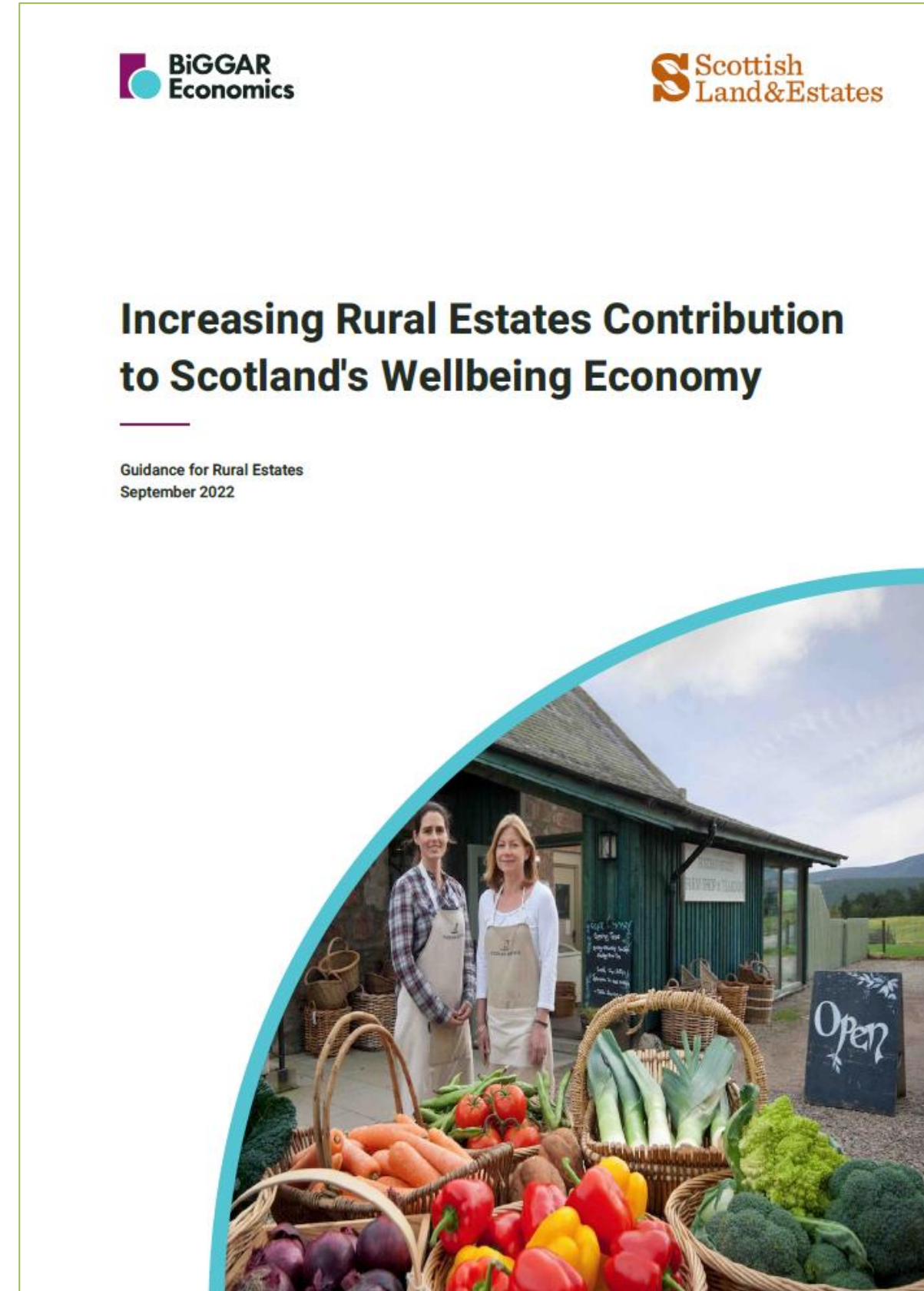
- 83% provide practical support like clearing snow or fallen trees
- 90% have provided space for local groups
- 65% have provided space for community events
- 52% are involved in a community council or project

➤ Add £1.2 million value to Scotland's stocks of social capital

- ## ➤ Provide land for c. 14,000 agricultural enterprises
- 8,950 crofts and 5,000 family farms
 - cornerstones of rural community life

Growing the Contribution

Monitoring the contribution estates make to Scotland's wellbeing economy should be simple. Start by working out what matters, decide how to measure it, establish a baseline then try to improve.



Potential Bill

- **Strengthen the LRRS**
- **Introduce compulsory Land Management Plans**
- **Public interest test on transfers of large-scale land holdings**
- **New requirements to access public funding of large-scale land holdings**
- **New Land Use Tenancy**
- **Modernise small landholdings legislation**
- **Increase transparency in relation to land ownership and land use**



We need to move and pace and scale

“As wildlife thrives best in a large, interconnect mosaic of habitats, having a larger reserve would allow us to support a wider range of wildlife and maximise biodiversity.”

Taras Valley Nature Reserve/Langholm Initiative



Why target scale?

“This investment provides a great opportunity for FLS to support landscape scale habitat restoration in the Angus Glens and CNP. Our intention is to bring benefits to the area for nature, climate, and people. The 3,500 hectare Estate is in a strategically important location and connects other areas of publicly owned land amounting to around 10,500 hectares”

Forestry & Land Scotland



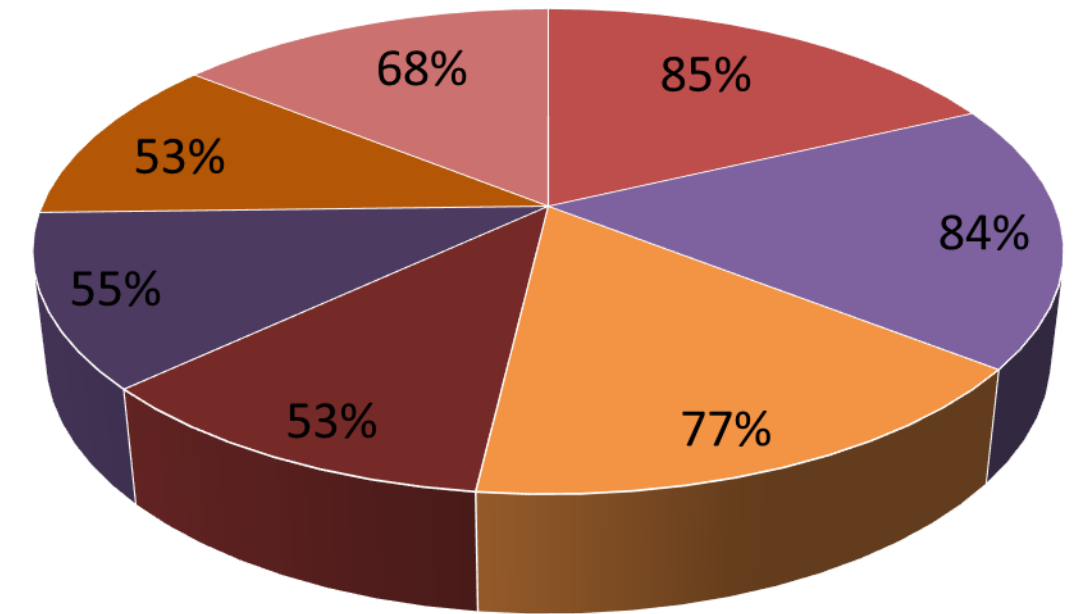
Members help meet national biodiversity and climate change mitigation targets

Robust integrous, independently assessed accreditation

Members include farms, multifaceted and rewilding estates and nature reserves

Aiming for 1 million hectares accredited by 2025

Commercial Activities



- Farming
- Forestry
- Shooting
- Stalking
- Fishing
- Tourism
- Renewables



Why target scale?

“Most of the advantages associated with Scotland’s current pattern of land ownership related to the size of landholdings and most of the disadvantages related to the concentration of social, economic and decision-making power”

“While many people equate concern about the scale and concentration of landholdings with hostility toward private ownership, the two issues are distinct. The risks of concentrated power can apply regardless of the sector of ownership”

Scottish Land Commission



Role of Private Finance

“The finance gap for nature in Scotland for the next decade has been estimated to be £20 billion.

“Leveraging responsible private investment...will be absolutely vital to meeting our climate targets and restoring our natural environment.

“Scotland is well placed to take a leading role by offering investors the opportunity to generate sustainable returns from the restoration and regeneration of our landscapes.”

Lorna Slater, Minister for Biodiversity



Land Use Tenancy

- *Enable land to be managed for environmental benefit and schemes*
- *Can be land within Ag holdings tenancy, or outwith*
- *Would move from secure tenancy to new land use tenancy*
- *Greater freedom to agree terms of agreement*
- *Must be mutually agreed*
- *Enables work outwith definition of agriculture*
- *Some concerns around long term agreements.*



Many Great Examples of Work

