



The Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, introduced to the Scottish Parliament in 2015, challenges all landowners to consider the impacts of management decisions on communities.

Since 2007, research staff and students at the Centre for Mountain Studies, based at Perth College UHI, have been carrying out research on the various impacts of landowners' actions on the environment, economies and communities of upland Scotland. Much of this work has fed into research and policy discussions surrounding contemporary land reform.

An influential five-year study by the centre, Sustainable Estates for the 21st Century, looked at the complex driving forces that influence large upland estates, and how their owners and managers ensure that estates fulfil their diverse roles.

Contributions to the land reform debate



**Dr Jayne Glass MSc,
MA (Oxon), PhD,
FHEA**



Dr Jayne Glass is an interdisciplinary researcher investigating human-environment dimensions of land use in rural Scotland.

She has undertaken a range of theoretical and applied research and consultancy projects, focussing on land ownership and land reform; rural estate management; community engagement and stakeholder participation; sustainable land use; and ecosystem services. Dr Glass was the lead editor of 'Lairds, Land and Sustainability: Scottish perspectives on upland management' (Edinburgh University Press, 2013). She teaches on the university's MSc Sustainable Mountain Development programme.

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The results were published by Edinburgh University Press in 2013, as *Lairds, Land and Sustainability: Scottish perspectives on upland management*. Subsequent work with Scottish Land and Estates (SLE) and stakeholders led to the production of a booklet, *Working Together for Sustainable Estate Communities*, which is now being widely used, and forms the basis for SLE's Community Engagement programme.

In 2015, the centre worked with Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) to gain insights into the social and economic benefits and impacts of the grouse shooting industry on rural communities. There has been much recent publicity surrounding grouse shooting. While there are benefits for the local economy related to employment and local business, concerns have also been expressed about the negative influences of this form of land management. The study included a large household survey across the Angus Glens and Monadhliath mountains to analyse local communities' perceptions of moorland management and grouse shooting.

A key finding was that community support is linked to recognition of community benefits associated with the industry and high general awareness of estate management. Given ongoing demographic change, such as in-migration, in many areas

of rural Scotland, community engagement and involvement is likely to be of greater importance in the future.

In a current project with SRUC for the Scottish Government, we are exploring examples of how diversity of land ownership has led to different social, economic and environmental outcomes in rural communities. The project considers the implications of large landholdings for the communities that reside within their boundaries. The focus is on size of landholding, rather than tenure; we have been gathering evidence on the relationships of different patterns of landholding size to social, economic and environmental outcomes. Our principal roles in the project have been to interview key landowners, other businesses and community representatives, and to ensure wider community engagement through focus groups.

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**Dr Ros Bryce BSc
(Hons), PhD**



Dr Ros Bryce has a background in ecology and her research interests now span the natural and social sciences.

She has worked with interdisciplinary research teams and has a strong track record in researching the influences of social factors, such as values, motivations and social networks, on decision-making and responses to environmental problems. Dr Bryce has carried out research that seeks to improve the integration of cultural ecosystem services into environmental decision-making, as well as understanding how environmental research evidence is used in policy and practice. Much of her work on biodiversity, ecosystem engineering and invasive species management has been conducted in the Scottish uplands, and she has also worked in other parts of the UK and Europe.

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