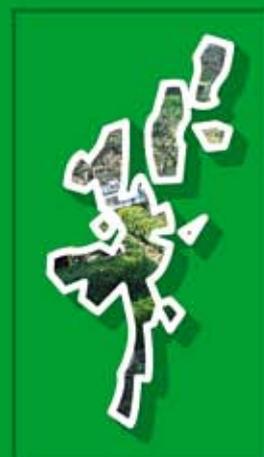


Finding Scotland's Allotments

2007



**Scottish
Allotments
& Gardens
Society**

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SAGS

The Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) works for plotholders throughout Scotland to:

- Protect existing sites from developers
- Promote the value of allotments and encourage the development of new sites
- Preserve skills in gardening

Acknowledgements

SAGS Core Working Group:

Barbara De La Rue

Jenny Mollison

Chris Wilkinson

Judy Wilkinson

Peter Wright

Project Co-ordinator:

Sam Murray

Photographs:

Sam Murray

Tim Smith

Ernie Watt

Bridgend Allotments

John Barclay

Design:

Tim Smith

Supported by:

Cathy Magowan

Geographic Information Analyst,
Scottish Natural Heritage

Scott Ferguson

Advisory Officer, Communities & Greenspace,
Scottish Natural Heritage

Summary

Interest in allotments has risen dramatically in the last few years. Increasingly people appreciate the social, environmental and health benefits to be gained from working an allotment plot. With demand for plots outstripping supply, the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) identified a need for an overview of Scotland's allotment provision.

This report summarises a thorough study, carried out by SAGS. The aims of the study were to:

- develop a comprehensive record of all allotment sites in Scotland
- study the benefits of allotments
- explore issues affecting allotments
- recommend ways of addressing any significant gaps in provision

The project was generously supported by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and a charitable trust.

Key findings

Comprehensive record

- There are 211 active allotment sites containing a minimum of 6,300 individual plots
- Sites are geographically quite widespread, with 55% of sites outside the main cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen
- Four council areas have no allotment sites: East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, Shetland Islands and Western Isles
- 69% of sites are local authority owned
- 23% of sites are independently owned. Owners include a university, a housing association, a convent, various trusts and other estate/private landowners.

(See maps, pages 4 and 5 and table, page 15)

Benefits

- At least 50 different local community groups are variously involved with allotment sites
- 33 sites run community events and open days, and 25 offer educational visits from schools and other groups
- Health benefits extend beyond individual plotheolders to working to promote physical and mental health
- Education and lifelong learning is experienced by students working towards EcoSchool awards and university degrees, and others gaining practical skills
- 99% of sites form part of wider open space and green networks
- Evidence gathered confirms that allotments support biodiversity and provide access to good quality greenspace

Issues affecting allotments

- 3 sites have been lost to housing development in 2007
- 1 site is at a Local Plan Inquiry stage

- For 8% of sites ownership information was either unclear or unavailable to SAGS
- There is an inconsistent approach to management of allotments - only 1 local authority has produced an allotment strategy
- At least 3,000 individuals are on waiting lists
- Demand for allotments in rural areas is greater than anticipated
- Recent new sites have been mainly on rural, private land
- There has been little systematic monitoring of allotment provision

Recommendations

SAGS is ideally positioned to support the allotment community in developing the potential of their sites, and should:

- Encourage and help facilitate liaison between sites, councils, training providers, and environmental /other relevant organisations.
- Encourage plotheolders/site associations to engage in the local planning process as a means of protecting existing allotment sites or providing new ones.
- Set up a network of local recorders to monitor allotment provision and report annually to the SAGS committee.
- Work with Scottish Natural Heritage and councils to analyse greenspace audits on allotments and gardens in terms of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Thereby to help assess areas lacking in provision.
- Encourage councils to implement the recommended Good Practice for allotments produced by COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities).¹

1. Allotments in Scotland: Guidance Notes for Scottish Councils, COSLA, published 2007

Introduction

Frequent enquiries to the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) had highlighted three areas of concern: people struggled to find a vacant allotment; there was evidence of lengthy waiting lists if they did exist; and there were concerns about allotment sites under threat from development. This alerted SAGS to the lack of both a central source of information on Scottish allotments and any recent monitoring of the country's allotment estate.

Although the main purpose of allotments is to provide land for growing fruit and vegetables, gradual acknowledgement is given in various government policies to other potential benefits. The draft consultation Scottish Planning Policy SPP11: Physical Activity and Open Space² recognises their wider benefits as being valuable to the local community and the environment, encourage physical activity and healthy eating, offer a place to relax and to learn, and contribute to local biodiversity. Consequently, they are particularly important elements of greenspace networks in increasingly densely built-up urban areas.

COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) recently published recommended good practice for Scottish Councils regarding allotments,³ highlighting a number of areas for development. These include

establishing a clear point of contact for allotment enquiries, an assessment of provision and demand, and to count allotments separately from other forms of greenspace when preparing local plans or open space audits.

SAGS was also aware that little attention has been given to the fact that local authorities have a statutory duty to respond to demand for the provision of allotments.⁴ It only needs (a minimum of) 6 residents on the Electoral Roll to make representation in writing.

SAGS therefore considered it timely to carry out this study to:

- develop a comprehensive record of all allotment sites in Scotland
- study the benefits of allotments
- explore issues affecting allotments
- recommend ways of addressing any significant gaps in provision

The results of this study lay the foundation for future local and national monitoring of allotment provision. But they also highlight the potential for a more in-depth study of networking and support opportunities so that ploholders, allotment providers and others may learn from each other's experiences.

How we carried out the study

The study was undertaken between October 2006 and May 2007, co-ordinated by a consultant with volunteer support from members of SAGS.

To locate allotment sites, a comprehensive search was made: A desk study was carried out of archival records,⁵ various reports and websites. To seek local knowledge, posters were distributed to all Scottish public libraries; articles appeared in local and national press, newsletters and magazines about gardening and the environment; and a questionnaire was posted on the SAGS website. Information gathered from both sources was then compared against Ordnance Survey grid references classed as allotments in the PointX Dataset. In some cases for urban areas, satellite photos from Google map were used to confirm the present use as allotments.

To build up a picture of council policies on allotments, the number of plots, waiting lists, other activities and features in and surrounding the sites, questionnaires were sent to all 32 Scottish local authorities and to all allotment sites with a known contact.

Copies of the questionnaires will be on the SAGS website (www.sags.org.uk) for reference and future work.

The numerical data from the questionnaires was collated and analysed using an Excel spreadsheet. Site grid references were analysed and plotted spatially by SNH staff support using Arc GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software to produce maps showing the distribution of sites. Individual qualitative responses provided themes that are illustrated with examples throughout this report, some of which were followed up with conversations or references on websites.

2. Scottish Planning Policy SPP11: Physical Activity and Open Space Consultation Draft, Scottish Executive Development Department, 2006

3. Allotments in Scotland: Guidance Notes for Scottish Councils, COSLA, published 2007

4. Allotments (Scotland) Acts 1892 to 1950 and the Land Settlement (Scotland) Act 1919

5. Victor Webb Archive, 2002/Accn1999+2108, Glasgow University Archive Department

Findings and recommendations

Comprehensive record

The study identified 211 allotment sites in Scotland, containing a minimum of 6,300 individual plots. Questionnaire responses provided first-hand knowledge of 174 (82%) of the 211 sites located. Of these, 111 were direct from site contacts. Local authorities provided core information on 63 sites where there were no site representatives. No contact details were available for 27 sites. No replies came from 10 sites, but their existence was confirmed either by viewing externally by SAGS, or by information from other local sources.

Provision of allotments

From the maps on pages 4 and 5 it is evident that active allotment sites are concentrated in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen - although 55% of sites are distributed widely outside these four main cities, from the Scottish Borders to Orkney. There are no allotment sites in the council areas of East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk and the Western Isles and Shetland Islands - the last two not unexpected in view of their crofting tradition. To find the location of active sites, full details are given in the Directory on pages 18-23. Historically, interest in allotments has fluctuated, peaking at 70,000 plots in Scotland during World War II to provide essential food.⁶ Since

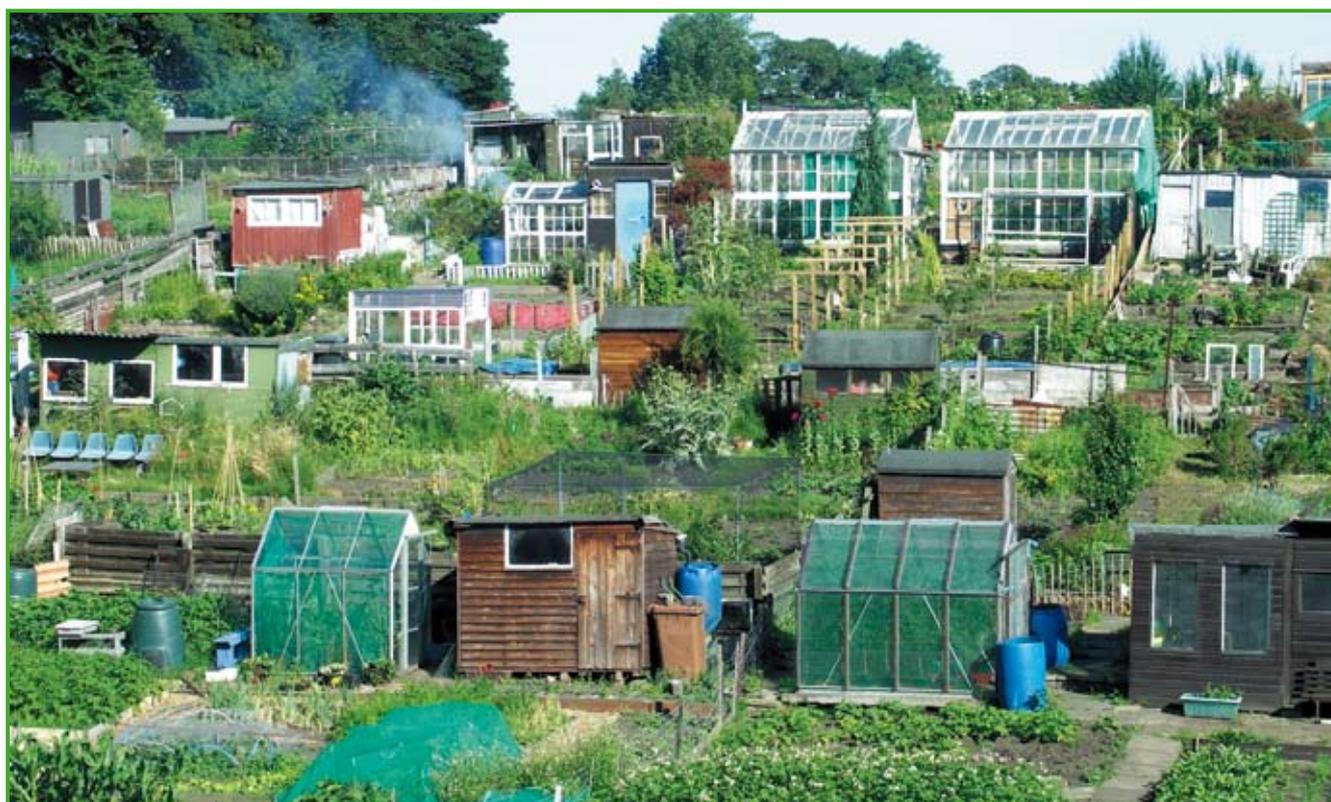
then most allotment sites have either returned to a former use or been lost to housing or commercial development.

Plot size: Although 200sq m is often regarded as the size of a typical allotment plot, variations depend on the shape of the site, and changes occur if plots are divided to meet individual circumstances, such as being elderly, suffering from ill health or reduction in household numbers. Small plots may recombine into large plots if required.

SAGS suggests that the most appropriate way of monitoring allotment provision in future is to use the recorded number of sites as a baseline. With increased availability of GIS the monitoring of site areas should also become feasible and should be included in open/greenspace audits that councils are likely to be required to carry out in future.

Plot Rental: The national average annual plot rental is just under £30, although annual rents range from peppercorn rents of £1 to £39.50 depending on size of plot, with some even rented by the area of ground. Some allotments have no rental, some pay water charges, and others are responsible for maintenance of paths and site boundaries.

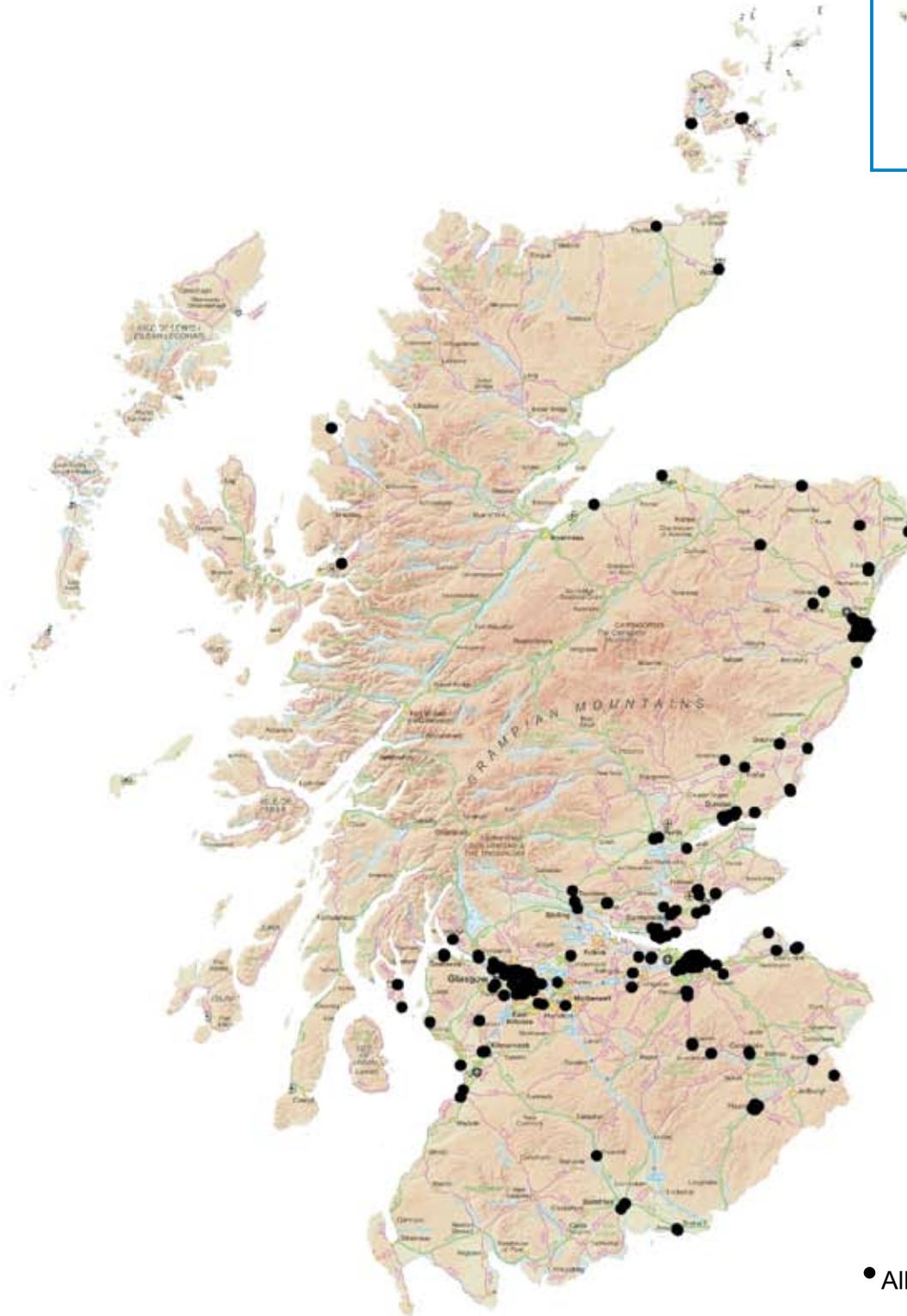
6. Caitlin De Silvey, A History of Edinburgh's Allotments in Cultivating Communities, City of Edinburgh Council 2002



Distribution of Allotment Sites in Scotland

Produced by Geographic Information Group. SNH (07/06/08. 1393) Email gig@snh.gov.uk
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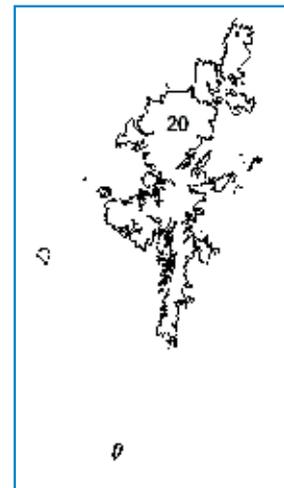
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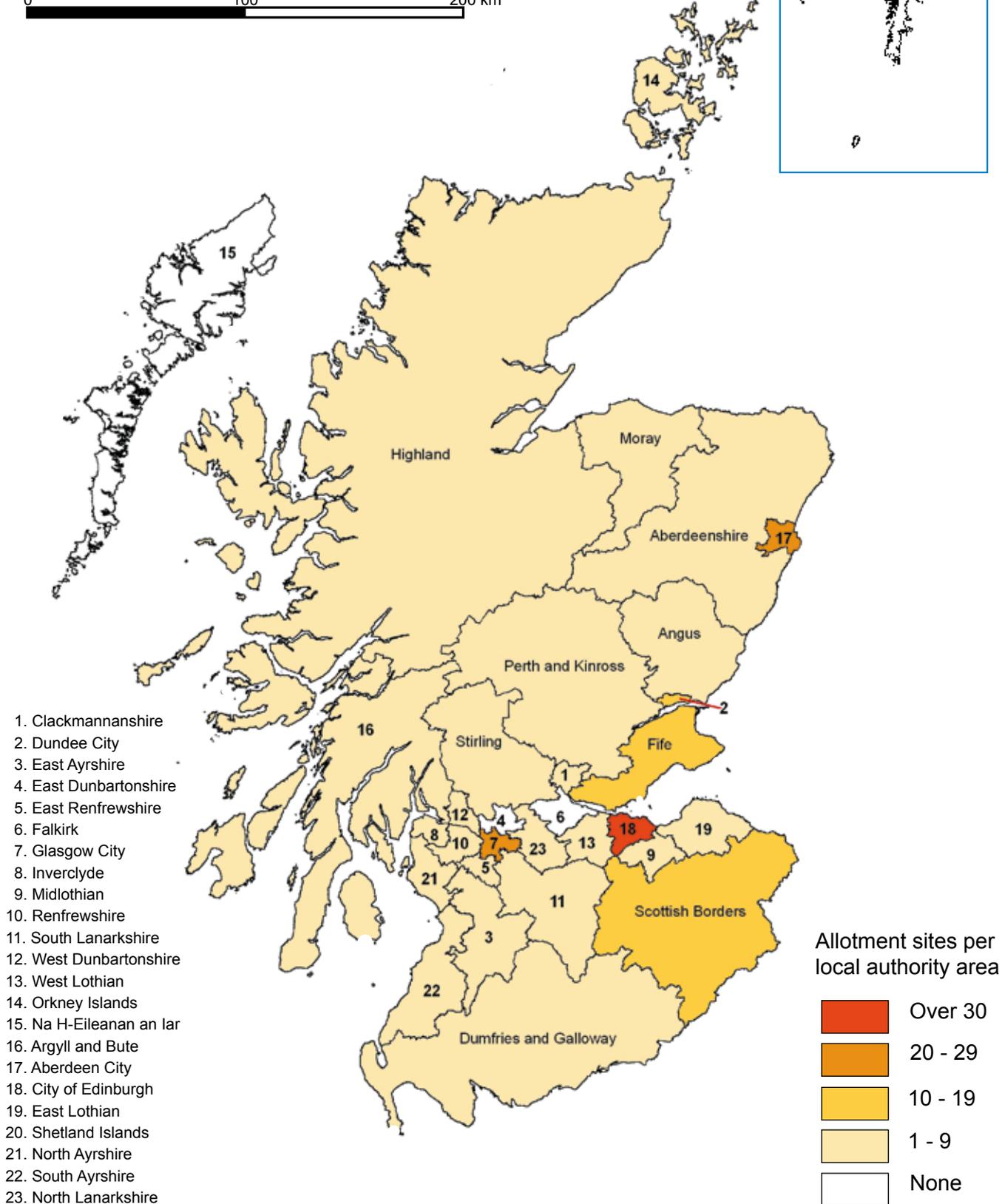
● Allotment site

Allotment Sites per Local Authority Area

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0 100 200 km



Ownership and management

The study revealed a tremendous variation between local authority areas in the ownership and management of allotments. 69% of allotment sites are in local authority ownership. Councils manage 68% of those they own, with the day-to-day management of the remainder devolved to site associations. 23% of sites are independently owned; owners including allotment associations, a university, a housing association, house builder/factor, a convent, a farmer, various trusts, and other estate/private landowners. Historically, some of these appear to have been linked to employment, including by the Coal Board, rail companies or mills. For 8% of sites the ownership information is either unclear or unavailable to SAGS.

Allotment Strategy: Of the 24 local authorities that own or manage allotments only Edinburgh reported that it has an Allotment Strategy. Glasgow has a draft in preparation and Aberdeen is producing a consultation document.

Council contacts: Council officers co-operated well with this study, providing a 100% response to the questionnaire seeking information about policies, waiting lists, and general management of their allotments. Numerous enquiries were needed to identify the most appropriate personal contact, as only nine councils reported a designated Allotment Officer. Only the officers in Edinburgh and Glasgow have allotments as their main remit, which is consistent with these authorities being the largest providers of allotments.

In most other local authorities allotments are only one of a variety of responsibilities within an officer's job description. Contacts for allotments were found in departments such as administration, community services, technical services, housing, parks, estates, land services, transport or a combination of two or more departments.

In 12 local authorities it is unclear with whom responsibility lies, particularly for dealing with members of the public enquiring about allotment



provision. Several council officers 'with responsibility for allotments' had never seen some of their allotments, were unsure whether the council still owned the land, and had no record of the tenants.

The difficulties SAGS encountered in tracking down allotment contacts confirms that further work is required for councils to meet COSLA's recommended good practice:

'Councils are encouraged to establish a clear point of contact for all queries relating to allotments. Requests for allotments should be dealt with in a clear and transparent manner.'

Council-managed sites: Even between the four main council providers management varies. In Glasgow, day-to-day management and letting is devolved to sites, with liaison through site associations and the Glasgow Allotment Forum. In Edinburgh there is a central management and letting system for most of its allotments, and liaison with ploholders through site associations and the Federation of Edinburgh & District Allotments & Gardens Associations (FEDAGA). In Dundee there is a mixture: the council manages some sites centrally and devolves management to others. In Aberdeen all council allotments are centrally managed, as there are no site associations.

Independently owned sites: As previously mentioned the pattern of ownership is diverse, and few generalisations can be made about the 48 independent sites recorded in this study. Some site associations lease the land directly from a landowner, while for others a lease is between the individual ploholder and the owner. More rarely, with only nine examples, associations own their site. It appears that routine maintenance such as fencing and paths and letting arrangements are carried out by the ploholders. Some site associations reported difficulties with leases and funding of essential facilities. A positive outcome from this study, is the extension of the SAGS network, which will enable SAGS to develop future support links through those sites successfully overcoming these challenges.



Benefits of allotments

Allotments cut across all social boundaries and government policy agendas, particularly on involving the wider community, health and well-being, education and lifelong learning and the environment. The process of gardening is central to allotments - SAGS shows the benefits and scope of gardening in its recent report Growing Scotland which includes contributions from 27 wide-ranging organisations.⁷ Voluntary sector organisations also recognise that by moving out of an established setting and onto allotments they can enhance their core work to support individuals with diverse needs. Several stories are highlighted here, but it is important to acknowledge there are many more similarly worthy of attention. Where available, websites are provided for further information.

Community involvement and inclusion

Allotment Associations show a commitment to their communities. In the study 33 sites recorded open days, social events, horticultural shows and produce sales to support charities. At least 50 groups, supporting a range of interests and needs, rent plots - Glasgow has the most, with 14 groups. The number of groups are almost equally spread between schools, those involved in health issues (mental and physical), disability issues (physical and learning difficulties), and youth/adult training, with 2 sites in Glasgow providing support for asylum seekers.

Several sites mentioned that volunteers from organisations such as BTCV and Kelvin Clyde Greenspace assisted with site management including pond work, path building and creating wildlife areas. Inmates from Glenochil Prison made bird boxes for a site in Tillicoultry. Community groups working on allotments may have individuals who are specifically volunteering for environmental projects, but also those who are involved for more therapeutic reasons.

In response to a Scottish Executive consultation, Craigentiny Garden Allotment Association in Edinburgh described the benefits of their allotments: *“Allotments foster community relations. Our own allotment holders are multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-religious, agnostic and atheist. We are of the opinion that our community has benefited from the rich diversity we enjoy.”*⁸

Community action at Sandown Allotments, Nairn

Plottolders at Sandown Allotments were keen to see their site improved and fully occupied. Following negotiations with Highland Council an agreement was reached in 2007 for the Nairn Allotment Association to take over management of the site on a five-year lease. Alongside this, a great deal of activity took place in the spring on one particular plot, which looks to become a gathering place for many in the local community.

Nairn Leisure Link, a project for adults living with a learning disability, had recently taken on a plot at the site that had been uncultivated for a period of time. The project successfully applied to the BBC's Beechgrove Garden and Scottish Natural Heritage's Garden for Life Initiative for help in developing their plot. Participants of the project came up with ideas to include a pond, a wildlife area, raised beds as well as space for fruit and vegetables and a designer provided advice.

Much of the site preparation and planting was carried out by participants, but they were also involved in sourcing support from individuals in the local community, and businesses who provided donations of time, plants, building materials and equipment. The project enlisted the help of the countryside ranger service in creating and planting the pond, and on wheelchair access. Applications to the Big Lottery, and Health and Happiness provided additional funding. All this collaboration resulted in a BBC programme devoted to the transformation of the plot.

For more information see Factsheet No 12: 20 June 2007 at www.beechgrove.co.uk/factsheets

For information on Garden for Life visit: www.snh.org.uk/about/initiatives/g4l

The BUDS Project is part of the Glasgow Simon Community⁹ that works with those affected by homelessness. Participants may choose to spend time growing fruit and vegetables on a plot at the Oatlands

7. Growing Scotland: Gardening contributes to the Scottish Executive agenda to improve the Nation's well being, Spring 2007 www.sags.org.uk/GardenScotlandDocs.php

8. Response to Scottish Planning Policy SPP11: Physical Activity and Open Space Consultation Draft, Scottish Executive Development Department, 2006

9. www.glasgowssimon.org

allotments, where they get training in gardening, composting, and practical construction skills. Developing from this, the group also garden at the Community's head office, and have attracted others

to make use of their gardening skills. Access to healthy food can be difficult for homeless people, especially if living in hostels, so produce from the plot contributes to improving their diet.

Health and Well-Being

Fresh air, gentle exercise, mental relaxation and wholesome food are just some of the health benefits of working an allotment. Excellent testimony to this is an Edinburgh plotholder who continues to produce abundant crops as he approaches his 99th birthday.

It is not just individual tenants who gain from working an allotment. Many of the groups on allotments have health and well-being as key objectives. Gardening has long been recognised as therapy in physical and mental health rehabilitation. Thrive, an organisation promoting therapeutic horticulture, has published relevant research on health, well-being and social inclusion.¹⁰ A similar Scottish organisation, Trellis,¹¹ supports the work of several groups on allotments.

Barnardo's Hopscotch Allotment Project¹² works a plot at the Brechin Road allotment site in Arbroath. The project aims to promote better mental health for vulnerable young people who are affected by parental alcohol and drug misuse. At Wilton Road in Hawick, plots are rented by two groups: Penumbra supports individuals with mental health problems, and the Katharine Elliott Centre supports others with special needs. Staff from these organisations highlight not just the therapeutic benefits but also the social aspects of mixing with other plotholders and the development of horticultural and environmental skills which may help them into work or further training.

BTCV Green Gyms involve volunteers in a combination of physical activity and caring for the environment. They have received three positive evaluations by independent researchers at Oxford Brookes University¹³ - health professionals are now recommending patients to Green Gyms. BTCV Green Gyms are active on allotment sites at Noblehill in Dumfries, Smithfield Lane in Aberdeen and Coatbridge in North Lanarkshire. The co-ordinator in Aberdeen reports that there has been a noticeable improvement in volunteers' health, with some attending more than once a week and progressing to BTCV's midweek conservation group. Participants include retired individuals, others with weight problems or recovering from heart attacks, and people with mental health problems referred from Cornhill Hospital.

Bridgend Allotments Community Health Inclusion Project (BACHIP)

This project was established in 2006 through NHS Lothian and the South Edinburgh Healthy Living Initiative, with Fresh Futures Lottery Funding. Based at the organic Bridgend Allotments, project staff who are trained horticulturists set out to work with residents of Craigmillar and south Edinburgh, where health inequalities are a huge challenge.

The staff quickly built strong links with health practitioners in the area. The four plots the project occupies have been a venue for participants referred with problems including severe depression, alcoholism and homelessness. From participant feedback, the project has proved to be an important means of transition for people to "move on", whether from medication or emotional difficulties.

One of BACHIP's aims is to give people the skills and confidence to use the greenspaces around them productively, using the project as the community hub and resource for support, education and information. Encouraging wildlife to the site is also one of the project's objectives, by growing plants that attract insects as part of natural pest control to avoid the use of chemicals. Links have also been made with the biodiversity officers and countryside rangers.

Since the project's inception, there has been a rapid increase in demand for its services, with staff involved in outreach work in local schools to promote gardening and healthy eating with seasonal produce. The project is so successful that it now attracts participants from all over the city, including groups of women from the Asian communities. Some of the participants are now using skills they have gained to assist plotholders on the main allotment site.

*For more information see:
www.bridgendallotment.org.uk*

10. www.thrive.org.uk/can-we-help-you-research-health.asp

11. www.trelliscotland.org.uk

12. www.communities.scotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs_011173.hcsp

13. BTCV Green Gyms, http://www2.btcv.org.uk/display/greengym_benefits

Education and Lifelong Learning

Allotments provide opportunities to support a range of learning for all ages. In the study 25 sites recorded visits by schools or other groups. In particular, Dundee sites referred to university students using the allotments as a resource for study as part of art, planning and environmental courses.

Among the detailed responses received from sites, 64% showed interest in supported opportunities for improving plottolders' knowledge and practical experience and for learning about the local environment. 40% of the positive responses indicated that their main interest was to improve allotment skills. 37% were interested in how to attract wildlife, and 36% in composting and recycling.

The Kelty Family Initiative work on their Fife plots with pupils from the local Nursery and Primary school. Pupils not only take part in gardening activities, learn how their food is produced, but often go home with eggs from the large variety of poultry and wildfowl plottolders raise on the site.

In Dundee, Helm Training¹⁴ work with trainees on a plot at the Kinnaird allotment site. Projects run by the charity are aimed at excluded, "hard to reach" groups of young people aged 15-18 years who are not in education, employment or training. The emphasis is on developing vocational and personal skills, and to improve the health and welfare of these young people.

At the Roseisle allotment site in Moray participants carry out activities as part of a John Muir Award.¹⁵ One of the Award's aims is to

"Provide a structure to encourage environmental awareness, responsibility, understanding and appreciation."

During 2006 the City of Edinburgh Council organised a series of organic training workshops for plottolders. Facilitated by an organic grower working in the Scottish Borders, topics included: biodiversity, pest and disease control, preparing soils with green manures, saving seeds, and making leafmould. Sessions were well attended by 100 plottolders, and



EcoSchools

At Portobello High School in Edinburgh students and staff from the school manage a plot on an allotment site. Responding to a Scottish Executive Consultation¹⁶ the staff wrote of the benefit it offers for its students:

"As a school we are committed to the EcoSchool¹⁷ initiative which promotes environmental awareness and sustainable practices - the allotment has played a crucial part in the award of two Green Flag Awards so far, and will play a pivotal role in our third Green Flag assessment. The allotment also provides a valuable opportunity to informally teach Citizenship to the pupils - the pupils who are involved have developed very positive links with other gardeners in the community, with resultant benefits to both groups."

hosted by five allotment sites around the city. A visit was also made to the demonstration organic garden at Woodside Walled Garden near Jedburgh.

Diversity of produce: Allotments provide the opportunity to learn about and preserve the diversity of the country's cultural and natural heritage. Shops and supermarkets usually have a limited range of fruit and vegetables, but plottolders can choose from a much wider variety. This can help to preserve genetic diversity by growing from seed available from specialist sources such as the Heritage Seed Library.¹⁸ These seeds may have been handed down from one generation to the next or be varieties adapted to local soil and climatic conditions.

Organic fruit grower John Butterworth lists 44 Scottish apple varieties in his book *Apples in Scotland* (2001). One plottolder in the Highlands reports that the cooking apple "Stirling Castle" is doing well. Dwarf fruit trees are becoming popular on several sites.

Potato Days are popular, often having over 40 varieties on sale. Scottish varieties include the blue skinned potato Arran Victory, bred on Arran in 1918 and named to celebrate the end of WW1, and Mr Little's Yetholm Gypsy, dating from 1899 - Yetholm was the Gypsy capital of Scotland about 200 years ago.

14. www.helmtraining.co.uk

15. www.johnmuiraward.org

16. Response to Scottish Planning Policy SPP11: Physical Activity and Open Space Consultation Draft, Scottish Executive Development Department, 2006

17. www.ecoschoolsscotland.org

18. HDRA (Henry Doubleday Research Association) Garden Organic, www.gardenorganic.org.uk

Communication and mutual support

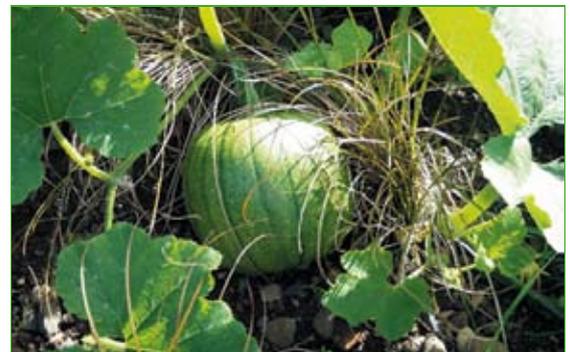
This study has been the first opportunity for SAGS to reach out to so many interested individuals and organisations. SAGS has also received numerous offers to share information and experiences more widely, for example:

- As part of a series of talks organised by the Glasgow Allotments Forum, a member of Holmlea Gardens in Glasgow, presented the outcomes of a Scottish Community Action Research Grant¹⁹ they received. Part of the project included working with a community artist and two local primary schools. Not only did the children go to the allotment to garden, but took part in photography workshops, and “mini-beast” sessions. Members of the site also gained community research skills in reaching out to the local community.
- Dalmuir Plots Association in West Dunbartonshire has gained wide experience in the ongoing regeneration of the site, ranging from consulting on the needs of the local community, successful and substantial fundraising, to project management during the construction process.²⁰

Several allotment associations do have their own website, including Tillicoultry in Clackmannanshire,²¹ the Federation of Edinburgh & District Allotments & Gardens Associations²² and Bridgend²³ in Edinburgh. When considering communication with ploholders it should not automatically be assumed that everyone has access to email and the internet, although some site associations do have their own website. The study showed that phone calls and letters are still preferred by many.

Sites benefit from having organised site associations, responsible for the day-to-day management of the site. Bringing local associations together to work on items of mutual interest is also beneficial. The prime example of such a group is FEDAGA, which has regular contact with most Edinburgh ploholders, a strong committee and works in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council. FEDAGA also organises events such as the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show and offers bulk offers on potatoes and seeds etc.

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19. www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs_014705.pdf
 20. Contact via West Dunbartonshire Greenspace Tel: 01389 738560
 21. Tillicoultry Allotments: www.tillicoultry.org.uk/local.htm
 22. Federation of Edinburgh & District Allotments & Gardens Associations: www.fedaga.org.uk
 23. Bridgend Allotments, Edinburgh: www.bridgendallotment.org.uk





The Environment, Wildlife and Green Networks

Almost daily the issue of climate change and the need for energy conservation makes headlines. Allotments are local, providing a sustainable use of land close to where people live. Consequently plottolders help reduce their own carbon emissions by avoiding excessive transportation, processing and packaging of produce. Also, recycling and composting are made easier.

Biodiversity: The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004²⁴ gives all public bodies in Scotland a duty to *'further the conservation of biodiversity'*. In short this means all living things including insects, birds, trees, plants and people.

Several Scottish Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) refer briefly to allotments as habitats for wildlife. A number of LBAPs in England contain detailed plans relating to allotments. A survey at Helsby allotments in Cheshire, resulting from a change-of-use planning application, found hundreds of slow worms breeding in compost. Recordings of reptiles were sparse in Cheshire and, as a result of the Helsby find, one of the future objectives of the region's Biodiversity Partnership²⁵, is to establish a survey and monitoring system for the region's allotments.

The Glasgow Allotments Forum (GAF) and SAGS published an illustrated booklet in 2005 to assist plottolders in understanding the reciprocal benefits of wildlife, easy ways to encourage more, and how to maintain a healthy soil.²⁶ An adapted version has been produced and distributed to all Edinburgh allotmenters, and in a format that also makes it useful for all gardeners.

Although few allotmenters make formal recordings of the wildlife they encounter while working their plots, there is often informal discussion between plottolders of wildlife activity. The examples provided

Biodiversity

A Glasgow plottolder who has recorded wildlife sightings and changes at the Julian Avenue site since the early 1970s reports:

*'Allotments and gardens form corridors for associated wildlife, most significantly for pollinating insects. One third of the food we eat depends upon the activities of pollinators. Fragmentation of their habitats by land development for non-agricultural purposes leads to isolation and then extinction of these invaluable insects. On my urban allotment in Glasgow at least ten bee and hoverfly species - both important pollinators - are regularly found.'*²⁷

The same plottolder provided a list of 44 species of birds visiting the site, including the more unusual such as redpoll, tawny owl, tree creeper, goldcrest, and waxwing.

The BIG (Biodiversity in Glasgow) Project began in spring 2007, giving volunteers an opportunity to get involved in surveying Glasgow's greenspaces for birds and butterflies. A partnership between BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) Scotland and Butterfly Conservation Scotland, the project also provides free training. Surveys will be taking place on at least two of Glasgow's allotment sites.

www.bto.org/regional/btoscotland.htm

www.butterfly-conservation.org.bcuk/scotland

by sites that do record information, or the habitats on or around sites, are indicative of what may be possible on other sites that currently do not.



24. Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act) 2004

25. www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk/habitat-gardens.htm

26. 'Allotments and Biodiversity: Gardening in harmony with nature' 2005

27. Keith Vickerman, Emeritus Professor of Zoology, Glasgow University, Fellow of the Royal Society. Contact through www.sags.org.uk

Green networks and access to greenspace

All allotment sites in the study, except 15 unknown and one enclosed by buildings, are surrounded by some form of greenspace and enable movement of wildlife between habitats. At least 118 sites adjoin private gardens, with 56 sites next to some form of woodland, 33 to a public park/garden, 32 to agricultural land, 17 to a river, and 12 to a cemetery/churchyard. 30 sites border railway lines, which are well established green corridors for wildlife. From the UK House Sparrow Project, BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) estimates there are ten million fewer house sparrows in the UK than there were 25 years ago. The BTO survey identified that the presence of allotments outside a garden is significantly associated with the presence of house sparrows in gardens.²⁸

Information from sites in Scotland confirmed that allotments do support biodiversity and provide access to good quality greenspace, of particular importance in built-up urban areas:

- 59 sites indicated that an area of the site was managed to encourage wildlife, and additionally that individual plottolders had wildlife areas on their own plots.
- 51 sites have hedges, both as boundaries and on individual plots, comprising mainly hawthorn, beech and privet, along with holly, ash, elder, brambles, snowberry, hazel and wild rose.
- 46 sites have mature trees. Fruit trees include apple, cherry, peach and plum. Others include bay, birch, rowan, poplar, ash, chestnut, willow, holly, oak, hornbeam, elder, lime, alder, sycamore and various conifers. In the Town Yetholm allotments, there is a yew tree, believed to be about 3-500 years old.



- 48 sites have ponds - the New Victoria Gardens in Glasgow has 15!

Many other allotments provide habitats for birds and mammals, with flowers planted to attract butterflies and beneficial insects.

Recommendations

SAGS is ideally positioned to:

- Facilitate liaison between allotment sites to benefit from the wealth of experiences of plottolders, and explore ways to build support within and between the allotment community to assist them to develop the potential of their sites.
- Explore training opportunities for plottolders, with providers of landbased, horticultural and other related courses such as: the Scottish Agricultural College, Elmwood College, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Community Composting Network, BTCV Scotland, Allotment Regeneration Initiative, the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.
- Explore opportunities with Community Food and Health (Scotland) for Cookery Workshops and to encourage growing a diversity of produce.
- Encourage and develop links between allotment sites and local biodiversity officers and local biological recorders.
- Work with organisations such as Butterfly Conservation Scotland and Plantlife Scotland to promote good examples of planting for wildlife.

28. www.bto.org/gbw/housp/12_03_housp_questionnaire.htm

Issues affecting allotments

Defending sites

Unlike English allotment legislation, which requires ministerial approval for disposal of allotments based on strict conditions, Scotland does not have such protection. When an allotment site is lost to an alternative use it is almost without exception due to the lack of a protective policy statement in the council's Local Plan rather than lack of demand. Council Local Plans are legal documents relating to current and future land use within local authority boundaries. They have a significant impact on the loss or gain of allotment provision. The process of updating Local Plans takes several years to complete. Only Glasgow and Edinburgh reported policies relating to allotments within their Local Plans.

Few individual sites, or local authority officers with an allotment remit, were able to provide the SAGS study with information on the existence of a policy statement on allotments in their Local Plan. This appears to confirm the contents of The Scottish Executive Planning Advice Note (PAN) 81 which states:

“There is a lack of awareness of the relevance of planning to people’s lives which means that many have no interest in getting involved until a development proposal directly affects them.”

“The aim is for a planning system that promotes early and broad based engagement when planning policy is being drawn up.”²⁹

Considering the differences between councils’ statutory duties and their actual policies, there is a stark contrast in the protection of allotments and that of sports and playing fields. Councils are legally required to respond to the demand for allotments, but they are not required by law to offer sporting opportunities. However sports facilities appear to be given disproportionate emphasis.

Section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003³⁰ gives a local authority the power to do anything which it considers is ‘likely to promote or improve the well-being of its area and persons within that area’. Further Guidance provides examples of the sort of uses to which the power can be put: promoting sustainable development, improving mental, social and physical health, encouraging participation and community capacity building, improving and conserving the quality of the local environment and protecting, enhancing and promoting biodiversity.



In the planning system allotments are only recognised as functional open space in ‘guidance’³¹ compared to the much stronger protection of a specific policy in a Local Plan.

In Edinburgh two sites have been lost to development since 2001, concurrent with a rapid doubling of demand for allotments. These losses were due to inadequate protection in the city’s various Local Plans. Following constructive suggestions from the allotment community, and working with the Planning officers, the Finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan³² now specifically includes protection for allotments within Open Space Policies. It also contains a policy to acquire land for a new allotment site and for the Council to use its powers of compulsory purchase if necessary. In making this decision consideration was given to accessibility, housing and health inequalities and a geographical gap in provision.

COSLA good practice recommendations are relevant:

“When preparing local plans or open space audits, councils should count allotments separately from other forms of greenspace.”

“In line with the likely future requirements for local authorities to have regard to open and greenspace audits, an ‘early warning scheme’ should be established to alert officers with responsibility for allotments as to any planning application that might impact on allotment sites.”

SAGS suggests that council officers should have a role in liaising with site associations or federations to assist in formulating a response to such events.

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29. Planning Advice Note PAN81: Community Engagement, Scottish Executive 2007
 30. Local Government in Scotland Act 2003
 31. Planning Advice Note PAN65: Planning and Open Space, Scottish Executive 2003
 32. Edinburgh City Local Plan, Finalised March 2007 www.edinburgh.gov.uk/eclp

Sites at risk

During the time of this study planning approval was given for a change of use from allotments to housing at Higher Ormlie, Caithness. Housing developments will replace allotment sites in Brechin, Angus and West Wemyss, Fife during 2007. A site in Kelso, Scottish Borders, is currently at a Local Plan Inquiry stage.

There are also examples of relocation: High Carntyne allotments in Glasgow are to make way for the East End Regeneration transport route in 2008. Other sites have been relocated for housing development, or to make way for enlarged or new cemeteries. Relocating to an alternative site is a setback for ploholders, especially for long established sites where excellent soil fertility has been built up over the years. Rich habitats for wildlife may be destroyed.

Contaminated soil has been a problem on several sites. Inverclyde, Glasgow and Argyll & Bute Councils now have experience of remediation work, resulting in most of their previously affected sites being reopened.

A number of site contacts did not know who owns the land they occupy. Ambiguity has arisen both through a series of changes in the structure of local government, and departmental reorganisations. References were made to land bequeathed to “the local people” by benefactors and Common Good land.³³ There may also be some other informal arrangements.

Some sites expressed concern that councils had not renewed their lease or collected rent, and that there may be an ulterior motive to remove the tenants. In other cases where there are limited facilities, such as no boundary protection or water, the council may be attempting to run the site down to discourage ploholders so that land may be released for other uses or sold. However, it was also suggested several times that collecting small amounts of plot rent may cost the councils more in administration than the income they derive. Fear of developers may mean

such sites want to keep a low profile and not challenge the status quo. However, developers are adept at seeking land and at least one site is regularly enquired about at the Land Registry for Scotland.

Waiting lists and demand

The provision of allotments is a complex issue dependent on ownership and availability of land, council policies and funding. At least 3,000 individuals are on waiting lists for allotments in Scotland (see Table “Allotments: Supply and Demand” on page 15). The total may be significantly higher, as figures were unavailable for 52 sites (25% of total) and those groups trying to set up new sites.

Waiting lists held by councils do not include independent sites. In addition some councils that do not own allotments, do not keep any central records of enquiries, particularly if they cover a wide geographical area and have various forms of local administration. As no council actively promotes allotments, latent demand is also not assessed. Therefore councils are in no position to make a realistic assessment of overall demand.

There has never been an analysis of the opportunity to garden. This study has shown that allotment provision and support is variable within cities and across rural areas. There are many people who do not have access to a plot of land close to their home where they can garden. They cannot share the health, diet, skill development and community benefits that gardening provides and which are increasingly promoted through the media and garden centres.

This confirms the need for action on further recommended COSLA good practice:

“Councils are encouraged to assess accurately the number of plots within their area and the demand for them.”

“Councils should undertake the promotion of underused sites and take steps to promote allotment gardening as part of sustainability and healthy living initiatives.”

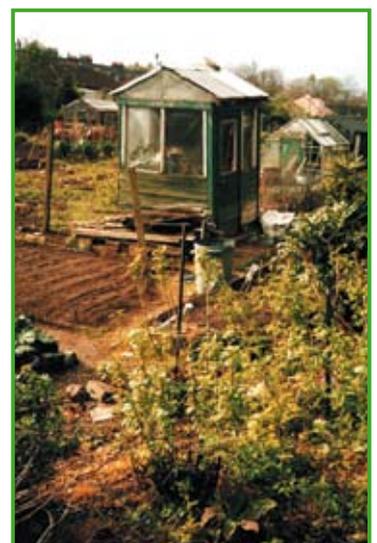
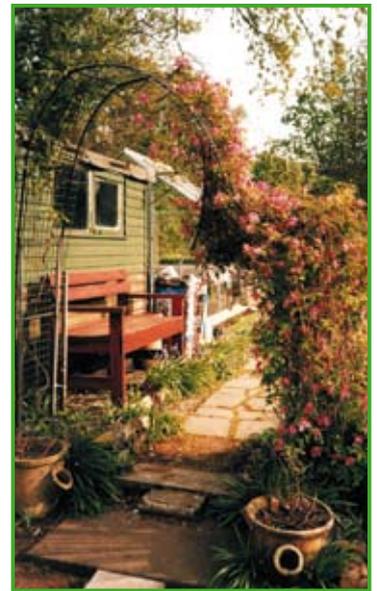
Councils may use these recommendations as an opportunity to build partnership working with community planning networks, local health boards, education providers, biodiversity officers and the allotment associations to develop the potential of new or underused sites and to disseminate examples of good practice.



33. Common Good Land in Scotland: a Review & Critique, Andy Wightman & James Perman, 2005 www.caledonia.org.uk/commonweal

Allotments: Supply and Demand

Local Authority area	Total SITES	Council owned	Independently owned	Unknown ownership	Total PLOTS	Individuals on waiting list	Sites with waiting list information unavailable
Aberdeen City	23	22	1		482	296	
Aberdeenshire	9	7	1	1	155	52	2
Angus	9	5	3	1	168	17	3
Argyll & Bute	3	2	1		28	14	2
City of Edinburgh	33	25	6	2	1,419	1,065	7
Clackmannanshire	3	2		1	88	20	1
Dumfries & Galloway	6	5	1		112	38	
Dundee City	13	10	3		558	150	1
East Ayrshire	3		2	1	72	15	2
East Dunbartonshire							
East Lothian	7	7			78	44	6
East Renfrewshire	1	1			6		1
Falkirk							
Fife	18	13	3	2	492	196	1
Glasgow City	25	15	7	3	1,320	652	4
Highland	5	2	3		71	30	2
Inverclyde	3	3			58		3
Midlothian	3	1	2		52	27	1
Moray	1		1		18	3	
North Ayrshire	1		1		30	20	
North Lanarkshire	3	2	1		139	28	1
Orkney Islands	3	3			58	14	
Perth & Kinross	2	1	1		83	24	1
Renfrewshire	4	1	1	2	64	10	2
Scottish Borders	13	8	4	1	212	3	5
Shetland Islands							
South Ayrshire	3	2	1		149	66	
South Lanarkshire	3	2		1	113	98	1
Stirling	4	2	1	1	143	61	1
West Dunbartonshire	5	4		1	127	66	1
Western Isles							
West Lothian	5		4	1	46	10	4
Total	211	145	48	18	6,341	3,019	52



Meeting the demand for allotments

To meet demand for allotments, SAGS takes this opportunity to:

1. Highlight councils' powers and obligations under legislation:
 - Councils may make their own land available
 - Councils may use their powers to compulsorily purchase or lease land from private landowners
2. Make suggestions to enable councils to implement the recommended COSLA good practice:
 - Where council sites are oversubscribed, councils may consider referring enquirers to independent sites, as a few councils already do.
 - To facilitate good communication, all 32 local authorities should keep a comprehensive centralised record of enquiries about allotments, requests for plots, etc.
 - At least one named officer should be responsible for allotments, and should be known to reception/switchboard and preferably to other council departments.
 - These suggestions should still apply even where council administration is dispersed over a wide geographical area.

A new generation of allotment sites

This study dispelled the usual perception that allotments are only an urban phenomenon. Sites established in recent years have predominantly been on private land in smaller settlements not typically associated with allotments, thus they are geographically more widespread.

About seven years ago Fernaig Community Trust purchased an area of land around its Highland community. In the absence of available crofts this enabled the community to access local land. Following a survey to identify local needs it was decided to turn some of the land into allotments. Close by, the National Trust for Scotland's Balmacara Estate is liaising with the local community about possibly providing allotments on Estate land. In such remote areas of Scotland, easy access to fresh food is preferable to the financial and environmental cost of long distance transport.

Planning permission was granted in spring 2007 to develop an independent site linked with Woodend Barn Arts Centre, in Banchory, Aberdeenshire.



There are groups interested in developing allotments in the following areas which currently have none: Falkirk, Carnoustie in Angus, East Neuk of Fife, Skye, Dalbeattie in Dumfries & Galloway, and Linlithgow in West Lothian. The Central Scotland Forest Trust is working with a group in the Motherwell area of North Lanarkshire to develop plans to create a new allotment site.

Although councils, under Allotment legislation, have a responsibility for creating new allotment sites, there are very few examples of them actually doing so. Recent notable exceptions in response to local need are: Milnafua, Alness, where the Ross and Cromarty area of Highland Council have granted planning permission and are currently in the process of creating a new allotment site. Aberdeenshire Council intend to provide allotments as part of the regeneration of a park in Stonehaven. Meanwhile, the 30 strong Dunoon & District Allotment Association continue their three-year quest through Argyll & Bute Council for allotment provision in their area.

For sites unlucky enough to be affected by changes resulting from nearby developments, it is essential for ploholders and councils to get involved in early negotiations to take advantage of developer contributions under Section 75 planning agreements.³⁴ Equally this can apply to offer residents the opportunity to garden by providing allotments in new housing developments, where increasingly open space is a patch of grass and a few shrubs managed by a factor. An enlightened vision is well illustrated in Canmore Housing Association's car free development in Edinburgh where allotments take the place of car parking.³⁵

34. Section 75 Agreements, Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
35. www.sd-commission.org.uk/communitiessummit/show_case_study.php/00045.html

Monitoring

There appears to have been little systematic monitoring of allotment provision by councils, government agencies or Ordnance Survey. This study identified 69 sites from the PointX Dataset that no longer exist, with some information being at least 30-50 years out-of-date. Many sites have been built on, others are abandoned and overgrown, or have various uses including pigeon lofts.

In 1985 Irene Evans presented to the Scottish Socialist Society's "Land for the People Conference", a paper of her own study of council allotment provision. At that time Scotland comprised 10 Regions made up of 56 Districts. With councils now reorganised into 32 local authorities it is difficult to make an accurate comparison of number of sites and plots because of the boundary changes. However, some results in the 1985 study mirror current findings: for example, some councils with no allotments indicated that there was no demand.

In the 2001-3 Enquiry into allotments, the Local Government Committee of the Scottish Parliament took evidence from allotmenters, mainly in Edinburgh and Glasgow.³⁶ Of councils, there was clear evidence that only four responded in depth and limited information was provided by a further 13. The Enquiry concluded, rather obviously, that local authorities are best placed to assess the needs of their communities, develop policies on allotment provision and management, and administer these as they see fit. However, this study by SAGS liaised directly with over 100 sites throughout Scotland and all 32 councils and found major inconsistencies. This reveals a need for systematic monitoring of whether local authorities are fulfilling their duty in respect of allotment provision.

The SAGS questionnaire also revealed a lack of awareness of allotment issues within councils and limited communication between council departments. As a result of this study, SAGS is now the only national recorder of information on allotments. SAGS therefore has a key role in the future monitoring of allotment provision.

Recommendations

- SAGS should encourage ploholders/site associations to engage in the planning process at a local level. In particular to ascertain whether the current Local Plan contains a policy on the protection of allotments; the time schedule and process for any revision; and, if necessary, propose that a protective policy on allotments be included in the Local Plan. Planning Aid for Scotland³⁷ is a charity that provides people in Scotland with information and support to engage with the planning system, and should be able to help with this.
- SAGS should work with SNH and local councils to analyse the greenspace audits on allotments and gardens in terms of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. This would provide comparative data on access to gardening opportunities across communities and indicate areas lacking in provision.
- SAGS should set up a network of local recorders to monitor allotment provision in their area and report annually to SAGS Committee. A named person on the Committee should be responsible for holding and updating the national records.
- SAGS should encourage councils to implement COSLA Good Practice on Allotments.

What next for Scotland's allotments?

Of the allotment sites identified during this study, 50% were not known to SAGS, and SAGS is confident that at least 95% of existing sites in Scotland have been located.

During the course of this work SAGS became aware of many initiatives and opportunities for collaboration between site associations, local authorities and other organisations to meet their common objectives. However, there is a distinct need for a more co-ordinated approach at a local and national level to improve the overall management of allotment provision. SAGS is determined to build on this huge

reservoir of ideas and enthusiasm, which for an organisation run by volunteers, will continue to be a challenge.

It is hoped that this study and report will act as a catalyst - not only to help preserve existing allotments, but also to enable the expansion of allotment provision to benefit and meet the requirements of both present and future generations.

36. Local Government Committee 4th Report 2003: Report on Inquiry into Allotments, Scottish Parliament

37. www.planning-aid-scotland.org.uk

Directory of allotment sites in Scotland

Allotment site names are given where known, but sites are often also known by local names. The **street name** of the main /closest entrance to the site is given. Sites in the process of establishment are not included.

Contact details are for councils only. In council areas where there are no sites at all, or no sites owned by the council (ie there may be independent sites), the council headquarters contact is given. NB: Councils undergo regular restructuring, therefore contacts may change.

Details are correct at the time of publication (summer 2007).

Throughout this Directory, columns are always in the same order (as shown for Aberdeen City below, but not repeated on subsequent pages).

Plot numbers are indicative (they may vary through division or recombining).

* = estimated from viewing ? = unknown

Sites are all council owned, except = independent ? = unknown

Letters **A - D** in right-hand column are relevant council contacts

Aberdeen City

Neighbourhood Services (South),
Shelter & Environment (01224) 523628

Town	Site name	Plots	Address	Postcode	OS grid ref.	Owner
	Anderson Rd	5	Clifton Rd	AB24 4HH	NJ 91870 08910	
	Bankhead	25	Stoneywood Rd	AB21 9HT	NJ 89200 10500	
	Bedford Ave	4	Powis Cres	AB24 3YR	NJ 93471 07984	
	Cattofield	5	Cattofield Pl	AB25 3ST	NJ 92603 07809	
	Cults	8	Abbotshall Pl	AB15 9JB	NJ 89575 03193	
	Deeside Railway	1	Hardgate	AB10 6BJ	NJ 93078 04422	
	Garthdee Field	94	Garthdee Rd	AB15 9FX	NJ 90818 03282	
	Gray St	21	Gray St	AB10 6JJ	NJ 92850 04565	
	Greyhope Rd	38	Greyhope Rd	AB11 8QX	NJ 95900 05450	
	Heathryfold	60	Auchmill Rd	AB16 7UL	NJ 90870 09170	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hilton Dr	11	Hilton Drive	AB16 7GJ	NJ 91608 08811	
	Holburn St	10	Holburn St	AB10 7JQ	NJ 92760 03870	
	King St	8	School Drive	AB24 5SQ	NJ 94270 08350	
	Mastrick 2	1	Willowpark Pl	AB16 6XY	NJ 90856 06955	
	Nellfield 1	6	Nellfield Pl	AB10 6DB	NJ 93134 05251	
	Nellfield 2	5	Nellfield Pl	AB10 6DB	NJ 93132 05253	
	Niggfield	30	Nigg Kirk Rd	AB12 3DA	NJ 94689 03110	
	Pitmedden Cres	10	Pitmedden Cres	AB10 7JB	NJ 92397 03693	
	Redmoss	20	Nigg Kirk Rd	AB12 3DD	NJ 94620 03050	
	Sclattie Quarrie	21	Bankhead Rd	AB21 9DX	NJ 89510 09989	
	Slopefield	85	Craigton Rd	AB15 9PQ	NJ 90205 04116	
	Smithfield Lane	7	Clifton Rd	AB24 4EN	NJ 91658 08926	
	Tullos Cres	7	Mansfield Pl	AB11 9LA	NJ 95220 04850	

Aberdeenshire

Banff	Deveron Terr	23	Deveron Terr	AB45 3SX	NJ 68871 63572	A
Ellon	Gordon Terr	9	Gordon Terr	AB41 9EJ	NJ 95507 30751	B
Ellon	Hillhead Dr	16	Hillhead Drive	AB41 9WB	NJ 95382 29708	?
Huntly	King St	10	King St	AB54 8DU	NJ 52555 40082	C
Inverurie	St Andrews Gdns	2	St Andrews Gdns	AB51 3XP	NJ 77692 21280	B
Kemnay	Fraser Pl	7	Fraser Pl	AB51 5NH	NJ 73476 16463	B
Maud	Maud	5	Nethermuir Rd / Deer Rd West	AB42 4NE	NJ 92013 47743	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newtonhill	Newtonhill	21	Park Pl	AB39 3PR	NO 90959 93035	A
Peterhead	Middleton of Clerkhill	62	Dales View Drive	AB42 3JN	NK 11436 45204	A

A Landscape Services (01261) 813390 **B** Housing (01467) 628234 **C** Housing (01466) 794121

Grid References: All Ordnance Survey maps show an example of how to read a National Grid (six-figure) reference, an accuracy to the nearest 100m. Ten-figure OS grid references are given in this work, hence the position is given to an accuracy of 1metre. The *Eastings* are the first five numbers, the *Northings* the second five numbers. To convert to a six-figure grid reference, take the first three numbers of the Eastings and the first three numbers of the Northings. For example, if the ten-figure reference is **NS 56712 12335** the six-figure reference is **NS 567 123**.

SAGS aims to maintain and update these records and would welcome any comments or corrections.

e-mail: secretary@sags.org.uk

Angus

Arbroath	Unknown	* 11	Arbilot Rd / Dalhousie PI	DD11 2AA	NO 63118 40956	□
Arbroath	Brechin Rd	62	Brechin Rd	DD11 4AL	NO 64286 42150	A
Arbroath	Hayshead	28	Hayshead Rd	DD11 2AZ	NO 64647 41381	□
Arbroath	Hill End	9	Hill End Rd	DD11 5DR	NO 63489 40693	A
Brechin	Unknown	?	Cathedral Banking	DD9 6AN	NO 60091 60419	?
Forfar	Irish Acre	23	Helen St	DD8 2HX	NO 46470 50990	□
Kirriemuir	Kirriemuir	4	Tannage Brae	DD8 4EQ	NO 38458 53845	A
Monifieth	Barry Rd	7	Barry Rd	DD5 4EN	NO 50406 32953	A
Montrose	Rutland Cres	24	Medicine Well	DD10 9AS	NO 71252 58602	B

A Parks (01307) 461460 B Parks (01674) 664138

Argyll & Bute

Argyll & Bute Council Headquarters Tel: 01546 602127

Helensburgh	Henry Bell	13	Henry Bell St	G84 7DR	NS 30464 82144	
Isle of Bute	Meadows	10	Meadows Rd/Barone Rd	PA20 0ED	NS 08438 64117	
Isle of Bute	Bute Estate	* 5	Kilchattan Bay	PA20 9NL	NS 10160 54981	□

City of Edinburgh

Services for Communities (0131) 311 7072

	Bridgend Farm	58	Old Dalkeith Rd	EH16 4TE	NT 28042 71039	
	Cambridge Ave	7	Arthur St Lane	EH6 5AW	NT 26539 75362	
	Carricknowe	45	Glendevon Rd	EH12 5UZ	NT 21662 72344	
	Chesser Cres	12	Chesser Cres	EH14 1SR	NT 22000 71530	
	Claremont Park	56	Claremont Gdns	EH6 7PN	NT 28100 75750	
	Craigentenny	47	Off Findlay Gdns	EH7 6RG	NT 28532 75189	
	Craigentenny Telferton	62	Telferton (off Portobello Rd)	EH7 6UL	NT 29700 74300	□
	Dean Gallery	* 12	Belford Rd	EH4 3DS	NT 23620 73893	
	East Scotland St Lane Nth	7	E. Scotland St La. Nth	EH3 6NE	NT 25550 74770	
	East Scotland St Lane Sth	1	E. Scotland St La. Sth	EH3 6NE	NT 25540 74773	
	Ferry Rd	67	Chancelot Cres	EH7 4HP	NT 25474 76053	
	Findlay Ave	8	Sleigh Dr	EH7 6HB	NT 28290 75050	
	Hutchison Loan	9	Hutchison Loan	EH14 1QZ	NT 22264 71279	
	Inverleith Pk	163	East Fettes Ave	EH3 5NY	NT 23950 75220	
	Lady Rd	34	Lady Rd	EH16 5DT	NT 27395 71374	
	Leith Links	35	Leith Links	EH6 7QR	NT 27820 75980	
	Midmar	158	Midmar Dr	EH10 6BT	NT 25180 70750	□
	Morningside Station	* 1	Balcarres St	EH10 5GZ	NT 24450 70970	?
	Pilrig Pk	33	Balfour PI	EH6 5DN	NT 26480 75480	
	Portobello East Junction	25	Brunstane Rd	EH15 2QA	NT 31120 73200	□
	Prospect Bank	11	Prospect Bank PI	EH6 7NY	NT 28100 75450	
	Redhall	43	by 97 Lanark Rd	EH14 2LZ	NT 21655 70337	
	Relugas PI	?	off Relugas Rd	EH9 3JA	NT 26280 70930	?
	Restalrig	30	Prospect Bank PI	EH6 7PX	NT 28062 75475	
	Roseburn Cliff	?	Roseburn Cliff	EH12 6AL	NT 23075 73325	□
	Saughton Mains	170	off Chesser Loan	EH14 1UF	NT 21600 71130	
	Slateford Green	12	Slateford Green	EH14 1NF	NT 22771 71966	□
	Stenhouse	35	Stenhouse Dr	EH11 3NR	NT 20880 71950	
	Succoth Gdns	?	Succoth Gdns	EH12 6BL	NT 22845 73660	□
	Warriston Cres	* 2	Warriston Cres	EH3 5NE	NT 25250 75490	
	Warriston	112	Warriston Rd	EH7 4HN	NT 25626 75839	
	West Mains	84	Blackford Ave	EH9 3JA	NT 26280 70950	
	Wester Hailes	80	Westburn Ave	EH14 2SR	NT 19280 69600	

Clackmannanshire

Land Services (01259) 450000

Alloa	Alloa	26	Keilarsbrae/Sauchie	FK10 3NJ	NS 89900 93700	
Tillicoultry	Tillicoultry	42	Chapelle Cres (East)	FK13 6NL	NS 91838 96709	
Tillicoultry	Unknown	* 20	Chapelle Cres (West)	FK13 6DA	NS 91628 96631	?

Dumfries & Galloway

Annan	Greenknowe	11	Ednam St	DG12 6EF	NY 19438 66388	A
Annan	John Bell	* 5	Hecklegirth	DG12 6HY	NY 19770 66030	A
Dumfries	Kingholm Quarry	32	Kingholm Rd	DG1 4SR	NX 97345 74329	B
Dumfries	Noblehill	12	Greenbrae Loaning	DG1 3DB	NX 98502 76309	B
Dumfries	Stoop	23	Stoop Loaning	DG1 3BP	NX 98820 76491	B
Thornhill	Thornhill	29	Smith Lane / Blackrig	DG3 4LN	NX 87660 95500	□ B

A Combined Services (01576) 205250 B Combined Services (01387) 248762

Dundee City

Leisure & Communities (01382) 307474

	Ancrum	17	Ancrum Rd	DD2 2HQ	NO 37656 31237	
	Arklay Terr	10	Arklay Terr	DD3 7QY	NO 40837 31933	
	City Rd	62	City Rd	DD2 2AL	NO 38472 30592	
	Clelington Gdns	82	Arklay St	DD3 7JN	NO 40529 31789	□
	Gardner St	31	Gardner St	DD3 6BJ	NO 38659 31155	□
	Kinnaird Gdns	104	Kinnaird Gdns	DD3 6LD	NO 39300 31200	
	Macaulay St	10	Macaulay St	DD3 6JS	NO 39730 31090	
	Magdalen Green	13	Richmond Terr	DD2 1UH	NO 38237 29665	□
	Magdalen Yard Rd	14	Magdalen Yard Rd	DD2 1UH	NO 38337 29634	
	Murrayfield	?	Murrayfield Dr	DD4 0BA	NO 42880 33150	
	Old Craigie Rd	79	Old Craigie Rd	DD4 7JB	NO 42110 32000	
	Stirling Pk	49	Law Rd	DD3 6LD	NO 39346 31367	
	West Law	87	Law Cres	DD3 6LD	NO 38950 31300	

East Ayrshire

East Ayrshire Council Headquarters (01563) 576000

Dunlop	Dunlop	?	Allanvale Ave / Lugton Rd	KA3 4BJ	NS 40886 49708	□
Kilmarnock	McLelland Dr	* 2	McLelland Dr	KA1 1SL	NS 42180 37109	?
Kilmarnock	Ossington	70	New Mill Rd	KA1 3DN	NS 43310 37370	□

East Dunbartonshire

East Dunbartonshire Council, Greenspace (0141) 574 5566

East Lothian

Amenity Services (01620) 827430

Dunbar	Cedar St	1	Cedar St	EH42 1PX	NT 66821 78576	
Dunbar	Elm St	18	Elm St	EH42 1PW	NT 66853 78368	
Dunbar	Parsonspool	7	Parsonspool	EH42 1AW	NT 67373 78971	
Dunbar	Plane St	1	Plane St	EH42 1PE	NT 66600 78400	
East Linton	Drylaw Terr	2	Drylaw Terr	EH40 3BA	NT 58775 77708	
Musselburgh	Musselburgh	45	Double Dykes	EH21 7TD	NT 35007 71968	
North Berwick	North Berwick	4	Lodge Grounds, Dunbar Rd	EH39 4PZ	NT 55794 85024	

East Renfrewshire

East Renfrewshire Council Headquarters (0141) 577 3000

Barrhead	Dunterlie	* 6	Crossmill / Waulkmill Ave / Stewart St	G78 1AX	NS 50700 59720	
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Falkirk

Sustainable Development (01324) 504712

Fife

Aberdour	St Colme	14	St Colme Cres	KY3 0ST	NT 18700 85300	A
Cowdenbeath	Rosebank	36	Rosebank	KY4 9SH	NT 16745 91718	A
Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay	50	Regents Way	KY11 9HH	NT 15298 83682	?
Dunfermline	Calaisview	3	Calaisview	KY11 4NR	NT 11956 86451	A
Dunfermline	Whirlbut St	17	Whirlbut St	KY11 3AA	NT 09469 86706	A
Glenrothes	Buchan Path	3	Buchan Path, Sth Park	KY7 6PF	NO 27499 01865	C
Glenrothes	Pitteuchar	20	Altyre / Skibo Ct	KY7 4RJ	NT 28435 99990	D
Glenrothes	Unknown	*10	Cadham Square	KY7 6PL	NO 28027 02054	□
Inverkeithing	Hope St	22	Hope St	KY11 1LW	NT 12831 82603	?
Kelty	Kelty	133	off Main St	KY4 0BD	NT 14152 94958	A
Kirkcaldy	Boreland	28	Wemyss Rd, Dysart	KY1 2XZ	NT 30500 93900	B
Kirkcaldy	Winifred St	5	Winifred St	KY2 5ST	NT 27311 92623	B
Lochgelly	Brucefield	20	Lumphinnans Rd	KY5 9AT	NT 18015 93049	B
Lochgelly	Grace St	25	Grace St	KY5 9HP	NT 19101 93776	B
Newburgh	Newburgh	12	York Pl	KY14 6BD	NO 23454 18589	B
Rosyth	Admiralty Rd	62	Admiralty / Kings Rd	KY11 2YW	NT 11021 83596	□
Rosyth	Wemyss St	18	Wemyss St	KY11 2JY	NT 11273 84460	A
Windygates	Unknown	14	Kennoway / Leven Rd	KY8 5BZ	NO 34773 00579	□

A Parks & Countryside (01383) 313733 B Parks & Countryside (01592) 417870

C Glenrothes West Local Services Centre (01592) 416811 D Glenrothes East Local Services (01592) 416561

Glasgow

Land Services (0141) 287 5729

	Balornock	32	Drumbottie Rd / Ryvcan Pl	G21 4YB	NS 61350 68150	
	Beechwood	29	Beechwood Dr / Randolph Rd	G11 7HZ	NS 54800 67700	
	Bellahouston	65	Crosslee St	G52 1BD	NS 53985 64306	□
	Berridale	50	Cathcart, Delvin Rd	G44 3AB	NS 58523 60432	□
	Budhill & Springboig	50	Gartochoer Rd	G32 0HE	NS 65380 64480	
	Dennistoun	?	Craigpark / Golfhill Dr	G31 2NN	NS 61087 65527	?
	Garscube	102	Maryhill Rd	G20 0TL	NS 55850 70000	□
	Hamiltonhill	36	Ellesmere St	G22 5QT	NS 58457 67331	
	High Carntyne	31	Corston St	G33 2ES	NS 62650 65520	
	Holmlea Gdns	28	Greenholme St / Holmlea Rd	G44 4DU	NS 58512 60906	□
	Julian (Kelvinside)	(110)	Julian Ave	G12 0SH	NS 56328 67886	
	Kirklee (Kelvinside)		Kirklee Rd	G12 0SS	NS 56780 68050	□
	Kennyhill	34	Dinart St / Duchary St	G33 2DD	NS 62560 66146	
	Mansewood	27	Burnfield / Barrmill Rd	G43 1BY	NS 55560 60150	
	Merrylee	66	Ardle Rd	G43 2PR	NS 57430 60450	
	New Victoria Gdns	60	Glenapp St	G41 2NQ	NS 57880 63437	
	Oatlands Leisure Gdns	20	Wolsely St / Polmadie Rd	G5 0HD	NS 59920 62980	□
	Petershill	20	Southloch St	G21 4AN	NS 60880 67250	?
	Queens Park	55	Langside Rd	G42 9QL	NS 57850 62050	
	Sir John Stirling Maxwell Gdns	122	Pollokshaws Rd	G41 4AP	NS 56020 61700	?
	South Western	80	Dumbreck Rd	G41 4SN	NS 55492 62815	
	Springburn	148	Springburn Rd	G21 1LZ	NS 60356 68820	□
	Trinley Brae	29	Knightswood Rd	G13 2HH	NS 53526 69877	
	Victoria Park	63	Northlands Dr	G14 9HD	NS 53827 67888	
	Westhorn	63	off London Rd	G31 4QA	NS 62500 63140	

Highland

Highland Council Headquarters (01463) 702000

Achmore	Fernaig Community Trust	17	Braeintra Rd	IV53 8UP	NG 86400 32600	□
Inverasdale	Good for Ewe	24	Coast	IV22 2LR	NG 82243 86770	□
Nairn	Nairn	18	Sandown Farm Lane	IV12 5NT	NH 86510 56158	A
Thurso	Mount Vernon	* 6	off St Andrew Dr	KW14 8QA	ND 11340 67375	B
Wick	Rhind House	* 6	West Banks Ave	KW1 5LU	ND 36156 50311	□ C

A T.E.C. Services (01667) 458537 B Area Corporate Manager (01955) 607791 C Area Education Officer (01955) 602362

Inverclyde

Inverclyde Council Headquarters (01475) 717171

Environmental Services (01475) 714200

Greenock	Caddlehill	30	Kelly St	PA16 8TT	NS 26804 76156	
Greenock	Lemmon St	5	Lemmon St	PA16 9DA	NS 26851 75529	
Greenock	Wellington St	23	Wellington St	PA15 4DY	NS 27239 75886	

Midlothian

Council Allotment hire (0131) 561 5290

Cousland	Cousland Smiddy Gdns	13	Hadfast Rd	EH22 2NZ	NT 37750 68600	□
Penicuik	Deanburn	29	Deanburn	EH26 0JA	NT 23167 61512	
Penicuik	Unknown	* 10	Aldbarn / Peebles Rd	EH26 8LY	NT 23569 59458	□

Moray

If demand exists and sites identified for purchase/lease, requests should be channelled through Head of Estates Services (01343) 543451

Nr Burghead	Clarkly Field	18	Roseisle Road	IV30 5YD	NJ 13520 67880	□
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North Ayrshire

North Ayrshire Council Headquarters (0845) 603 0590

Grounds Maintenance (01294) 541546

West Kilbride	Woodhead Farm	30	Dalry Rd	KA23 9PF	NS 21300 49100	□
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North Lanarkshire

Community Services (01698) 403553

Coatbridge	Drumpellier Pk	* 80	Blair Rd	ML5 1JQ	NS 72130 64998	
Cumbernauld	Cumbernauld	24	behind Cumbernauld Hse	G67 3EZ	NS 77328 75866	
Motherwell	Clyde Valley Ave	35	Harvest Dr	ML1 2TR	NS 75066 55654	□

Orkney

Community Education (01856) 873535

Kirkwall	Keeliequoys	38	Victoria Rd	KW15 1QH	HY 44920 10614	
Kirkwall	Papdale	12	Papdale Rd / Loan	KW15 1QN	HY 45762 10712	
Stromness	Alfred Terr	8	Alfred Terr	KW16 3DQ	HY 25179 08611	

Perth & Kinross

Parks Development (01738) 476476

Perth	Dupplin Estate	* 12	Low Rd	PH2 0ND	NO 10110 22512	□
Perth	Perth Working Men's Gardens Association	71	Moncrieffe Island	PH2 8NR	NO 12236 22938	

Renfrewshire

Renfrewshire Council Headquarters (0141) 842 5000

Erskine	Lamont Gdns	30	Barrhill Rd	PA8 6AH	NS 46191 70282	
Paisley	Bredilands	34	Cardell Dr	PA2 9LT	NS 46500 63100	□
Paisley	Well St	?	Well St	PA1 2PB	NS 47281 64190	?
Renfrew	Patterson Pk	?	Ferry Rd	PA4 8RU	NS 51050 67950	?

Scottish Borders

Parks Dept (01835) 824000

Galashiels	Leebrae	14	Wood St	TD1 1QR	NT 48077 37077	
Galashiels	Mossilee Rd	29	Mossilee Rd	TD1 1LZ	NT 48285 36317	
Hawick	Langdale	36	Wellogate / Wester Braid Rd	TD9 9SW	NT 50624 14116	□
Hawick	Twirlees	11	Twirlees Terr	TD9 9LN	NT 50760 14839	□
Hawick	Weensland	9	Weensland Rd	TD9 9PS	NT 51566 15454	□
Hawick	Wilton Park	15	Wilton Park Rd	TD9 7HS	NT 49348 14688	
Hawick	Unknown	13	Guthrie Drive	TD9 7NR	NT 50245 16173	
Hawick	Unknown	* 6	by Kirk Wynd	TD9 0AH	NT 50145 14252	?
Innerleithen	Miller St	6	Miller St	EH44 6QS	NT 33066 36520	
Kelso*	Abbotsford Grove	50	Abbotsford Grove	TD5 7AN	NT 73230 33947	
Peebles	Burgh Hall	3	back of Burgh Hall	EH45 8AP	NT 25270 40380	
Peebles	Moss Park	5	off Victoria Park Drive	EH45 9AE	NT 25592 39849	
Peebles	WalkerÕs Haugh	25	WalkerÕs Haugh	EH45 8BD	NT 25530 40270	
Town Yetholm	Town Yetholm	40	Yewtree Rd	TD5 8RL	NT 81932 27805	□

* Site not counted as "active" due to recent eviction. Might return to use, depending on outcome of Planning Inquiry.

Shetland Islands

Shetland Island Council Headquarters (01595) 693535

South Ayrshire

Allotment Manager, Planning & Transport (01292) 616672

Ayr	Alloway	49	Monument Rd	KA7 4NL	NS 33500 18900	
Ayr	Craigie Pk	66	Craigie Pk	KA8 0SS	NS 34572 21831	
Troon	Two Sisters	34	North Dr	KA10 7LS	NS 33446 31744	□

South Lanarkshire

Land & Fleet Services, Community Resources (01698) 717762

East Kilbride	Unknown	?	Glasgow Rd	G74 4PH	NS 64344 56580	?
East Kilbride	Allers	96	Barrie Rd	G74 3PU	NS 66100 56100	
Rutherglen	Richmond	17	Richmond Pl	G73 3BA	NS 62391 61649	

Stirling

Grounds Maintenance (01786) 442619

Bridge of Allan	Unknown	* 5	Avenue Pk	FK9 4JQ	NS 78887 97443	?
Bridge of Allan	Bridge of Allan	45	Cornton Rd	FK9 4DB	NS 79035 96954	
Dunblane	Dunblane	38	Laighills	FK15 0AU	NN 77977 01640	
Stirling	Stirling (Bridgehaugh)	55	Causewayhead Rd	FK9 5AP	NS 79914 94502	□

West Dunbartonshire

Grounds Maintenance (01389) 608407

Clydebank	Unknown	?	Second Ave / Queen Mary Gdns	G81 4ST	NS 49010 71110	?
Clydebank	Bannerman	44	Bannerman Street / Lane	G81 2TL	NS 49980 70780	
Clydebank	Dalmuir Plots	50	Dumbarton Rd / Agamemnon St	G81 4XJ	NS 48900 70700	
Dumbarton	Castlegreen	26	Castlegreen St	G82 1DU	NS 40721 74812	
Dumbarton	Round Riding Rd	7	Round Riding Rd	G82 2HB	NS 40372 75856	

Western Isles

Western Isles Council Headquarters (01851) 703773

West Lothian

Operational Services (01506) 776629

Bridgend	Bridgend	?	Auldhill Rd	EH49 6NE	NT 04369 75362	□
Livingston	Deansmeadow	20	Hardie Rd	EH54 8AS	NT 01874 68827	□
West Calder	Unknown	* 6	behind Northfield Cotts	EH55 8ND	NT 01347 63142	□
Winchburgh	Winchburgh	20	Main St	EH52 6RE	NT 09349 75112	□
Winchburgh	Unknown	?	by Bowling Green	EH52 6RW	NT 09109 74678	?

Useful sources of information

Allotments & Gardening

- **Allotments Regeneration Initiative:** Factsheets on wide range of allotment issues; advice through mentor scheme. (0117) 963 1551 www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari
- **Community Recycling Network:** Community composting (01786) 469002 www.crns.org.uk
- **Garden Organic** (Henry Doubleday Research Association): Practical gardening advice. (0247) 630 3517, www.gardenorganic.org.uk
- **National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners:** Discounted seed scheme, insurance scheme. (01536) 266576 www.nsalg.org.uk
- **Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society:** Promote, protect & preserve allotments in Scotland. c/o The Laigh House, Inveresk Village, Musselburgh EH21 7TD secretary@sags.org.uk www.sags.org.uk
- **Thrive:** Information & advice on horticultural therapy, publications on designing gardens for individual needs. (0118) 988 5688 www.thrive.org.uk
- **Trellis:** Network of Scottish projects, information & advice on therapeutic gardening. (01738) 624348 www.trellisscotland.org.uk

Environment

- **BTO Scotland** (British Trust for Ornithology): (01786) 466560 www.bto.org/regional/btoscotland.htm
- **BTCV Scotland** (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers): Support groups taking practical action in their local community, volunteering, training, access to insurance scheme for community groups. (01786) 479697 www.btcv.org.uk
- **BRISC** (Biological Recording in Scotland): (01786) 474061 www.brisec.org.uk
- **Butterfly Conservation Scotland:** (01929) 400209 www.butterfly-conservation.org
- **Ecoschools:** (01786) 468234 www.ecoschoolsscotland.org
- **Flora Locale:** promote use of wildlife planting. www.floralocale.org
- **Plantlife Scotland:** (01786) 478509 www.plantlife.org.uk

Miscellaneous

- **Community Food & Health (Scotland):** support work within low income communities to improve access to a healthy diet. (0141) 226 5261 www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk
- **Community Webnet:** information on developing & carrying out projects. www.communitywebnet.org.uk
- **Planning Aid Scotland:** information on planning issues. (0131) 220 9730 www.planning-aid-scotland.org.uk
- **Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations:** support & advice for community groups. 0800 169 0022 www.scvo.org.uk

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