Who Owns Scotland 2024



© Crown copyright and database rights 2025

SUMMARY

- 83% of rural Scotland is owned by private entities (individuals, companies, trusts etc.)
- The ownership of privately-owned rural land has become more concentrated since 2012 as a result of existing owners acquiring more land.
- 421 landowners own 50% of the privately-owned rural land compared to 440 in 2012 and 2588 landowners own 70% compared to 3161 in 2012.
- The public sector estate has decreased by 50,224ha (5.4%) since 2012
- Community landownership has increased by 48,164 ha from 172,294 ha in 2012 to 220,458 ha in 2024 (a 28% increase in extent).
- Of the 42,8% of privately-owned rural land where such analysis has been conducted, 22.8% of privately-owned land has been owned by the same family for over 100 years, 19.7% for between 50 and 100 years and 57.5% for less than 50 years.

Legal

No warranty or guarantee is provided for any of the data or information in this report.

Cover illustration

The map on the cover shows in red the land that forms the basis for the analysis in this report and in black, Scotland's urban settlements.

Versions

v.1 March 2025 Original publication

v.2 December 2025 Corrected various references that indicated the ownership was as at

2025 when in fact it would have been 2024.

Citation: Wightman, 2025. Who Owns Scotland 2024.

Available at https://andywightman.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/WOS_2024.pdf

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
HISTORICAL CONTEXT	3
METHODOLOGY	4
WHO OWNS SCOTLAND 2024	6
WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE 2012?	6
FURTHER ANALYSIS	9
Size Classes The Changing Top 25 Landowners Legal Status Length of Ownership Landowning Charities	9 9 13 14 15
ANNEX I Public, Heritage, Environment and Community Landowners	16
TABLES	
Table 1 Number of owners owning 50% of privately-owned rural land Table 2 High Level Breakdown of Scotland & Rural Landownership 2024 Table 3 Private Rural Landownership 2024 Table 4 Privately-owned rural land 2012 - 2024	4 5 6 7
Table 5 Public, Community and Heritage Landownership 2012 - 2024 Table 6 Number of Owners Who Owns Defined Extents of Land 2012 - 2024 Table 7 Private Landownership 2024 by Size Class	8
Table 8 Top 25 Largest Landowners 2024 Table 9 Top 25 Largest Private Landowners 2024 Table 10 Breakdown of Private Landownership by Legal Entity 2024 Table 11 Period of Time Land Held in Same Family 2024	11 12 13 14
Table 12 Landowners with charitable status Table 13 Main Public Sector Landowners 2024 Table 14 Main Heritage & Environment Sector Landowners 2024	15 16 16
Table 15 Main Community Landowners 2024	17

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an analysis of landownership in Scotland and is the first in what is planned to be an annual series published each year in February or March.

Analysis in this report draws on research which is ongoing as part of my www.whoownsscotland.org.uk project. The data is derived from the January 2025 update which has identified the ownership of 74.4% of rural Scotland plus a further 6% of land where landholdings are known but ownership has not yet been determined.

The report sets out the main categories of landowner and how much land they own. It analyses the concentration of private rural landownership and provides an assessment of characteristics of Scottish landowners (how long they have owned their holdings, the legal characteristics of the owner and (importantly) whether and how the pattern of rural landownership has changed since 2012).

This report has been researched and prepared using the author's own resources and no financial support has been provided for its preparation.

The report contains data that is complex to analyse and there may be errors. Please do draw them to my attention.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In 2010, I published *The Poor Had No Lawyers - Who Owns Scotland (And How They Got It)* which contained statistics on the concentration of private landownership in Scotland and showed that 438 landowners owned 50% of the privately-owned rural land in Scotland.¹ In the second edition (2012), I edited these statistics in light of some obvious known changes and reported that 432 landowners owned 50% of the privately-owned rural land in Scotland. That statistic has since became widely repeated (though the source seldom cited) and has never been revised by me until recently.

In February 2024, I published *Who Owns Scotland 2024 a preliminary analysis.*² In light of updated digital boundary measurement of Scotland and of urban and rural land and in order to provide a meaningful comparison with earlier data, I revised the 2012 figure of 432 to 440 and provided a new preliminary figure for 2024 of 433.

I then published a revised edition of my book, The Poor Had No Lawyers and included data as at 30 June 2024 which revised the figure once again to 421.

This report provides the first of what I plan to be an annual analysis of who owns Scotland and confirms the fact that 421 landowners own 50% off the privately-owned rural land in Scotland. This evolution is summarised in Table 1

¹ My definition of privately-owned rural land is all rural land (so excluding urban areas) not owned by heritage or environmental bodies (NTS, RSPB etc), community bodies (Isle of Eigg Trust, North Harris Trust etc.) or public bodies (Scottish Ministers, SNH, MoD, HIE etc).

² Available at https://andywightman.scot/docs/WOS_2024_PRELIM_v2.pdf

Table 1 Number of owners owning 50% of privately-owned rural land				
Year No. owning 50%				
2012 (revised 2024)	440			
2024 preliminary analysis Feb 2024	433			
The Poor Had No Layers June 2024	421			
Who Owns Scotland 2024	421			

METHODOLOGY

Data for this preliminary analysis is mainly derived from www.whoownsscotland.org.uk. This source represents completed empirical research on the largest 3700 privately-owned landholdings in Scotland covering 4.9 million ha of Scotland or 74.4% of the privately-owned rural land in Scotland together with a further 2600 private landholdings where ownership is yet to be determined as well as all of the publicly owned land in Scotland. All ownership information is current as of a range of dates between February 2024 and January 2025.

This data was supplemented by confirming information on the total landholdings held by public bodies, environmental and heritage bodies, and community landowners. Although much of this data is already contained within the Who Owns Scotland corpus, the totality of, for example, the landholdings of the National Trust for Scotland or the Secretary of State for Defence were confirmed by reference to published data from the bodies concerned. Pulling all of this data together resulted in a final dataset covering 6.3 million ha or 81.8% of the land area of rural Scotland.

Before conducting the analysis, separate landholdings owned by the same owner (where, for example, Jean Smith owns 5 farms across Scotland) were merged to form one holding each, for analytical purposes. This reduced the total corpus from 3249 to 3069. The high-level statistics are set out in Table 2.

Annex I contains further details on the organisations in the public, heritage and community sector who own land.

Table 2 High Level Breakdown of Scotland and Rural Landownership 2024					
	hectares (ha)	% or rural Scotland			
Scotland land area (1)	7,882,480	100.0%			
Urban Scotland (2)	179,811	2.3%			
Rural Scotland	7,702,669	97.7%			
Breakdown of rural Scotland	d landownership				
Public (3)	875,543	11.4%			
Community (4)	220,458	2.9%			
Heritage & Culture (5)	97,646	1.3%			
Environmental NGOs (6)	115,518	1.5%			
Private ownership	6,393,504	83.0%			
(1) Scotland's land area is derived fro	m Ordnance Survey digital bo	oundaries of Mean High Water Spi	rings		
(2) National Records of Scotland Sett	lements dataset (514 settlem	ents of over 500 population)			
(3) Public ownership includes Scottis	h Ministers, Scottish Natural	Heritage, Scottish Water etc.			
(4) Scottish Government, 2022. Comm	munity ownership in Scotland	2022. (October 2023) plus author	's own data		
(5) Heritage owners include National	Trust for Scotland, Church of	England, Church of Scotland, Cla	n Donald Lands Trust etc.		
(6) Environmental NGOs include RSP	B, John Muir Trust, Scottish \	Wildlife Trust, Trees for Life etc.			

WHO OWNS SCOTLAND 2024

Scotland's pattern of rural landownership has long been characterised by the small number of people who own a large proportion of it.³ Table 3 provides an analysis of the 83% of Scotland owned by private entities.

Table 3 Private Rural Landownership 2024					
% extent of privately- owned rural land 2024	No. of owners	Extent owned by these owners (ha)			
10%	16	658,469			
20%	49	1,279,955			
30%	111	1,920,849			
40%	219	2,558,522			
50%	421	3,196,342			
60%	921	3,843,124			
70%	2588	4,475,487			

Half of the privately-owned rural land is owned by 421 owners and 70% by 2588.

The concentrated pattern, evident for centuries, endures.

WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE 2012?

On the face of it, not much has changed since 2012 but in order to understand what changes (if any) have occurred over the past 12 years, we need to ensure that we are comparing like with like. Given the small number of very large landholdings in rural Scotland, expressing such numbers as a percentage of the total privately-owned rural land means that any difference in the baseline definition of rural land is going to have an impact on the data and thus make any comparison potentially misleading.

The 2024 data is derived from modern digital records and some of the baseline data is different from that used in 2012. There are three adjustments that need to be made in order to effect a comparison.

First, the extent of Scotland in 2024 is derived from Ordnance Survey boundary data (7,882,480 ha). The figure used in 2012 was 3308 ha less than this.

Second, the figure for urban Scotland is derived from the National Records of Scotland digital records of urban and rural settlements. The figure for 2024 is 179,811 ha but in 2012 I used a figure 25,794 ha greater.

³ See Callander (1986) A Pattern of Landownership in Scotland (Haughend Publications, Finzean) & see Wightman (2010) The Poor Had No Lawyers - Who Owns Scotland (And How They Got It) (Birlinn, Edinburgh)

Thirdly, in 2012 I excluded inland water bodies (Loch Lomond, Loch Awe etc) from my definition of rural land. A number of these are privately-owned either in isolation or as part of neighbouring dry land. Thus it appears sensible to include this land as part of rural land rather than exclude it. This means that rural Scotland is 14,920 ha larger in 2024 than the equivalent figure I used in 2012.

The net effect of these adjustments is that the extent of rural Scotland used for the analysis of 2024 data is 44,022 ha larger than that in 2012.

Given that the 2024 figures are a more accurate reflection on the extent of rural Scotland, then in order to make an accurate comparison between 2012 and 2024, I have recalculated the number of owners in 2012 who own 10%, 20% etc. of the updated extent of rural land. These are shown in Table 4 with a comparison to the 2024 data.

Table 4 Privately-own			
% of private rural land held	No. owners 2012	No. owners 2024	Threshold (ha) (1)
10%	16	16	25,485
20%	50	49	14,361
30%	111	111	8,002
40%	224	219	4,558
50%	440	421	2,276
60%	989	921	770
70%	3,161	2588	214

⁽¹⁾ Threshold refers to the extent in hectares of the smallest landholding in the % range for 2024. So, for example, 30% of privately-owned rural land is owned by 111 landholdings of 8,002ha and above.

It is evident that, although the picture remains much the same today compared to 2012 in relation to the largest landholdings (with 111 owners owning 30% in 2024 compared to 111 in 2012), there is increasing concentration from 40% to 70% with 421 owners owning 50% (440 in 2012), 921 owners owing 60% (989 in 2012) and 2588 owners owning 70% (3161 in 2012).

Within the 50% of privately-owned rural land occupied by the largest holdings, there have been ownership changes with some landowners decreasing the size of their landholdings but others accumulating more land (see Table 8). Beyond this 50%, land is now held in fewer hands due to enlargement of smaller holdings. In both cases, the dominant trend of the past 12 years is accumulation and expansion of land holdings by existing landowners.

Within rural land the extent of privately-owned land has also changed due to changes in the ownership of public, community and heritage land (Table 5).

Table 5 Public, Community, Environmental & Heritage Landownership 2012 - 2024						
Sector	Extent 2012 (ha)	Extent 2024 (ha)	Change (ha) since 2012	% increase/ (decrease)		
Private ownership	6,410,060	6,393,504	(16,556)	(0.26%)		
Public ownership	925,767	875,543	(50,224)	(5.4%)		
Community ownership	172,294	220,458	48,164	28%		
Environmental ownership	102,968	115,518	12,550	1.2%		
Heritage ownership	91,580	97,646	6,066	6.6%		
TOTAL	7,702,669	7,702,669				

Public ownership has decreased by 50,224ha (5.4%) whilst land owned by community, environmental and heritage organisations has increased by a total of 66,780ha. The aggregate effect of these changes is that the ownership of these four categories of land has **increased** by 16,556ha (1.3%) since 2012.

As a consequence, the extent of privately-owned rural land has **decreased** by 16,556ha (0.26%). This does not distort the comparison of privately-owned rural land from 2012 - 2024 very much. Had the extent of these 3 categories remained the same as in 2012, then the number of owners owning 50% of privately-owned rural land would be 425 rather than 421. One way of excluding this distortion is to examine the number of owners who collectively own an extent of land above defined thresholds as set out in Table 6.

Table 6 - Number of Owners Who Own Defined Extents of Land 2012 - 2024 (1)						
Total private land (ha)	Total private land (ha) No. owners 2012 No. owners 2024					
500,000 ha	11	10	7.7%			
1 million ha	32	32	15.8%			
1.5 million ha	67	67	23.5%			
2 million ha	122	121	31.3%			
2.5 million ha	211	207	39.1%			
3 million ha	354	344	46.9%			
3.5 million ha	626	593	54.7%			
4 million ha	1268	1160	62.6%			
4.5 million ha	3380	2705	70.4%			
Note (1) For example, 211 owners owned a total of 2.5 million ha in 2012. In 2024 it is 207.						

The analysis in Table 6 illustrates that up until a total land area of around 2 million hectares there is little change in the concentration of private rural landownership but beyond this, an increased concentration becomes evident with 675 fewer landowners owning 4.5 million ha (70.4%) of privately-owned rural land.

FURTHER ANALYSIS

Size Classes

Table 7 shows the distribution of privately-owned landholdings by size class.

Table 7 Private Landownership 2024 by Size Class						
Size Class (ha)	No. of holdings	Cumulative No. of holdings	Extent (ha)	Cumulative ha	% of private rural land	cumulative %
> 40,000	6	6	346,703	346,703	5.4%	5.4%
30,000 - 39,999	5	11	178,241	524,944	2.8%	8.2%
20,000 - 29,999	17	28	407,276	932,220	6.4%	14.6%
10,000 - 19,999	51	79	696,909	1,629,129	10.9%	25.5%
5,000 - 9,999	114	193	804,359	2,433,488	12.6%	38.1%
3,000 - 4,999	134	327	517,879	2,951,367	8.1%	46.2%
1,000 - 2,999	438	765	754,583	3,705,950	11.8%	58.0%
500 - 999	527	1,292	364,606	4,070,556	5.7%	63.7%
200 - 499	1,500	2,792	446,967	4,517,523	7.0%	70.7%
TOTAL	2,792		4,517,523		69.8%	

The table shows, for example, that there are 765 owners of privately-owned rural land owning holdings of over 1000 ha in extent accounting for 3.7 million ha or 58% of privately-owned rural land.

The Changing Top 25 Landowners

Table 8 lists the top 25 largest landowners in Scotland today (owning 1,704,480 ha or 26.7% of rural Scotland) and Table 9 lists the top 25 **private** landowners (owning 868,891 ha or 13.6% of privately-owned rural land).

The increased concentration of private landownership over the past 12 years is driven by existing (or in the case of Gresham House, new) landowners expanding their landholdings by acquiring more land. This is illustrated by the green highlighted entries in Table 9 each of which reflects an owner who has expanded their landholding over the past 13 years. The growth in extent of these expanding estates more than offsets the reduction in the hectarage of Buccleuch Estates highlighted in red. The most significant changes in the rankings of the largest landowners since 2012 are as follows.

• Wildland Ltd (Anders Povlsen) has expanded its landholdings by 37% from 64,457 ha in 2012 to 88,406 ha in 2024.

- Buccleuch Estates has reduced its landholdings by 34% from 97,890 ha in 2012 to 64,905 ha in 2024.
- Gresham House Ltd. owned no land in Scotland in 2012 and now owns more than 56,218 ha of land via a number of Scottish Limited Partnerships and other vehicles making it the third largest private landowner in Scotland.⁴
- Strathconon Estates Ltd. has expanded its landholdings by 31% from 28,266 ha in 2012 to 37,145 ha in 2024 through the acquisition of Scardroy Estate in 2013 and Ledgowan Estate in 2017.
- Uig and Hamnavay Estates Ltd has expanded its landholdings in Lewis by adding a further 6,807ha to the the 20,334ha it owned in 2012.
- Julia and Guy Hands owned 7113 ha in 2012 and have expanded their landholding by 254% to 25,196 ha in 2024. This includes the 5632 ha Griffin Estate in Perthshire on the market in 2023 at offers over £130 million.
- Corrour Estate has expanded by 19% from 19,363 ha in 2012 to 23,037 ha in 2024.

Beyond the top 25, there are many other new landowners and others who are expanding their holdings, typically financial investment companies based in the City of London. These include the Foresight Group, Auchencairn LLP, Commercial Forestry LLP, and Oxygen Conservation Ltd

⁴ This extent of land represents the land owned by Gresham House that I have been able to determine as at 31 Jan 2025. There is more to uncover.

Tab	Table 8 Top 25 Largest Landowners 2024					
	Landholding	Sector	Hectares	Owner		
1	Forestry and Agriculture estates	Public	728,189	Scottish Ministers		
2	Glen Feshie & other holdings	Private	88,406	Wildland Ltd.		
3	NTS properties	Environment	75,925	National Trust for Scotland		
4	Buccleuch Estates	Private	64,905	Buccleuch Estates Ltd		
5	RSPB properties	Environment	57,504	RSPB		
6	Gresham House properties	Private	56,218	Gresham House Ltd.		
7	Atholl Estates	Private	47,397	Atholl Trustees & Sarah Troughton		
8	Mamore & Killiechonate Estate	Private	46,764	Simec Lochaber Hydropower 2 Ltd		
9	Invercauld Estate	Private	43,013	Captain Farquharson's Trusts		
10	Reay Estate	Private	38,319	Trustees of 4th Duke of Westminster		
11	Seafield Estate	Private	37,873	Earl of Seafield and Trusts		
12	Strathconon Estate	Private	37,145	Strathconon Estates Ltd.		
13	South Uist Estate	Community	36,129	South Uist Estates Ltd.		
14	Crown Estate Scotland	Public	35,589	HM King Charles III (Crown Estate)		
15	Scottish Natural Heritage	Public	34,393	Scottish Natural Heritage		
16	Sutherland estate	Private	32,920	Executors of Countess of Sutherland		
17	Blackmount & Glen Etive Estate	Private	31,984	Philip Fleming		
18	Braulen & Glenavon Estate	Private	28,729	Andras Ltd. and Glenavon Ltd.		
19	Stornoway Estate	Community	28,209	Stornoway Trust		
20	Uig & Hamnaway Estate	Private	27,141	Uig and Hamanavay Estates Ltd.		
21	Locheil Estate	Private	26,481	Trustees of Donald Cameron		
22	Conaglen Estate	Private	25,689	Trustees of John & Richard Guthrie		
23	Killilan, Inverinate & Benula	Private	25,485	Smech Properties Ltd.		
24	Various forest properties	Private	25,196	Julia and Guy Hands		
25	Applecross Estate	Private	24,877	Applecross Estate Trust		
	TOTAL		1,704,480			

Tab	Table 9 Top 25 Largest Private Landowners 2024					
	Landholding	hectares	Owner			
1	Glen Feshie & others	88,406	Wildland Ltd.			
2	Buccleuch Estates	64,905	Buccleuch Estates Ltd			
3	Gresham House properties	56,218	Gresham House Ltd.			
4	Atholl Estates	47,397	Atholl Trustees & Sarah Hope Troughton			
5	Mamore & Killiechonate Estate	46,764	Simec Lochaber Hydropower 2 Ltd			
6	Invercauld Estate	43,013	Captain Farquharson's Trusts			
7	Reay Estate	38,319	Trustees of the 4th Duke of Westminster			
8	Seafield Estate	37,901	Earl of Seafield and Trusts			
9	Strathconon Estate	37,145	Strathconon Estates Ltd.			
10	Sutherland Estate	32,920	Executors of Countess of Sutherland			
11	Blackmount & Glen Etive Estate	31,984	Philip Fleming			
12	Braulen & Glenavon Estate	28,729	Andras Ltd. and Glenavon Ltd.			
13	Uig & Hamnaway Estate	27,141	Uig and Hamanavay Estates Ltd.			
14	Locheil Estate	26,481	Trustees of Donald Cameron			
15	Conaglen Estate	25,689	Trustees of John and Richard Guthrie			
16	Killilan, Inverinate & Benula	25,485	Smech Properties Ltd.			
17	Various properties	25,196	Julia & Guy Hands			
18	Applecross Estate	24,877	Applecross Estate Trust			
19	Drummond Estate	24,665	Baroness Willoughby de Eresby			
20	Cawdor Estate	23,152	Trustees of Cawdor Estate			
21	Corrour Estate	23,037	The Corrour Property Company			
22	Ben Alder and Corrievarkie Estate	22,738	Compania Financiera Waterville SA			
23	Roxburghe Estates	22,524	Duke of Roxburghe			
24	Gairloch Estate	22,482	Duncan Mackenzie of Gairloch			
25	Balmoral Estate	21,723	Canup Ltd.			
	TOTAL	868,891				

Legal Status

Land can be owned via a wide range of legal vehicles. The only significant restriction on ownership is that land can only be owned and registered by someone over the age of 16. Prior to the abolition of feudal tenure in 2004, firms could not hold title but now they can. Table 10 analyses a number of broad categories of legal entity. The analysis covers 2646 landholdings covering 4,430,408ha of land (69.3% of the privately-owned rural land).

Table 10 Breakdown of Private Landownership by Legal Entity 2024						
Entity	No. of holdings	Extent (ha)	% of private rural land			
Individuals (UK residents)	1494	1,409,249	22.0%			
UK Companies (UK owned) (1)	406	982,399	15.4%			
Trusts	240	933,980	14.6%			
Offshore entities (2)	94	365,022	5.7%			
UK Companies (Offshore) (3)	76	338,413	5.3%			
Firms	266	186438	2.9%			
Scottish Limited Partnership (4)	8	86,729	1.4%			
Limited Liability Partnership	31	72,611	1.1%			
Individuals (resident offshore)	23	40307	0.6%			
SCIO (5)	5	6661	0.1%			
Other	3	8599	0.1%			
TOTAL	2646	4,430,408	69.3%			
Notos	!					

Notes

- (1) This refers to UK registered companies where the companies are owned and controlled by persons resident in the UK.
- (2) This refers to legal entities that are registered in a jurisdiction outwith the UK.
- (3) This refers to UK registered companies where the beneficial owner is an individual, a trust or another company residing or registered in a jurisdiction outwith the UK
- (4) This includes the 175 individual parcels of land owned by Gresham House SLPs
- (5) Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Length of Ownership

and can be held in the same family for many years. Table 11 provides an analysis of how long land has been owned without a sale to a third party. This research is time-consuming and the analysis is based on 1569 landholdings covering 2,735,515 ha (42.8% of privately-owned rural land).

Table 11 Period of Time Land Held in Same Family 2024						
Years owned	Number	Extent (ha)	% of private rural land	% of land where time period has been determined		
>100 yrs	144	624,056	9.8%	22.8%		
50 - 100 yrs	246	539,130	8.4%	19.7%		
25 - 50 yrs	305	454,663	7.1%	16.6%		
10 - 25 yrs	511	587,609	9.2%	21.5%		
less than 10 yrs	363	530,057	8.3%	19.4%		
TOTAL	1569	2,735,515	42.8%	100.0%		

Landowning Charities

Table 12 lists the most prominent charitable landowners excluding this listed (or eligible to be listed) as community landowners or heritage landowners in Tables 14 and 15.

Table 12 Landowners with Charitable Status (excluding heritage and environment)		
Charitable Body	Jurisdiction	Hectares
Applecross Estate Trust	Scotland	24,877
Blair Charitable Trust	Scotland	20,745
Mount Stuart Trust	Scotland	12,195
Church Commissioners for England	England & Wales	8,282
Aberdeen Endowments Trust	Scotland	4,256
Macrobert Trust	Scotland	2,686
Kith Trust	Scotland	1,966
Heritage Concern Foundation	Scotland	1,306
University of Edinburgh	Scotland	1,237
Mackintosh Foundation	England & Wales	991
Prison Fellowship International	USA	972
Barrahormid Trust	Scotland	632
Shetland Charitable Trust	Scotland	551
SRUC	Scotland	499
Ardnamurchan Trust	Scotland	458
Chalmers Trust	Scotland	211
Clan Carmichael Charitable Trust	Scotland	143
College of St John the Evangelist, University of Cambridge	England & Wales	378
Dewcross Centre for Moral Technology	Scotland	231
TOTAL		82,616

ANNEX I Public, Heritage, Environment and Community Landowners

This Annex lists the largest public, heritage and community landowners.

Table 13 Main Public Sector Landowners 2024		
Organisation	Extent 2024 (ha)	
Scottish Ministers (National Forest)	629,652	
Scottish Ministers (agricultural estates)	98,537	
Crown (Crown Estate Scotland)	35,589	
Scottish Natural Heritage	34,393	
Local Authorities	25,000	
Secretary of State for Defence	23,100	
Scottish Water	23,000	
Highland & Islands Enterprise	3,987	
TOTAL	873,258	

Analysing landownership by public bodies is frustrated by the poor quality of so much data. Some of these bodies publish no data or unreliable data (Scottish Ministers). Some provide data but in a format that is difficult and time-consuming to interpret (local authorities). The three most reliable sources are Scottish Natural Heritage, Crown Estate Scotland and the Secretary of State for Defence (MoD).

Table 14 Main Heritage & Environment Sector Landowners 2024		
Organisation	Extent 2024 (ha)	
National Trust for Scotland	75,925	
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	57,504	
The John Muir Trust	24,347	
The Woodland Trust	13,285	
Scottish Wildlife Trust	8,748	
Clan Donald Lands Trust	7,862	
Church of Scotland General Trustees	5,010	
Trees for Life	4,037	
Borders Forest Trust	3,124	
Plantlife International	1,921	
Royal Scottish Forestry Society	1,306	
TOTAL	203,069	

Table 15 Main Community Landowners 2024		
Organisation	Extent 2024 (ha)	
South Uist Estates Ltd.	36,129	
Stornoway Trust	28,411	
The North Harris Trust	25,227	
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn	23,637	
Assynt Foundation	18,031	
Urras Sgire Oighreachd Bharabhais Community Co.	13,926	
Pairc Trust	10,999	
Assynt Crofters Trust	8,116	
West Harris Trust	7,861	
Melness Crofters' Estate	6,784	
The Knoydart Foundation	5,052	
Urras Oighreachd Charlabhaigh	4,788	
The Langholm Initiative	4,237	
Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust	2,945	
North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd.	2,541	
Borve and Annishader Township	1,848	
The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust	1,373	
Garbh Allt Community Initiative	1,328	
Culag Community Woodland Trust Ltd.	1,188	
TOTAL	200,532	

Table 15 accounts for 19 community landowners who collectively own around 96% of all community owned land in Scotland.