

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT DURING PHASE 2 OF THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL LAND USE PARTNERSHIP PILOT

Interim report. 30 November 2022



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## 1 Introduction

The South of Scotland has been chosen by the Scottish Government as one of five Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilots, to help develop Scotland's approach to land use in support of our green recovery, the transition to net-zero, and to address the climate change and biodiversity emergencies.

The work is being delivered through a partnership of Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC), Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE).

The aim of the RLUP pilots is to test the practicalities of:

- establishing a partnership structure to deliver a collaborative approach to land use change decision-making involving national and local government, landowners and managers, communities and stakeholders
- outlining a Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF; spatial plan) using a natural capital approach to identify and agree upon current and potential land use changes that support Scottish Government's climate change targets and other environmental objectives, including improving biodiversity
- signposting public and private funding opportunities

### **Objectives of RLUP Phase 2 project.**

The specific RLUP objectives for this interim stage (2022/3) are:

- Stakeholder collaboration: implementation of stakeholder engagement strategy.

A representative range of regional stakeholders should be involved in the RLUP pilot and in the development of the Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF), which is expected by the end of 2023. The scale and variety of asks that will be placed on Scotland's land in order to meet our multiple national priorities is significant. If Scotland's land is to contribute fully to achieving these it will require buy-in and understanding from local people and communities as well as landowners and managers and other stakeholders.

- Natural Capital: identification and agreement of regional natural capital assets

The adoption of a broad natural capital approach views land as an asset that we need to protect and enhance so that it can continue to deliver a wide range of ecosystems service benefits such as food production, carbon sequestration, improved biodiversity and support for health and wellbeing.

- Regional priorities: identification and agreement of regional priorities/objectives for RLUF development

Identify and agree upon current and potential land use priorities across the region in a manner that supports national targets and priorities predominantly in climate change targets and other environmental objectives, including improving biodiversity. Considering the potential for nature-based solutions for climate change within the region such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration, natural flood management and greenspaces to reduce air pollution.

- Data: identification of relevant data sets required for the development of a Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF)

This phase 2 project feeds into the wider programme of work to develop a pilot RLUF for South of Scotland. Further information on the policy context is provided in the next section.

### Outputs of RLUP Phase 2 project.

The key output of phase 2 is identification and agreement of “*current and potential land use priorities across the region in a manner that supports national targets and priorities predominantly in climate change targets and other environmental objectives, including improving biodiversity*” for taking forward in the RLUF (regional priorities/objectives for short).

This will include “*potential for nature-based solutions for climate change within the region such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration, natural flood management and greenspaces to reduce air pollution*” as identified in the project brief.

Other outputs/outcomes will include:

- Lesson learning about process e.g., about how to implement a collaborative, partnership approach; about what data is available for mapping; etc
- Community empowerment

### 5-step natural capital approach

Early in the phase 2 project we developed a 5-step natural capital approach to help to structure our engagement activities and analysis.

The process involves exploring each of the following (building on the work completed in phase 1):

1. **Baseline:** What are the existing land uses/habitats (quantity, quality, location)? What benefits do people get from them now (who benefits and who doesn't)? What are the key land use problems/issues (e.g., flood risk, water quality)? Can we identify existing good practice land use projects?
2. What are the **drivers of change** in land use/habitats and the benefits provided (e.g., policy, markets, climate change, recognising that the current land use situation is not static) and how may these impact natural capital assets and benefits flowing from them?
3. What are the **opportunities** for land use change to boost multiple nationally and locally needed benefits, with a focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity enhancement and 'just transition to net zero'?
4. What are the **tensions and trade-offs** between managing land for different benefits? What are the wider constraints and ways to overcome?
5. **Prioritisation** of spatially specific land use change opportunities leading to identification of **recommendations** for “regional land use priorities/objectives” (defined in ‘ends’ section above) for the RLUF.

This Interim Report covers steps 1 to 3. The second round of consultation will address the remaining steps.

## 2 Background

### 2.1 Policy context

The commitment to create Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs) emerged from the national Land Use Strategy as a platform for change, and was first formally set out in the 2019/20 Programme for Government. In November 2020, the Scottish Land Commission provided advice to the Scottish Government on the establishment of RLUPs, in part drawing on LUC's research into international approaches to regional scale land use planning.

Expressions of interest were initially sought from the Regional Spatial Strategy network, at that stage developing indicative Regional Spatial Strategies which included Dumfries & Galloway Council and Scottish Borders Council. The Scottish Government has chosen South of Scotland as one of five Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilots. They have stated that the RLUPs 'will help national and local government, communities, land owners and stakeholders work together to find ways to optimise land use in a fair and inclusive way – meeting local and national objectives and supporting the journey to net zero'. This will include a need to 'engage in the tough choices to tackle the tensions and trade-offs between competing demands if we are to achieve a Just Transition'.

RLUPs will be responsible for preparing Regional Land Use Frameworks (RLUFs). These will use a natural capital approach to explore and agree changes in land use that will support delivery of the Scottish Government's priority policies, including carbon reduction, climate adaptation and nature recovery. Key national targets include those in the updated Climate Change Plan, for example the commitments to plant 18,000 hectares of new woodland each year by 2024; and to restore at least 250,000 hectares of peatland by 2030.

Scottish Government has set out a programme of anticipated activity and objectives for the two-year pilot process, which includes:

- Determining the relevant stakeholders in the region and building relationships
- Developing a stakeholder engagement plan to enable collective and integrated working
- Detect and evaluate partnership and collaborative working arrangements already in place in the region and how the RLUP pilot will work alongside these
- Establishing a suitable governance structure for the RLUP pilot that ensures accountability and transparency, from selection to appointment.

Once the RLUP structure is established, the core objective for the pilot is the production of a suitable RLUF by March 2023. The RLUF must be developed in a collaborative way engaging stakeholder throughout the process. Each RLUF will include:

- How the RLUP objectives align with SG objectives on climate change and the environment, including biodiversity, and wider as appropriate. This includes objectives set out in publications such as the Land Use Strategy, the Climate Change Plan update, the Environment Strategy, and the Biodiversity Statement of Intent.
- How the RLUP will link their objectives with wider initiatives, such as the Just Transition, and Green Recovery.
- How the RLUP will align with other regional initiatives, such as Regional Spatial Strategies, Regional Economic Partnerships and City Deals.
- The specific aims and objectives for land use change in the region, taking into consideration all the key land uses in the region, whether urban or rural. How the RLUP will work with the RLUPs Coordination Network.

- How the Board (or alternative governance structure), existing partnerships in the region, and wider stakeholders will be involved in the process.
- Confirming how land use opportunities will be assessed, decisions made, and evaluation of the results carried out.
- How data and evidence (including mapping) will be used to enable a natural capital approach to decision making. This includes helping provide clarity of opportunities and constraints for land use change in the area.
- How the RLUP will signpost landowners, managers or communities to appropriate funding to enable the land use changes to be taken forward.
- How changing circumstances will be considered, and how frequently the RLUP will be updated to ensure its validity

## 2.2 Work so far

The South of Scotland RLUP pilot commenced in autumn 2021. In Phase 1 of the pilot, to March 2022, a stakeholder engagement and communications plan was developed, including a policy review, following which there was an initial consultation with stakeholders including 1:1 interviews with key stakeholders, two online workshop events and a region-wide online survey. Advice was also provided on RLUP governance.

A range of land use issues were identified such as biodiversity loss, agricultural intensification and lack of diversity in agriculture; flood management; declining peatlands; impacts from tourism and recreation. However, it also identified opportunities for nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration and habitat restoration to support natural flood management; renewable energy; regenerative agriculture and agro-forestry (potentially enabled through changes to agricultural support); sustainable tourism; and enhanced community engagement.

An evaluation of existing land use partnerships and collaborative working in the region was also carried out by Dr Leo Peskett of the University of Edinburgh.

The reports can be downloaded at: <https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/RLUP> . The partnership structure is in the process of being established. The RLUP is aligned with the Regional Economic Partnership (REP) <https://sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk/> which has agreed to oversee establishment of supporting governance including a technical Advisory Group of stakeholders, to provide broad stakeholder representation for community, land use and statutory sectors and to support the development and recommendations of a Regional Land Use Framework for final approval by the two Local Authorities and SOSE.

This interim report relates to Phase 2 of the South of Scotland RLUP pilot.

## 2.3 Project area

The South of Scotland was nominated for the pilot by the core partners of the two Local Authorities and SoSE and was accepted as one of 5 covering Scotland (the others being the others being Aberdeenshire, Highland, Cairngorms National Park Authority and Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority).

South Scotland differs from the others in a number of ways including scale (covering almost one sixth of Scotland's land area) and range of land uses, from the Galloway Hills in the West to the Berwickshire Merse in the East.

The initial proposal was to use Regional Landscape Areas as a means of dividing the region into approximately manageable portions. It is clear from the initial round of consultation events that few communities or businesses relate to these landscape types and for this reason we will most likely use river sub-catchments as the basis of future consultation.

### 3 Methodology

The method chosen for this stage of the work was based on the outputs from the first phase of the pilot project which identified some of the challenges and opportunities faced by land managers across South Scotland and the drivers behind these.

Basically, we set out to look at what benefits various interest groups felt they currently got from the land “in their Place” and then to identify the most important local challenges and opportunities that needed to be addressed by the RLUP/RLUF. The intention was to explore place by allocating consultation events to Regional Landscape Areas<sup>1</sup> (which divided South Scotland into approximately 10 areas).

We also sought to divide participants into types of ‘stakeholder’ – they were given a list of stakeholder categories to choose from. Our intention was to allocate every item of data from the events to both place and stakeholder type. The subsequent treatment of the data collected is described below.

### 4 Stakeholder representation

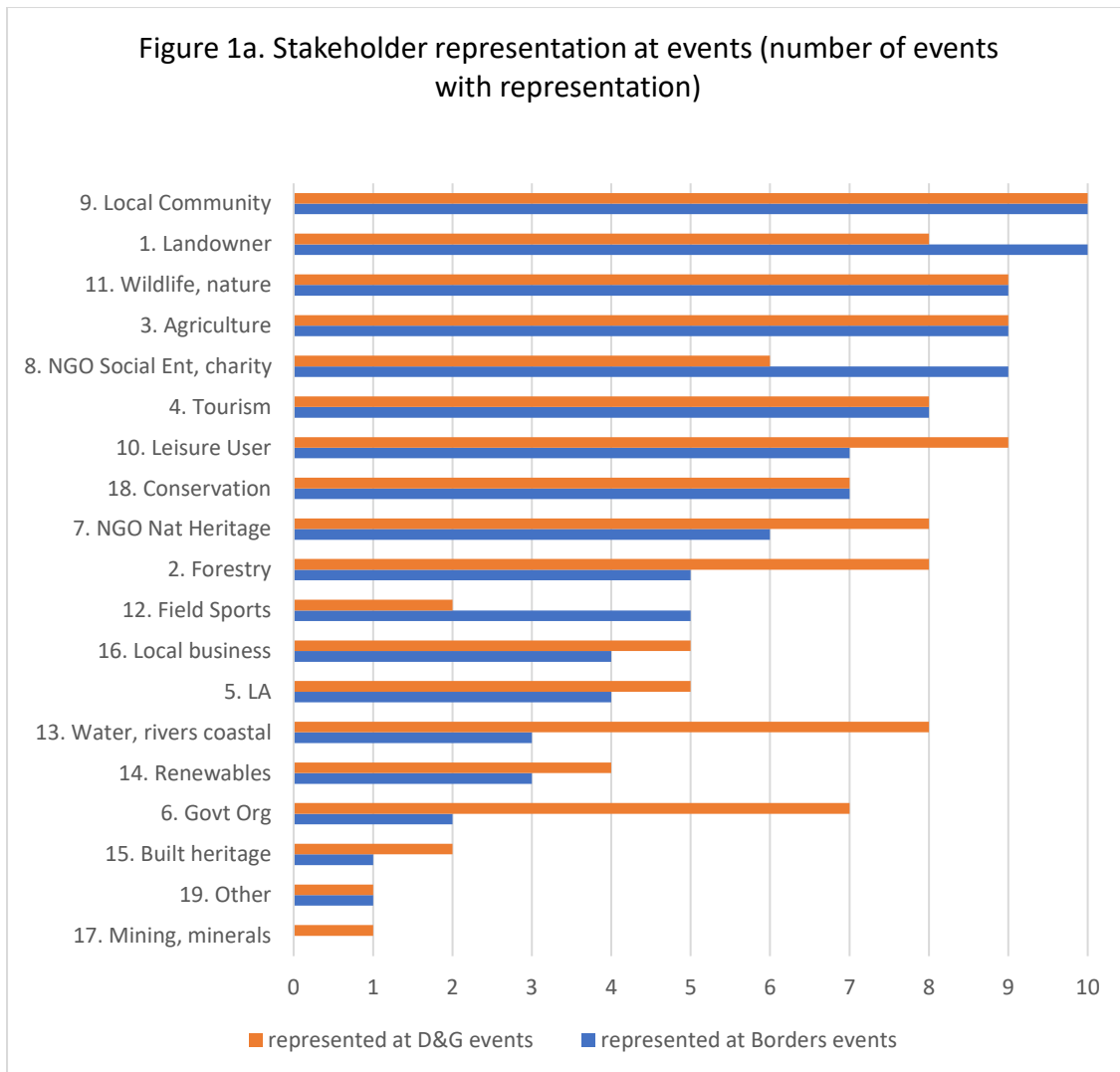
Figure 1 shows the types of stakeholders present at the events across each local authority area.

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<sup>1</sup> Dumfries & Galloway and Borders Landscape Character assessments

<https://www.nature.scot/doc/landscape-character-assessment-dumfries-and-galloway-landscape-evolution-and-influences>

<https://www.nature.scot/doc/landscape-character-assessment-borders-landscape-evolution-and-influences>



This shows that there was representation of every suggested category although we only had mining/minerals representation in D&G.

## 5 Benefits

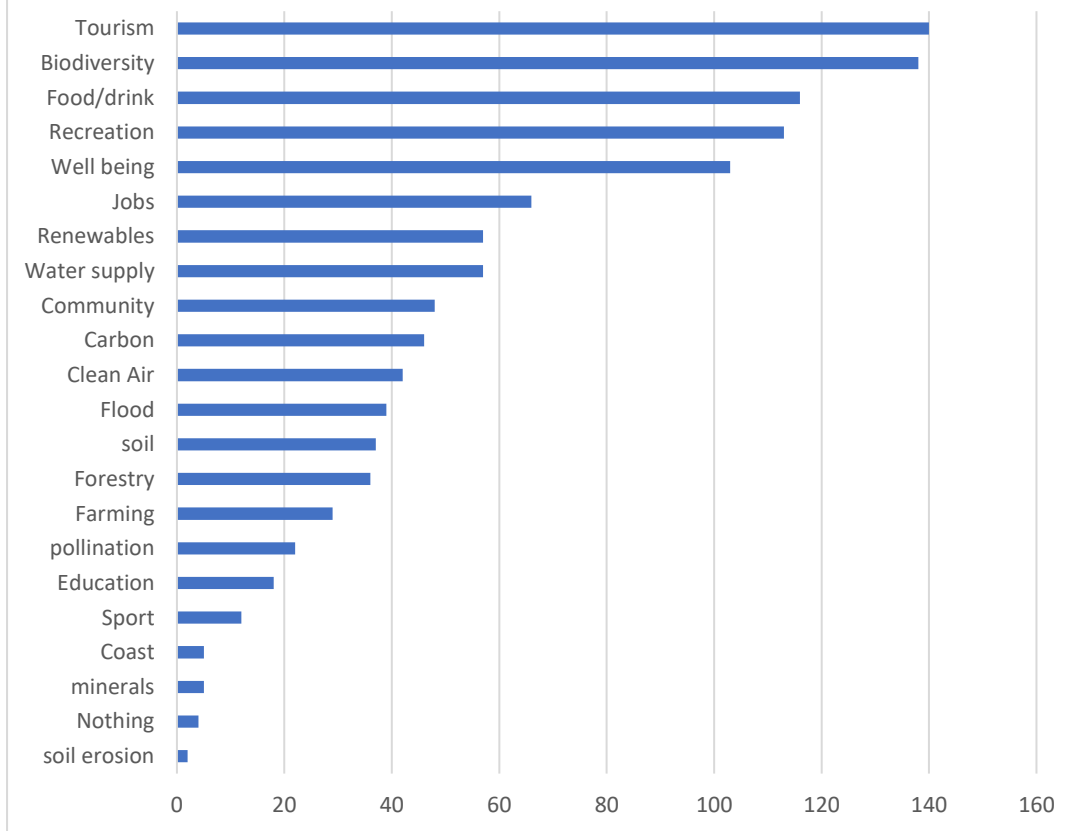
Analysis of responses to the topic:

### ***The benefits we get from the land in this region.***

Each of 300 individuals provided several responses in their own words. These identified benefits were then grouped into categories. Figure 1b. shows the frequency with which different categories of benefit were identified.



Figure 1b. Frequency with which types of benefits were listed (free choice, subsequently grouped into categories)



We have conducted an exploratory analysis of the data to compare benefits perceived by different stakeholder groups. Figures 1c and 1d shows those of landowners compared with leisure users, and local communities compared with leisure users.

Fig. 1c. Benefits perceived by landowners compared with leisure users

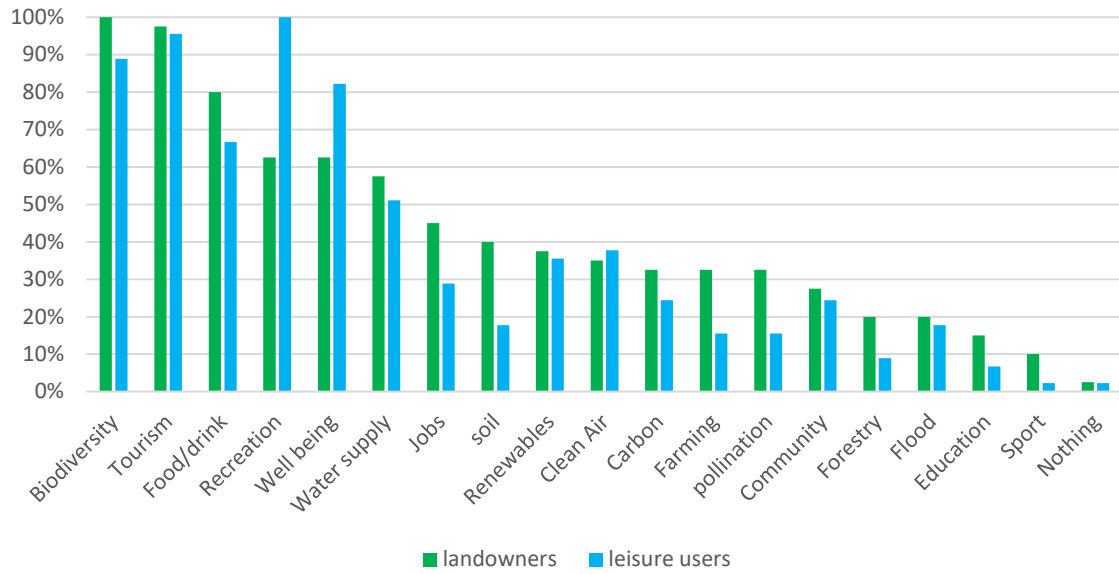
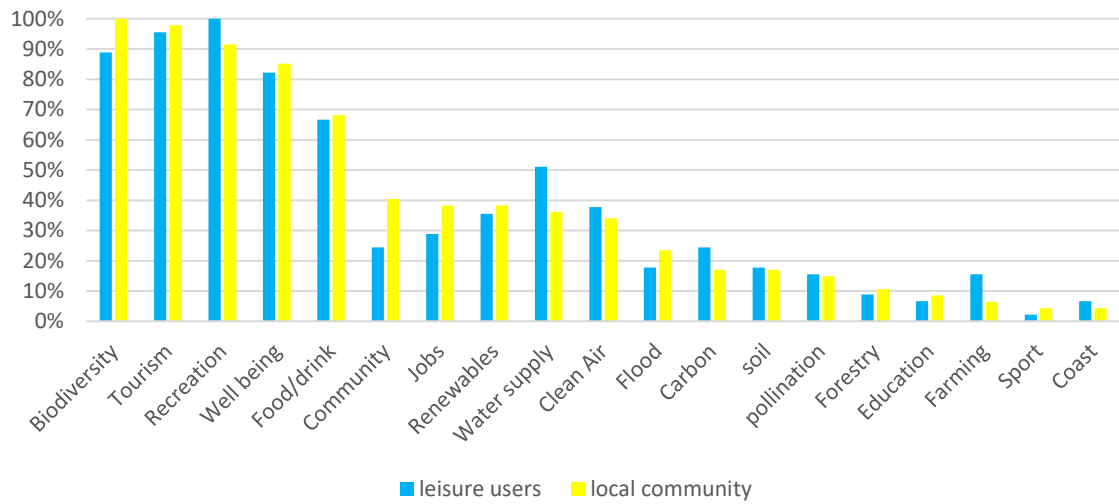


Fig. 1d. Benefits perceived by local community compared with leisure users



## 6 Challenges

### 6.1 Overall prioritisation of challenges

Consultation events had participants sitting at tables and each table was invited to select items from a menu, and / or add their own suggestions, to address the topic: ***'The challenges which we think are the most important to ensure that key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced in this place:'***

Participants were invited to select their personal top five challenges and then to “negotiate” a group list in order of priority. Many did this, while others indicated that they considered all those selected to be equally important; and others were unable to get the short-list into a particular order. Analysis of ‘opportunities’ (see next section) shows little difference between priorities when calculated by FREQUENCY or by RANK. Full lists are compared in Appendix 1; for simplicity of presentation, we present only frequency in the main body of the report. Hence Figure 1 shows the frequency with which challenges were selected – in other words, the number of times that option was chosen, regardless of its place in order of priority.

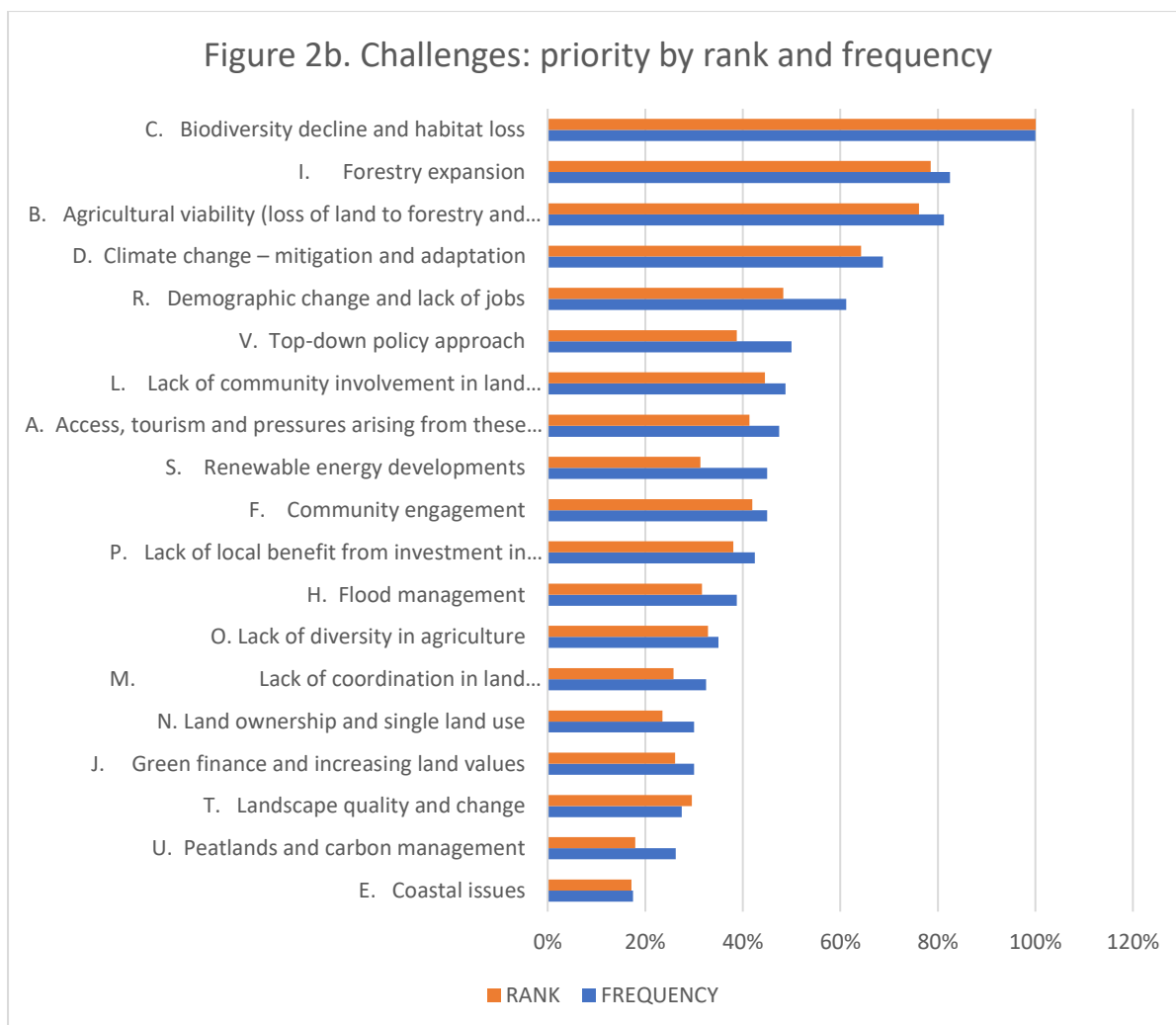
Figure 2a shows challenges by frequency. Figure 2b. compares the FREQUENCY with which challenges were selected, with their RANK where that could be inferred. There is no difference between the top five challenges by frequency or rank.

Full lists by frequency and rank are provided in Appendix 1.

Fig. 2a Top CHALLENGES by frequency of selection



Figure 2b. Challenges: priority by rank and frequency

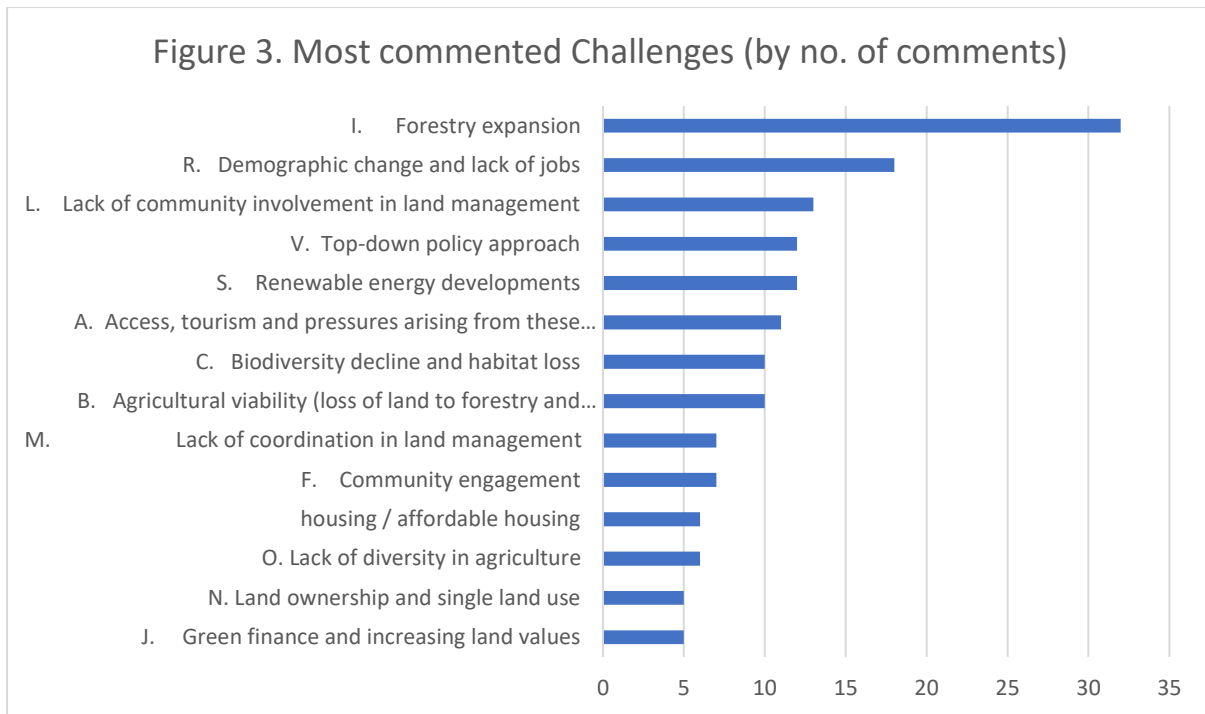


## 6.2 Comments against highest priority challenges

It is important to capture the wealth of comments made about Challenges, as this is where individual knowledge and values contributed to the process.

The topics that were most commented were not always the most commonly selected, as Figure 3 shows. Full lists of the comments on the eight most commented challenges are provided in Appendix 2.

Figure 3. Most commented Challenges (by no. of comments)



### Summary of comments made on Challenges.

#### Forestry (I) 39 comments.

This was the most commented on challenge. Comments related to the ways forestry impacted a wide range of other issues such as: livestock farming, landscape, biodiversity, food production, hydrology, access, fire risk, land prices, roads and carbon off-setting. A number of comments related to the downside of monoculture and the lack of tree species diversity. Some considered forestry was not supporting local jobs and would like to see better quality timber being produced. Some felt that incentives were too in favour of forestry. There was also a comment on the need for more education on forestry to improve understanding.

#### Demographic change and (lack of) jobs I. 18 comments

There were a number of comments on the aging rural population and the need for attractive jobs for younger people, although several comments pointed out there were jobs available but people didn't seem to want them. This varies between locations (Selkirk, Lockerbie and Annan mentioned a shortage of jobs whereas Duns, New Galloway, Moffat, W. Linton and Eyemouth saw unfilled jobs). The lack of affordable homes (linked to the growth in holiday and second homes) and the paucity of transport made it hard for young people to access some rural jobs, which were often at low payrates. Many communities suffered especially in winter when many houses were empty – leaving little local activity and low populations were often associated with poor infrastructure.

#### Lack of community involvement in land management. (L) 13 comments

The value of community ownership was flagged. Most people had little engagement in land use decisions and the need to address this – perhaps through schools – was mentioned. More dialogue between land managers and communities was seen as important and some thought this should be facilitated to aid understanding. Wind farm funds were seen as a way of helping this with other funds being too short-term.

#### Top-down Policy approach (V). 12 comments

There were a number of comments about the lack of rural understanding amongst policy makers and the benefit of more engagement and dialogue (bottom-up meets top-down). The value of clear policy direction was mentioned (e.g. in relation to carbon). There was also a comment on whether Govt policy was written and policed by the same people. There was a call for greater use of local expertise and knowledge and better access to data.

#### **Renewable energy developments (S) 12 comments.**

The call here was for the right energy scheme to be in the right place and at the right scale. There was also a call for more support from planning departments and improvements to the grid to facilitate more local schemes. Community benefit funds could play an important role in some infrastructure projects and in supporting local skills and businesses.

#### **Access and Tourism (A). 11 comments**

Several comments highlighted the importance of access as the basis of local tourism, with some frustration at the number of “locked gates” and restricted access. Improved access infrastructure was requested as was better public education about littering dogs and responsible access!

#### **Biodiversity decline and habitat loss. I. 11 comments**

While some questioned the evidence for this, most called for more action to reverse the decline through a more diverse landscape and less intensive monocultural land use. More room for nature. The importance of nature for our own well-being was mentioned (e.g. pollinators) and the need to manage land to soak-up carbon (peatland restoration and permanent pasture).

#### **Agricultural viability (B). 11 comments**

The importance of more local added value was highlighted, linked to more local marketing and direct local sales. Some linked this to the need for greater understanding (and sympathy) from the public. The role of subsidy was questioned and some called for a reduction in “red tape”. The likely impacts of displacing livestock production elsewhere was an issue for some. There were several calls for less intensive (regenerative) farming but also an acknowledgement that economics tends to favour larger and more intensive farms.

### **6.3 Challenges compared between Borders and Dumfries & Galloway**

Figure 4 shows the frequency of challenges selected at events in the Borders, compared with events in Dumfries and Galloway. Overall, there is a reasonable consistency across South Scotland on what the main challenges and opportunities are – and this can now feed-in to the second stage.

Forestry expansion is a concern in both areas, but notably is the top concern in D&G. This is perhaps linked to the higher priority given to landscape quality in the west.

Renewables are of greater concern in the east as is “lack of community involvement in policy making”, although there is overlap with the challenge of “top-down policy development” which is higher in the west. Flood management and coastal issues feature slightly higher in the west too.

A further distinction is seen in the greater concern about demographic change and jobs, in D&G compared with the Borders.

Fig. 4a Most frequent challenges by region (sorted on Borders priorities)

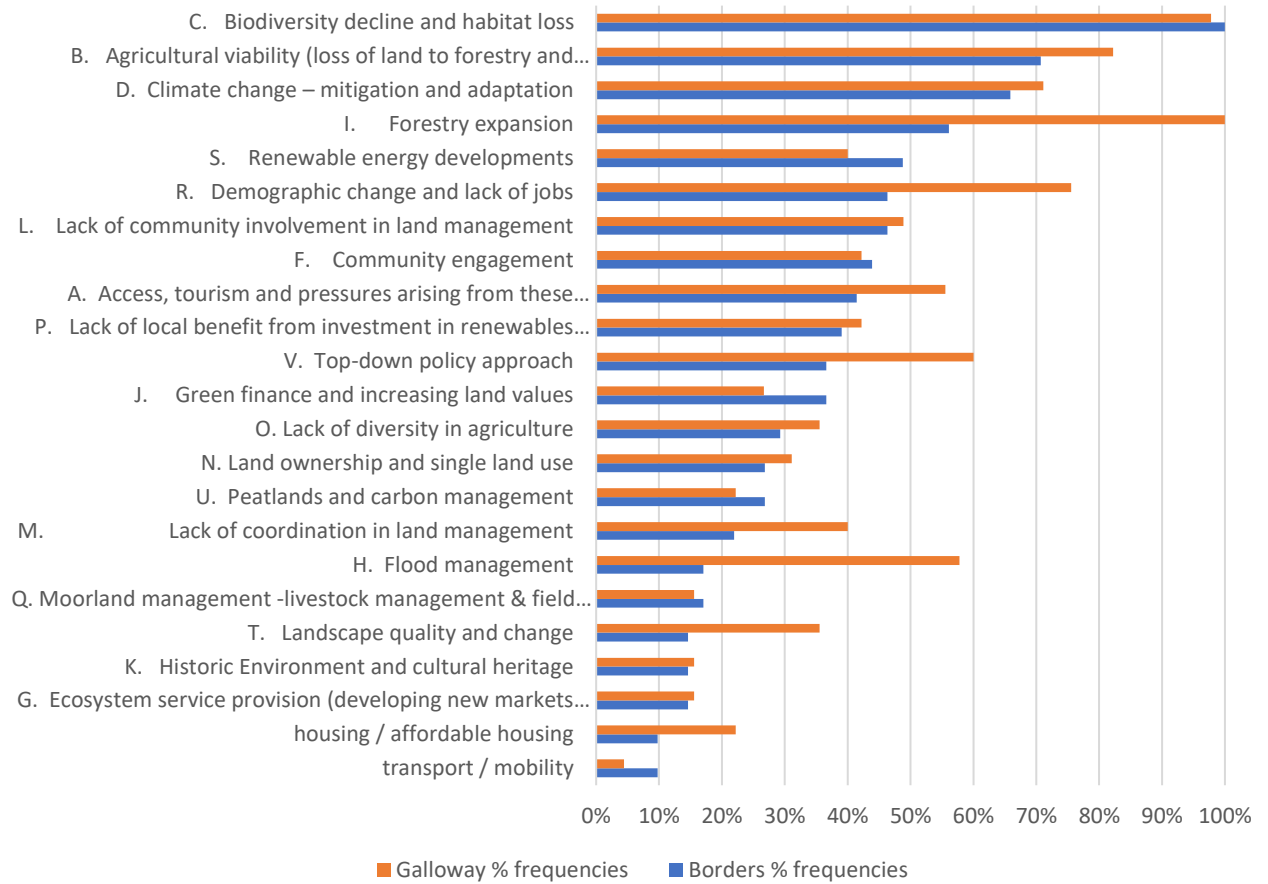
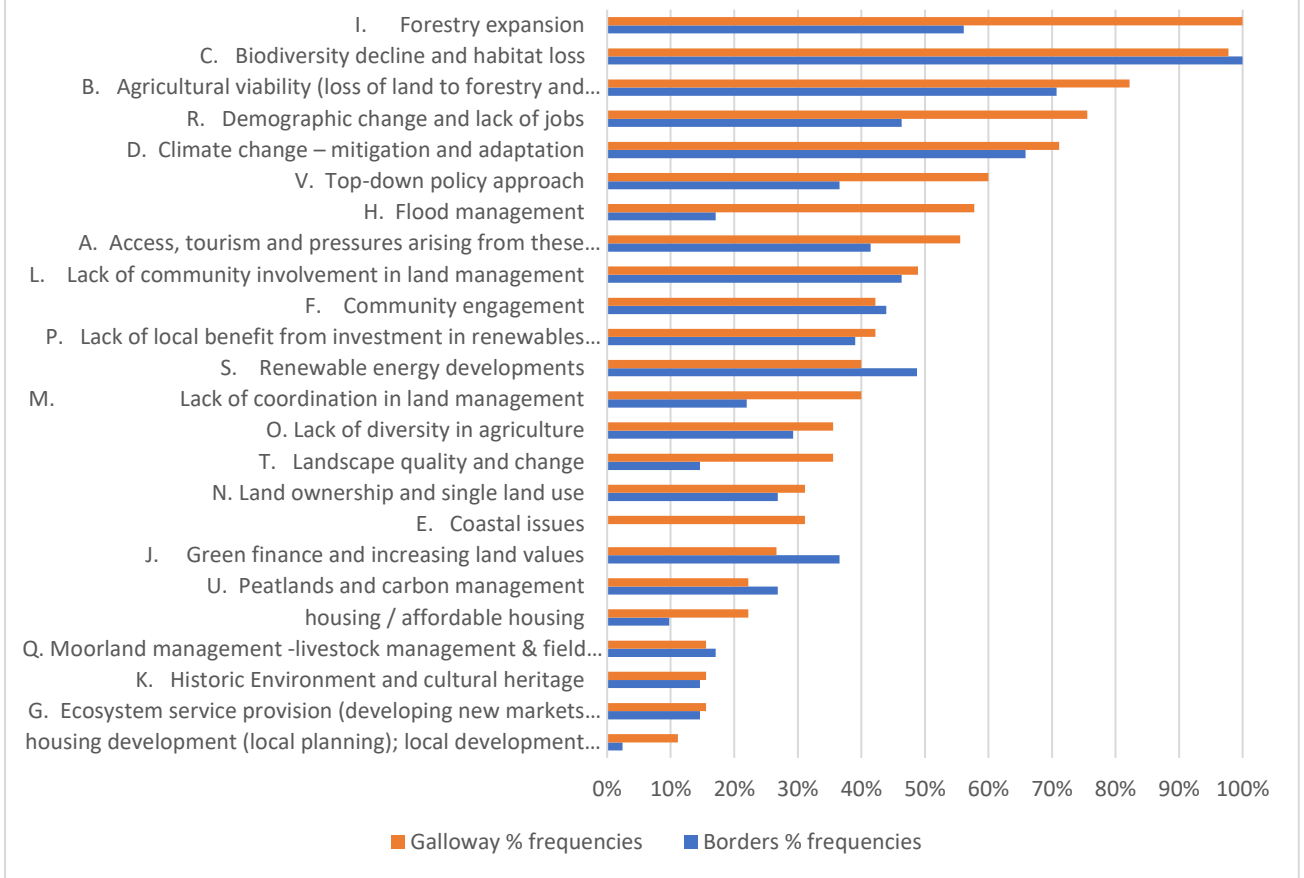




Fig. 4b Most frequent challenges by region (sorted on D&G priorities)



#### 6.4 Challenges compared between Selkirk and Kirkcudbright

In exploratory analysis to compare challenges at the scale of individual events, we compared two locations: Selkirk and Kirkcudbright (Figures 5a and 5b). These locations were chosen because the two venues sat reasonably centrally within their respective landscape areas and might be expected to have different priorities (which they do). Selkirk expressed greater concern about renewables than Kirkcudbright while the latter gave higher priority to agricultural viability, landscape change, community involvement in policy and tourism. Care should be taken as to the significance of these apparent differences. We will be doing further analysis on this in the next few weeks

Fig 5a. Challenges compared: Kirkcudbright cf. Selkirk

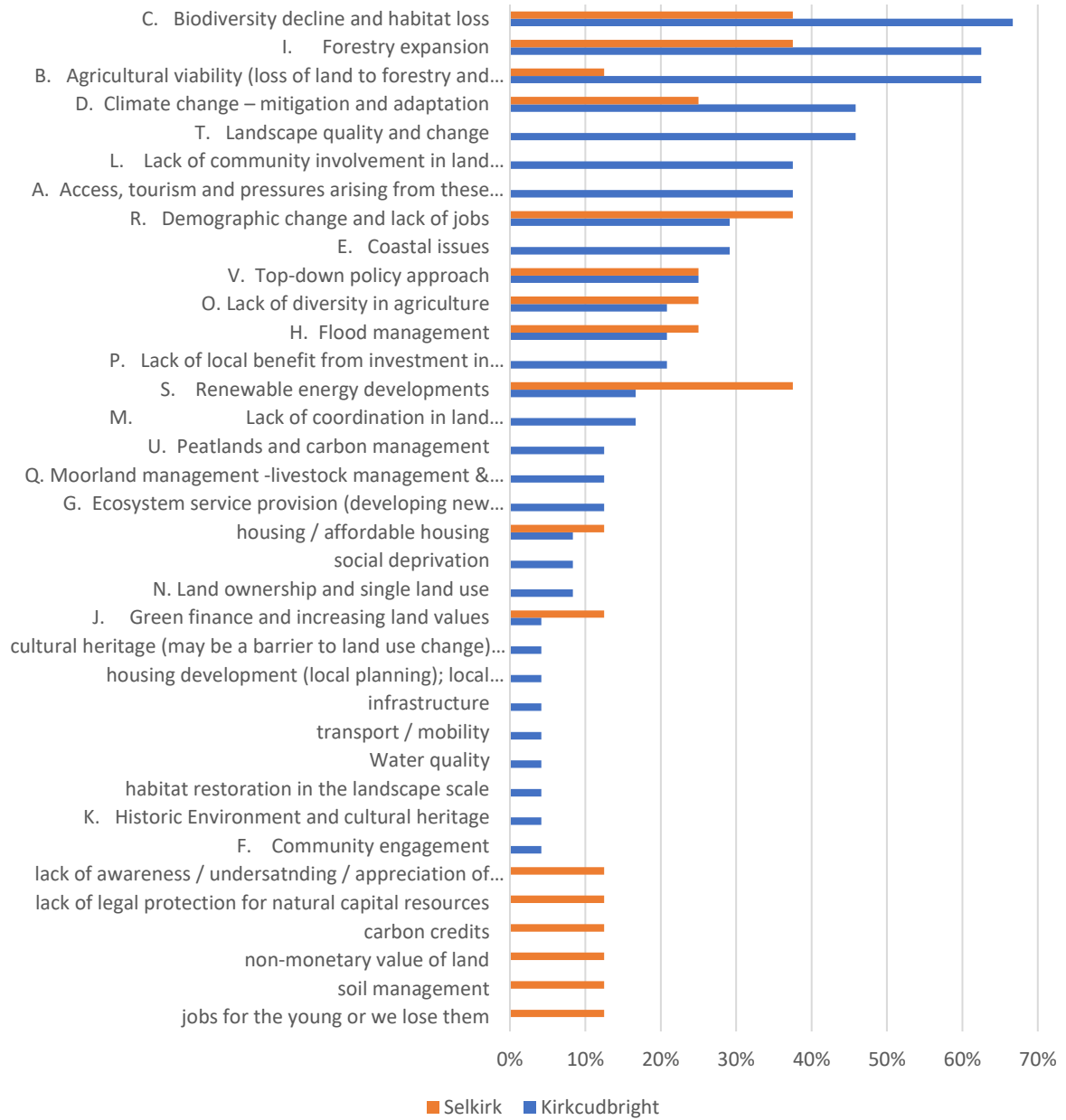
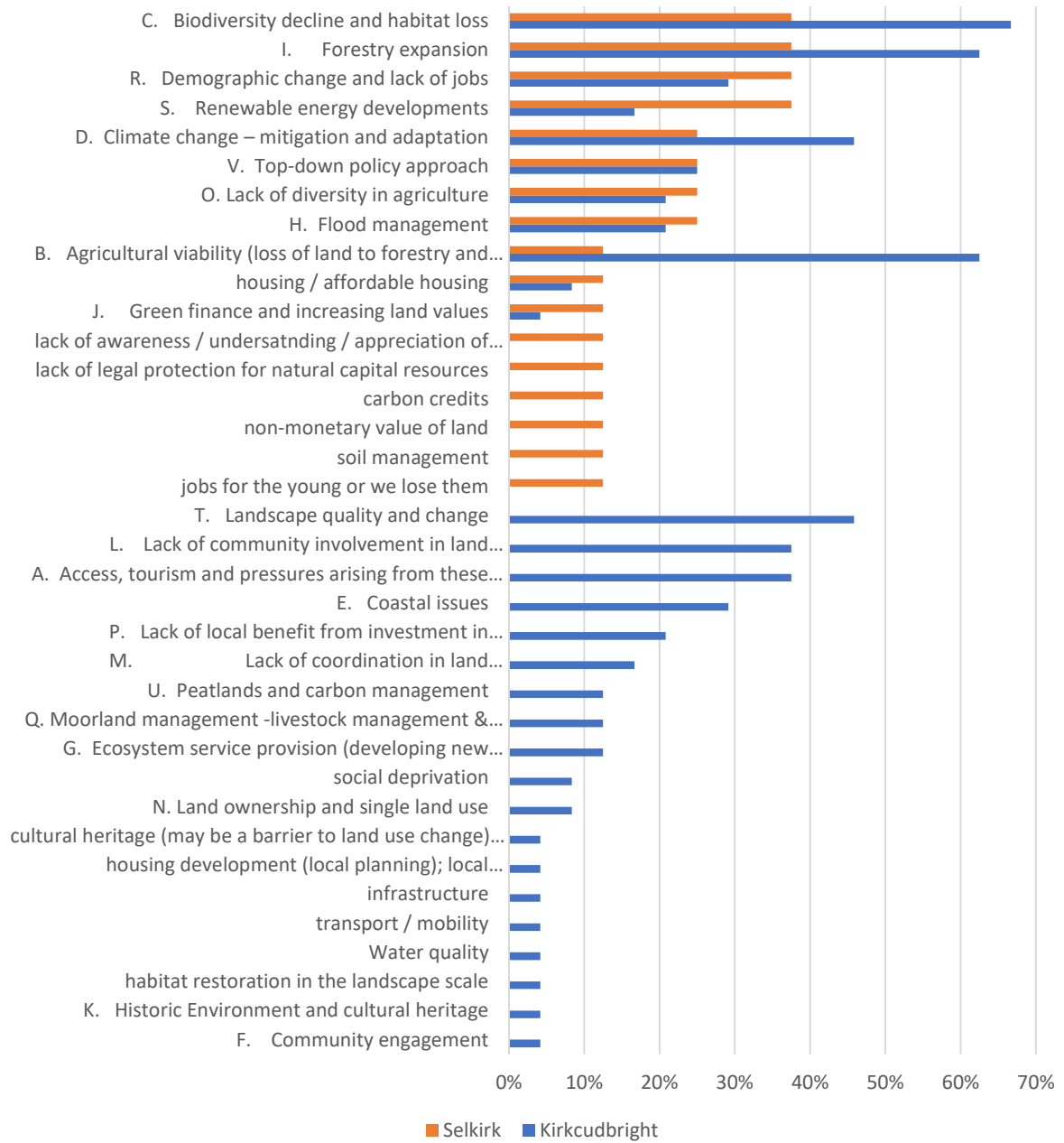


Fig 5b. Challenges compared: Selkirk cf. Kirkcudbright



## 7 Opportunities

Each table was invited to select items from a menu, and / or add their own suggestions, to address the topic

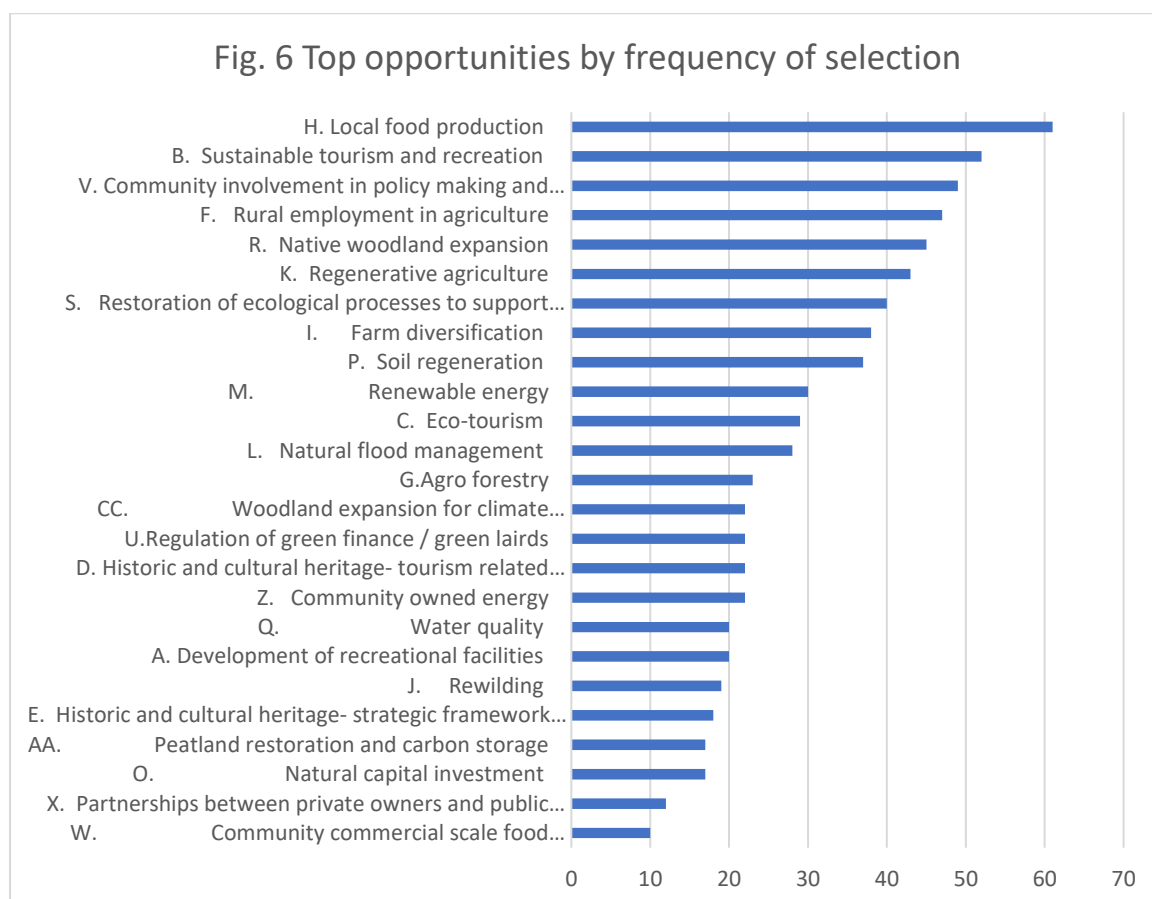
***‘The opportunities which we think are the most important to ensure that key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced in this place:’***

Participants were again invited to pick their own top five opportunities and then to negotiate a group list in order of priority. Many did this, while others indicated that they considered all those selected to be equally important; and others were unable to agree a particular order (time was often short at this point).

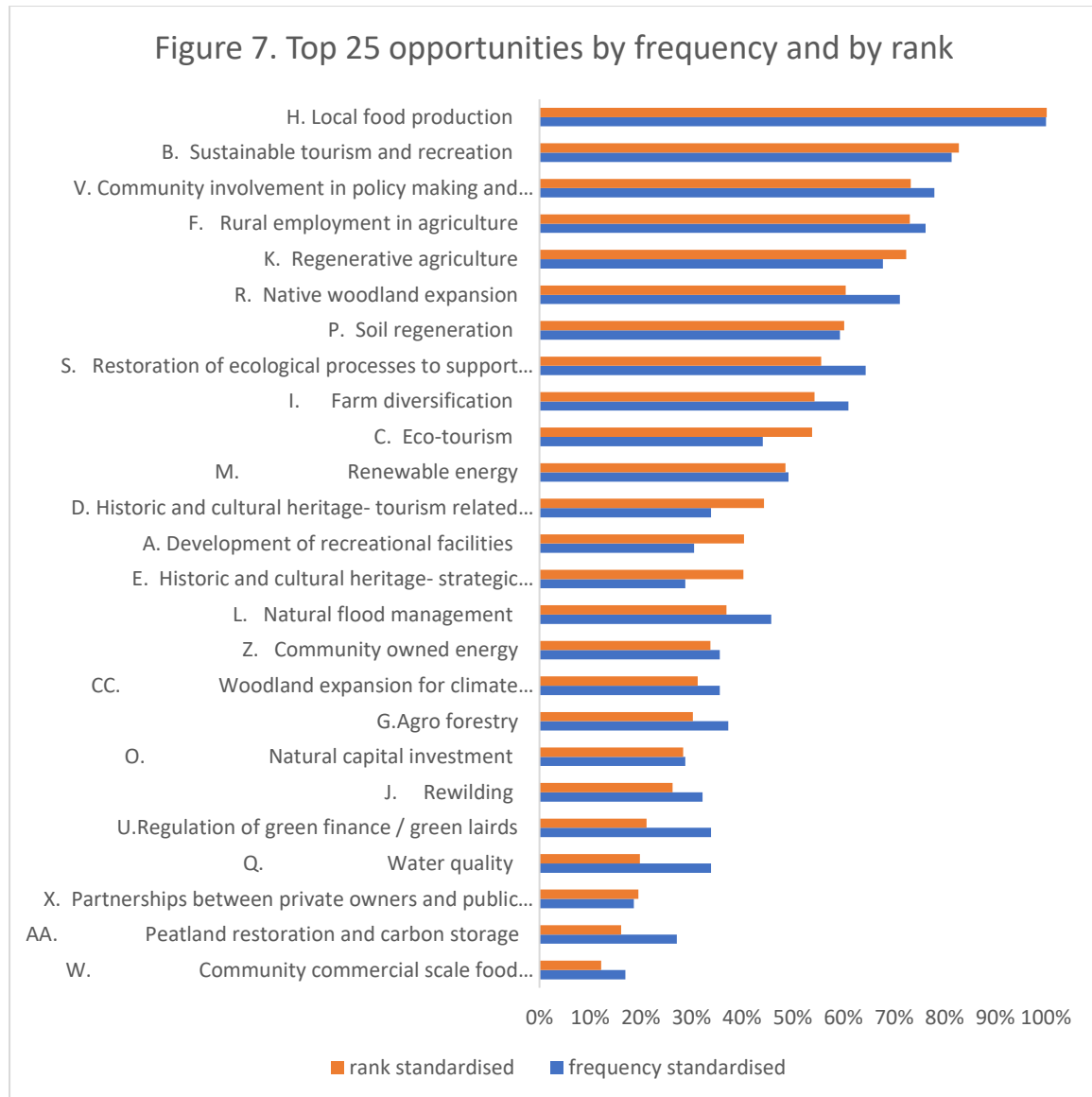
For this reason we have analysed responses both by FREQUENCY (number of times an option was selected) and by RANK (priority assigned, where that was clear). As our results show, there is very little difference between the preferences indicated by these two modes of analysis, and for further analysis we have taken the simpler route of analysing FREQUENCIES.

### 7.1 Overall prioritisation of opportunities

As explained under ‘Challenges’, participants were invited to sort their selections in order of priority. Many did this, while others indicated that they considered all those selected to be equally important; and others were not clearly in a particular order.



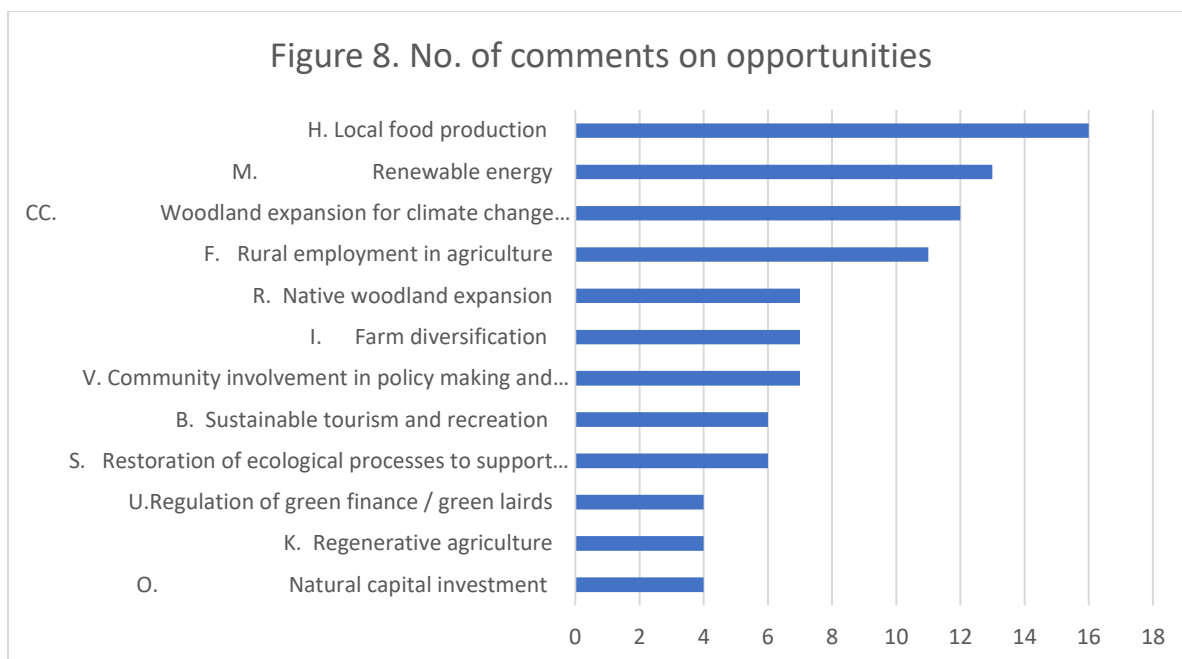
For completeness, we also show these compared by frequency and rank; here sorted by decreasing rank. We can see that although some opportunities are considered more important, but selected less frequently, overall the trends are similar however, and it is clear what are the top priorities.



## 7.2 Comments against highest priority opportunities

It is important to capture the wealth of comments made about Opportunities, as this is where individual knowledge and values contributed to the process.

The topics that were most commented on were not always the most commonly selected, as Figure 8 shows. Full lists of comments on the eight most commented on opportunities are provided in Appendix 4.



### **Summary of comments made on Opportunities.**

#### **Local Food production (H) 16 comments**

These ranged from the need to reduce food miles and thus carbon emissions (4) and the need to support communities wanting to grow their own food locally (4). Linked to this was the need for appropriate local infrastructure – with abattoirs specifically mentioned (4). There was also a call for tariffs on imported food (2), better support for local farmers (2) and support for innovation in relation to local food (2). Others mentioned making more of local foods (e.g. oysters), support for organic production and better coordination of land management to enhance food security.

#### **Renewable energy (M). 13 comments**

Generally, a call for more forms of renewable energy: hydro (2), solar meadows (specifically in uplands) (3), community-scale (2) and tidal (1). The need for better infrastructure (grid connections) to support this (2) and the need to maximise community benefits from schemes (3).

#### **Woodland expansion for climate change mitigation and adaptation (CC). 12 comments**

Comments here related to calls for less monoculture (3), more native woodlands (3), more woodlands for biodiversity (3), more diverse species mixes (2) and more continuous cover forestry (1). “Right tree in right place” was requested (1). There was also a call for “modern plantation forestry” (1).

#### **Rural employment in agriculture (F). 11 comments**

The importance of rural jobs was mentioned by 4 people as vital for local economic growth. This required support in the form of modern apprenticeships, more appropriate school, college and university courses and provision of local affordable housing. Support for existing “green” jobs was also mentioned.

#### **Native woodland expansion I. 7 comments**

Comments included the need to create an economy that supported smaller native woods that could lock up carbon and enhance wildlife as part of a wider commercial forestry sector. Right tree in right place approach with natural regeneration encouraged. The need to integrate this with regenerative agriculture and peatland restoration.

#### **Farm diversification (I.) 7 comments**

A mix of comments proposing diversification of enterprise (including small scale food production; farm shops; renewable energy; tourism; hutting; small productive woodlands), and of habitat enhancements; and noting the need for support.

#### **Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process (V). 7 comments.**

Comments here related to the need for policy to better support community structures (e.g. Community Councils) especially linked to place making. Other comments related to the need to support dialogue on land use, contact between communities and tapping into local community knowledge. The role of communities in implementing policy was also mentioned.

#### **Sustainable Tourism and recreation (B) 6 comments**

The need to link this to education was mentioned twice. Other comments related to the potential of ecotourism and rewilding to support good quality jobs. Scottish access rights were seen to be an under-valued opportunity.

#### **Restoration of ecological processes (S). 6 comments**

Comments here highlighted that ecological restoration is needed not only for flood protection, but to include a wider range of habitat diversity and ecosystem service.

### **7.3 Opportunities compared between Borders and Dumfries & Galloway**

Figure 9 shows the frequency of challenges selected at events in the Borders, compared with events in Dumfries and Galloway. While local food production is top priority in both regions and there are other broad similarities, there are also some striking differences.

Higher priorities in Galloway include: rural employment, sustainable / ecotourism, regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, and soil regeneration.

Higher priorities in the Borders include: community owned energy, and water quality.

Fig. 9a Most frequent opportunities by region (sorted on Borders priorities)

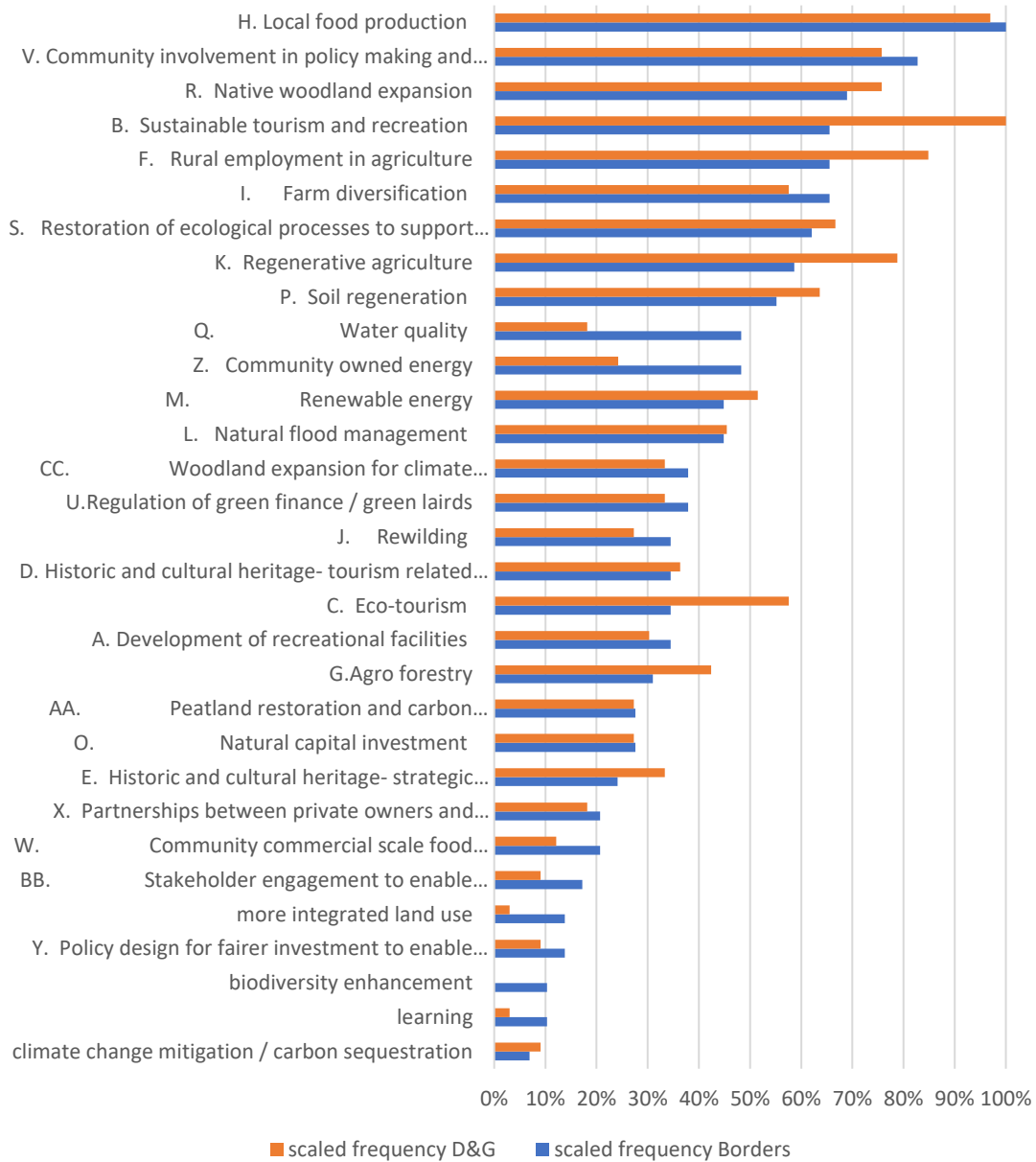
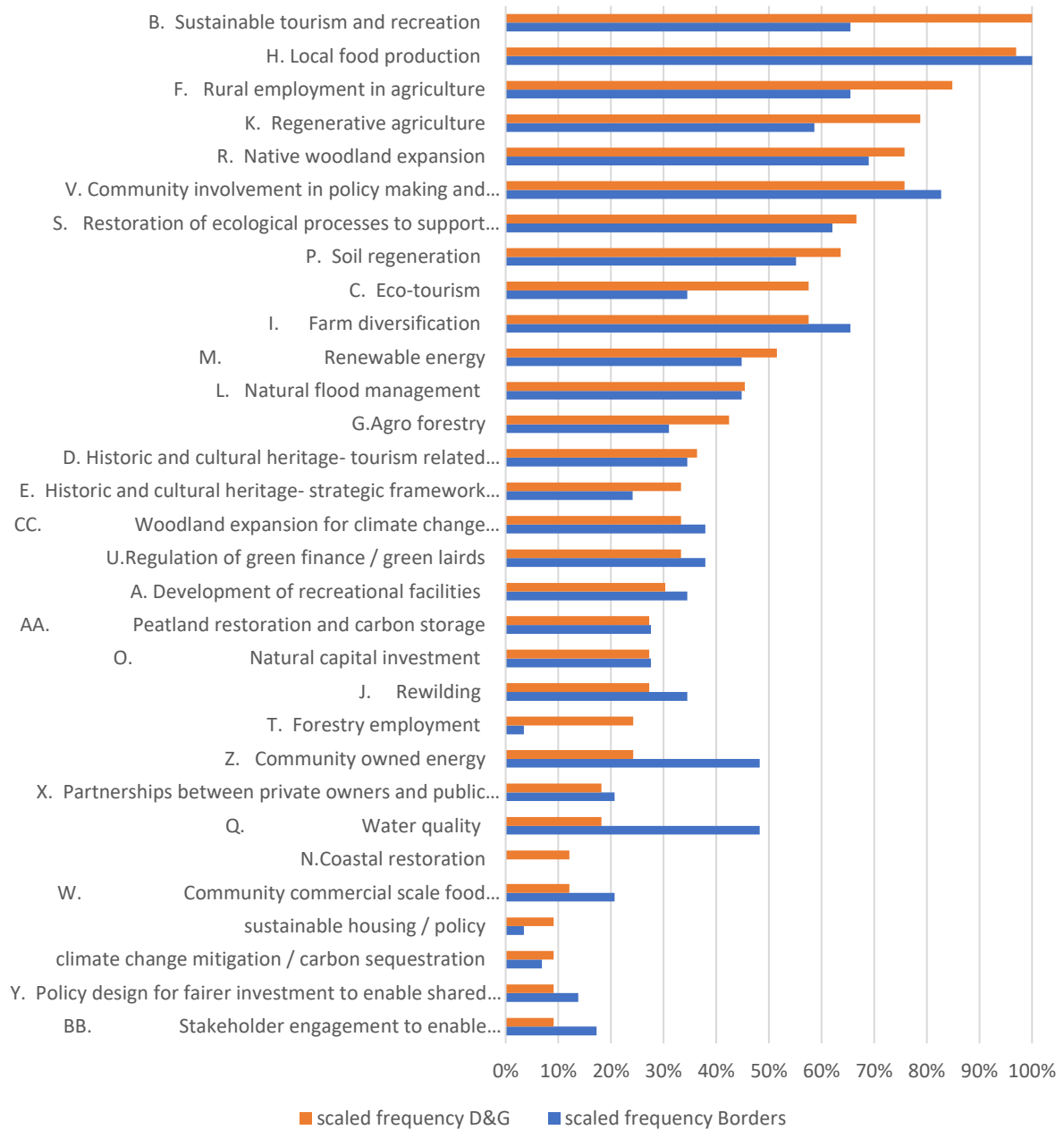




Fig. 9b Most frequent opportunities by region  
(sorted on D&G priorities)



#### 7.4 Opportunities compared between Selkirk and Kirkcudbright

In exploratory analysis to compare challenges at the scale of individual *events*, we compared two locations: Selkirk and Kirkcudbright (Figures 10a and 10b). As 6.4 above, there are clearly marked differences between these contrasting communities with Selkirk highlighting the potential of renewable energy; sustainable tourism and more integrated land use while Kirkcudbright flagged-up native woodland; regenerative agriculture and historic and cultural tourism. We will seek to explore these differences in the next stage.

Figure 10a. Opportunities compared, Kirkcudbright cf. Selkirk

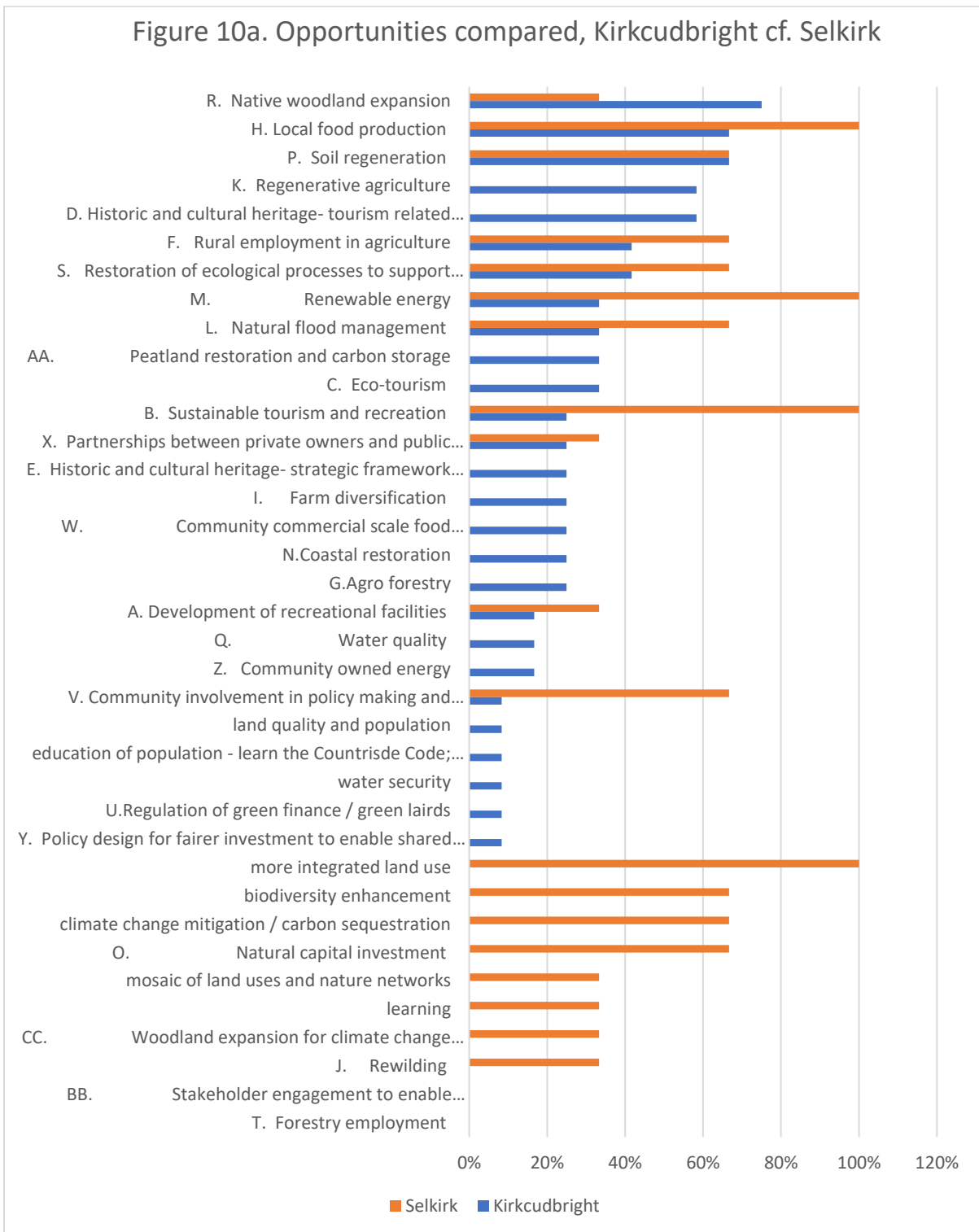
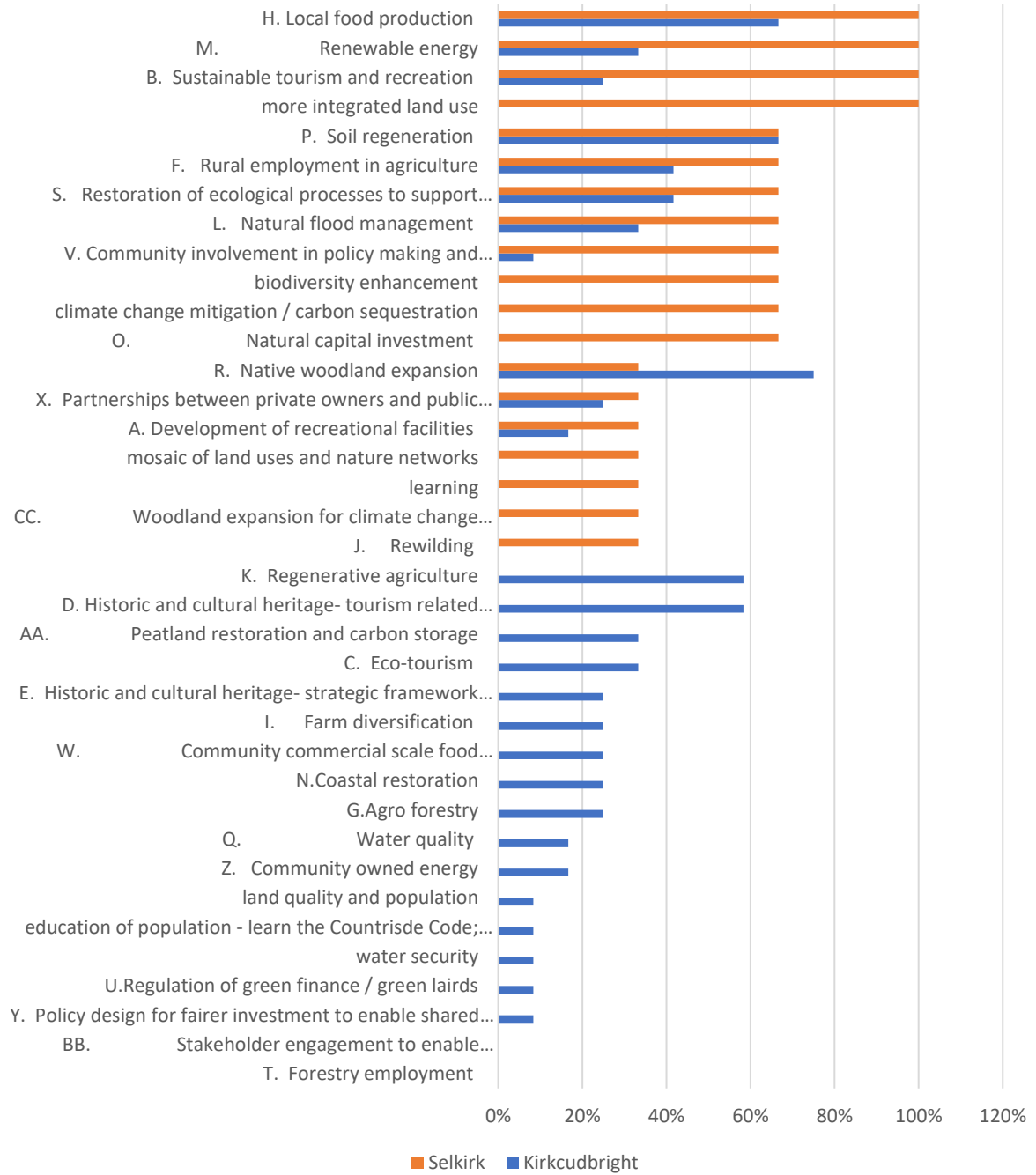


Figure 10b. Opportunities compared, Selkirk cf. Kirkcudbright



## 8 Other considerations

On the final page of the ‘letters’ produced at the events, participants were invited to address the question:

***Other things we would like you to consider (ie addressed to the RLUP).***

Comments were all transcribed, and sorted into categories (Table 1). The issue of governance – including policy and planning structures, decision-making processing, use of subsidies / incentives / investments, and involvement of stakeholders – featured very strongly. Other areas of concern included concerns about sustainability of rural communities linked to housing, support for local businesses and broadband connectivity, and transport.

The suggestions made under the top ten categories are provided in Appendix 5.

**Table 1. categories of suggestions made under ‘other considerations’**

<b>topic</b>	<b>no. of comments</b>
decision-making process	42
governance structures	34
balance of land use	28
use of subsidies / investment	27
rural population and housing	26
Stakeholders	24
local enterprise and broadband	21
scale and place	17
wider context	16
sustainable transport	16
recreation	10
renewables	10
Land Reform	10
monitoring etc	9
skills and education	8
climate change	7
National Parks	5
nature	5
project method	5
hunting and shooting	4
just transition	4

## 9 Analysis

### 9.1 What did we learn

The RLUP pilot seeks to trial approaches to identifying and reaching agreement on landuse challenges and opportunities. We have tried one approach and no doubt other pilots will take different approaches. The process we have used has some strengths (eg, it is open to all, it takes the discussion out in public events to make it easy for people to engage, it has combined live events with on-line ones, and we have sought to fit with the on-going “place” agenda. The importance of the need to address climate change and the biodiversity crisis have been stressed, as has the need for a Just Transition. In some ways this makes the process very complex (the data collected is “messy” and very time consuming to analyse) but it is also realistic in that all these issues are important.

We feel our approach has been reasonably successful. We now have useful data that shows where local people (from a broad spectrum of interests) see the most pressing challenges and the biggest opportunities, and this is vital if we are to develop a Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF) of relevance.

The next phase will seek to delve further into how these findings relate to Natural Capital, and to Place (probably based more on sub-catchments than landscape areas, the latter having little resonance with stakeholders so far).

### 9.2 What methods worked, what didn't

Generally, it is felt the workshops attracted a surprisingly good range of participation, with especially good numbers of land managers and community groups. The forestry sector was perhaps a bit low in number and the lack of young people will need to be considered in the next stage.

Perhaps inevitably, those who attended the workshops were highly engaged in the issues, and the conversations were lively and generally very constructive. Our methodology worked reasonably well, but many participants interpreted things their own way and this made data collation difficult. For example, many people found it hard/impossible to allocate themselves to a single category of stakeholder and some used multiple codings (16 in one case) making analysis very problematic. This perhaps reflects an important fact that many people have complex relations with the land.

In one workshop concern was expressed that we were presenting participants with a list of predefined challenges and opportunities, even though we stressed these were not complete and were based on the previous consultation in the earlier stage of the pilot, with a clear invite to add to the list (which many people did). This was not an issue elsewhere. Starting with a blank sheet would have made the workshops potentially less effective (and required more time).

Choosing to divide the region into portions based on Regional Landscape Areas types worked well in terms of creating 10 sub-regional areas, but did not really succeed as a way of considering place – as few participants related to this geography. The locations for events were selected by the Steering Group, as larger settlements that fit as far as possible with the Regional Landscape Areas. That there wasn't an exact fit reflects the distribution of our larger settlements- RLAS cover large areas of uninhabited land). It also became apparent that the venues chosen for the consultation events were often on the boundary between these areas – and one was at the point where three landscape types met! The comments at most events therefore did not relate clearly with the landscape type making analysis even harder. We have however compared findings from two events that took place well within two contrasting landscape areas (Kirkcudbright in the Dumfries Coastlands and Selkirk in the Central Southern Uplands. See 7.4.

Other negative views were few but included someone who felt the whole process was a “sham” in that decisions had already been made, and a farmer who voiced concern that it was all about increasing Government control. There was also a view that consultations expected community input in return for little.

### 9.3 What are the main challenges?

Challenges to the process include overcoming consultation fatigue; developing trust with people who already feel pressurised; developing understanding of novel or complex concepts (definitions and explanations of: natural capital, ecosystem service and a Just-Transition were requested at several of the events and the issue can definitely be jargon-heavy). On the plus side, all the events were very constructive, with excellent participation, lively discussion and several ended with spontaneous applause. If resources allowed, it would be good to hold more such meetings, perhaps to explore particular issues in more depth or to start to develop specific local solutions to local issues. When trust develops and people engage, it is surprising how some apparently major barriers can fade away. Hopefully the next round of events will do some of this.

### 9.4 What does this mean for round 2?

There are subtle differences between east and west (and perhaps some local differences too – although we have yet to get fully to grips with that). Perhaps most notable is flood management which came 7<sup>th</sup> in D&G but only 20<sup>th</sup> in the Borders. We can perhaps usefully select from these top challenges and use them to tease out the tensions and trade-offs required to address them in a balanced way. There will be difficult choices – e.g. how do you balance the drive for afforestation with the call for ongoing viable agriculture and the need for biodiversity recovery and carbon sequestration?

The aim now will be to use the above findings to consider and create a number of scenarios where the tensions and potential trade-offs between identified challenges and opportunities can be explored. These will form the basis of a series of 8 further consultation events which will take place in January/February next year, plus a further two online events which will consider policy and process related challenges.

Importantly, a natural capital approach/methodology will be applied in the next round of workshops using information on land use measures and maps to consider choices: land use benefits, opportunities/ challenges – where do they “conflict” and to explore trade-offs required and where they may best align (multi-benefits).

We are also keen to report back to those who have contributed to date to show we have listened and to give people a chance to correct things if we have mis-heard. A summary report will be produced based on this interim report and shared (via the consultation hub) with all participants in the next few weeks.

We will also seek to find a way of engaging with local young people in the next phase through either a high school or Borders College. We will also seek opportunities to share and discuss the findings so far with sectoral groups – ideally forestry, farming and environmental interest groups.



## Appendix 0 Workshop outline

The main aim of the initial round of consultation was to identify what the most important challenges and opportunities were with regard to land-use change in South Scotland. We also sought to explore whether these differ across the region from area to area and what differences there were between particular interest groups.

Each event started with a brief overview presentation of the RLUP pilot process followed by the opportunity for questions. The workshop session started with participants (sitting at tables of between 3 and 6 persons) choosing a self-identifier code from a prepopulated list of 18 (plus an option of “other”). Participants were then invited to record on a post-it what unique benefits they got from the land “in this place” and to “sign” the post it with their identifier number. Post-its were stuck onto chart paper. Analysis of this data should allow us to identify what particular benefits each user group get from the local land and to see if this varies at all across the region.

The second task considered the list of challenges that had been identified during the first phase of this pilot project. Participants were asked to consider whether there were any obvious additional challenges they would like to add. They were then asked to choose from the list (extended by any additions) up to 5 challenges they considered to be the priority for attention. We then asked each table to share their ideas and to try to find 5 challenges they could agree on – and ideally to put them in priority order. These were recorded on chart paper with individuals encouraged to add any comments/disagreements that they wanted to record – again on “signed” post-its.

The third task repeated this process but used the list of opportunities created in the first phase of the pilot. After adding any “missing” opportunities, they again chose their top 5 and then negotiated a shared top 5. There were slightly more opportunities suggested than challenges so this exercise took a little longer.

Finally, individuals were encouraged to add comments on anything else they wanted the RLUP (or REP or Government) to consider.

The chart papers were collected and the various comments transcribed and sorted.

## Appendix 1 Full list of challenges by frequency of selection

Items in red are additional to those offered in the menu.

Frequency	Challenge
80	C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss
66	I. Forestry expansion
65	B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)
55	D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation
49	R. Demographic change and lack of jobs
40	V. Top-down policy approach
39	L. Lack of community involvement in land management
38	A. Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities
36	F. Community engagement
36	S. Renewable energy developments
34	P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance
31	H. Flood management
28	O. Lack of diversity in agriculture
26	M. Lack of coordination in land management
24	J. Green finance and increasing land values
24	N. Land ownership and single land use
22	T. Landscape quality and change
21	U. Peatlands and carbon management
14	E. Coastal issues
14	Q. Moorland management -livestock management & field sports
13	K. Historic Environment and cultural heritage
13	housing / affordable housing
11	G. Ecosystem service provision (developing new markets and achieving the right balance)
6	transport / mobility
6	housing development (local planning); Local Development Plans
4	social deprivation
4	lack of awareness / understanding / appreciation of biodiversity - need for education at all levels
3	Local workforce / employment
3	infrastructure
2	cultural heritage (may be a barrier to land use change) (i.e., Hawick Common Riding)
2	lack of support for entrepreneurship (agriculture, cultural, business, social)
2	jobs for the young or we lose them
2	young people
2	soil management
2	water security (drinking water); ;water quality and quantity
2	local food production: orchards and vegetable production
2	Pesticide / herbicide use and implications for pollinators and wider health impacts
2	better informed communities engaging with land managers
2	lack of diversity in agriculture
1	Tourism
1	Incentive system - SG grants and UK tax incentives



- 1 habitat restoration in the landscape scale
- 1 Water quality
- 1 resistance from farmers
- 1 very elderly
- 1 non-monetary value of land
- 1 carbon credits
- 1 lack of legal protection for natural capital resources
- education of general public to teach them what the countryside is, how it operates and how they should and should not engage with the countryside and what it and we do for them
- 1 knowledge and learning
- 1 taxation, subsidy, business rates, fiscal policy
- 1 vested interests (powerful)
- 1 integrating food and environment
- Planning decisions made as sensible integrated decision making - currently siloed and often reactive rather than proactive
- 1 land managers and conservationists [not] agreeing on the problem - e.g., are uplands in a poor condition?
- 1 recruitment, retention, depopulation - lack of critical mass of employment
- 1 habitat designation does not transfer to economic benefit
- 1 in appropriate extractive industries - agriculture, forestry, renewables, mining and quarries
- 1 lack of 'teeth' to implement the strategy

Frequencies and ranks compared: colours show where differently placed priorities occur in the list.

FREQUENCY	Challenge	RANK	Challenge
80	C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	56	C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss
66	I. Forestry expansion	44	I. Forestry expansion
65	B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)	42	B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)
55	D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation	36	D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation
49	R. Demographic change and lack of jobs	27	R. Demographic change and lack of jobs
40	V. Top-down policy approach	25	L. Lack of community involvement in land management
39	L. Lack of community involvement in land management	23	F. Community engagement
38	A. Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities	23	A. Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities

36	F. Community engagement	22	V. Top-down policy approach
36	S. Renewable energy developments	21	P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance
34	P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance	18	O. Lack of diversity in agriculture
31	H. Flood management	18	H. Flood management
28	O. Lack of diversity in agriculture	17	S. Renewable energy developments
26	M. Lack of coordination in land management	16	T. Landscape quality and change
24	J. Green finance and increasing land values	14	J. Green finance and increasing land values
24	N. Land ownership and single land use	14	M. Lack of coordination in land management
22	T. Landscape quality and change	13	N. Land ownership and single land use
21	U. Peatlands and carbon management	10	U. Peatlands and carbon management
14	E. Coastal issues	10	E. Coastal issues

## Appendix 2 Comments on the most commented on challenges

### Forestry expansion:

Kircudb2 'Forestry expansion is wrong against livestock production'

Selk: lack of diversity of woodland

Selk3: land commoditisation, lack of diversity

Lauder2: no more non-native plantations

Lauder2-ind: don't want forestry expansion! Too much in this area

Lauder3-ind: loss of land to forestry - impact on local hydrology / biodiversity / landscape character

Lauder4: poor forestry design in commercial timber and lack of access

squeezed middle debates

barriers to communication and understanding

need for forestry expansion - necessitating good design

continuing professional development for land based enterprises (and lack thereof)

insufficient incentive structures for land use change

natural capital support and payments

WL2: especially with commercial forestry

land use - providing jobs - massive change - commercial forestry does not employ local people

WL4: where to plant more trees? - need more native woodland

Moff3: mono species intensive forestry

Moff2: Vast tracts of land being planted with trees skewing land values is crazy. This is a prime example of possible unintended consequences!!! I think there's a good chance they will be putting chippers

Moff2: increased native woodland expansion. Essentially very low value but well funded.

Moff2: forestry / agricultural land use balance

Lock3: infrastructure is not fit for purpose, wood lorries on minor roads, planting on prime agricultural land rather than the rough grazing land - where it traditionally used to be planted on

Lock5: monoculture; grants for conifer

Lock6: wrong ground, not good Ag ground

Lock5: short term, large companies planting trees to offset rather than having to reduce their emissions; long term. We are taking too much food producing land out of production - long term if we have to import more food how is this supporting climate change?

Lock6: concern good farmland may go to trees; infrastructure (roads), planning disconnected

Lock6: forestry expansion on food producing land - being bought for more than a local farmer could pay

Annan1c: disrupts river ecology

Annan3: blanket planting; species choice

Sanq2: right tree right place

Sanq2b: correct trees in right place

NG1: lack of diversity and doesn't address 4 pillars. Huge resilience risk with respect to Carbon targets and timber supply

NG2: loss of land to commercial forestry

NG3: private monoculture forestry

NG3c: forestry had to be more enterprise thus overcoming lack of facility making them more popular and attractive

NG3d: Sitka spruce

Whit2: monoculture in conifers. Major impact on views in some places

Whit2a: forest land values

Duns1: lack of mgt - inappropriate planting

Duns1: lack of consistency and approach in forestry that impacts on biodiversity and red-listed

## **Demographic change and [lack of] jobs**

Selk1: ageing rural population / lack of employment opportunities for younger generation  
Kelso1: young people; very elderly  
WL1: two different things, both important  
WL2: linked to transport and affordable housing; efficiency mechanisation - financial pressures - reflected in house use - e.g. holiday cottages  
WLa: no lack of jobs but lack of staff  
WL3b: lack of country communities, Highland clearances  
WL5: lack of people to do jobs, not jobs  
Moff3: challenge of communities dying over winter due to second home proliferation  
Moff2: recruitment: doctors nurses dentists farm and forestry workers. Lots of work to be done but many young still leave the area and it's very difficult to entice them here. They don't seem to understand.  
Lock2: lack of jobs  
Lock2: lack of jobs specifically  
Lock5: loss of farm labour and skills post Brexit  
Annan1: creating jobs for young people  
Annan2: quality / career  
NG2: people appear to be reluctant to move to the area due to lack of employment opportunities but there ARE jobs. The model of multiple deprivation is not appropriate in rural situations like the Glenkens. It drives a focus on hardship, to get funding, which creates a perception that this area has little to offer and makes building local businesses and keeping wealth in the area difficult.  
NG3d: low population leading to poor infrastructure  
Eym4: focus on local employment opportunities  
Duns5: not lack of jobs, lack of young people

## **Lack of community involvement in land management**

Kirkc 4: L is problematic: windfarms pay out comm ben but it's hard for small communities to use it.  
Haw2: community ownership of land and assets  
Peeb2: ned to include / start with school  
Peeb5: lack of community education  
Kelso1: trust and dialogue'  
Kelso2: community and farmer engagement  
NG3: MEANINGFUL consultation with communities inc farming, forestry, renewables, infrastructure  
NG3a: proper community engagement in land use not the token gesture  
NG3b: lack of any genuine community consultation by private forestry and agriculture  
NG4: community bewildered by different public bodies (Agencies) - local authorities / forestry / Swestrans [?Sustrans?]  
NG4b: lack of meaningful community engagement  
Stranr1: e.g. Dandelion project which is currently funded but we need the community to take ownership. This is a social problem.  
Stranr2: working together with direction: e.g. food security above financialised land

## **Top down policy approach**

Kelso2: bottom up buy-in

WL4: lack of clear top-down requirements to reach net zero; need direction from government but also need community involvement

Lock1: short-termism

Lock2: rural policies are decided by govt who have a very limited knowledge of how rural Scotland actually works

example: SEPA and Forestry Commission these bodies advise govt on what the rules should be and also enforce them. There is no body to challenge the effectiveness of their policies, some of which clearly don't work.

Lock2: does not work for rural communities

Lock2: data driven approach needed

Lock2: listen to rural people no Glasgow driven policy

no nuances for Annan

Sanq2: regional priority

NG1: lack of meaningful community participation

Stranr2: remoteness of D&G in terms of priority to Govt

Duns1: lack of awareness of the expertise of rural practitioners and specialised knowledge and competencies

### **Renewable energy developments**

distribution / infrastructure

Peeb6: wind farm on deep peat, moorland

Kelso2: lack of national grid capacity for renewables

WL1: polarised views

WL3: planning deficit (illeg.)

W3a: can't get planning

Lock6: funding from windfarms - redirect to support local businesses - support for youth into agri, other industries etc

Annan3: improvement to infrastructure to allow renewables

NG3d: infrastructure

Stranr1a: renewable energy to provide free/ cheap energy to local people. This is happening in New Luce.

Whit2: excessive renewable developments - all for export from Scotland!

whit2a: excessive windfarms in number, scale and visual impact

### **Access, tourism and pressures arising**

Haw2: rights of responsible access: no locked gates

Lauder2: there's very little access across land (in Stow)(Lauder is better)

WL2: access rules vague / education of people. Community landowner partnerships. Potential conflict. Community vs visitors.

Lock2: unenforceability of the countryside access code

Lock2: road infrastructure needs improving

Lock2: educate on rural issues and litter crackdown

Lock6: responsible access is fantastic. I enjoy the local walks BUT we need to teach / support / encourage RESPONSIBLE use - teach in schools? Respecting land / livestock / responsible dog walking etc

Annan3: access to the land for the next generation

NG3: restricted access due to private interests inc. renewables, private forestry and agriculture

Stranr2: coordinating educated access and balancing competing needs

Stranr2a: lack of access to land to use for youth activities

## **Biodiversity decline and habitat loss**

Peeb1: in our view everything flows from Climate change and Biodiversity decline. Biodiversity restoration has a role to play, indeed it is central to adapting to climate change

Lauder2: these three (C, B, O) our group felt are all relevant in the same issue.

Need insects to pollinate crops.

Pesticides and fertilizers reduce biodiversity. Hedgerow loss that doesn't connect native woodlands.

WL3: what habitats? What proof?

WL4: uplands in poor condition - source of carbon - stocking - burning

Annan1b: land is intensively used; no space for wildlife

Sanq2: fragmentation

Sanq2a: access to nature enhancement

NG2: due to intensification of agriculture and commercial forestry

NG3d: e.g. sitka spruce

Whit2: especially in conifer forests

## **Agricultural viability**

Adding value more locally - micro abattoir etc

Sell produce locally - direct marketing

Haw1: reliance on subsidy

Lauder4: lack of uptake and understanding of responsibilities by public

WL2: permanent grassland being better than commercial forestry

true value of carbon capture - identifying permanent grassland as a carbon store

WL3: too much red tape - not viable

the wrong policy is detrimental to the end results of ag industry.

How are you measuring?

Displacement of current livestock

natural ecosystems disturbed

WL3a: long term food management

WL3b: they won't take agricultural jobs so will they do the work? Do community have the education and experience?

Moff3: intensive agriculture

Lang2: and lack of diversity

Lock5: loss of viability of small farms due to govt policies, food supply chains, economies of scale, systems and subsidies all for bigger farms

## Appendix 3 Full list of opportunities by frequency of selection

Items in red are additional to those offered in the menu.

Frequency	Opportunity
59	H. Local food production
48	B. Sustainable tourism and recreation
46	V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process
45	F. Rural employment in agriculture
42	R. Native woodland expansion
40	K. Regenerative agriculture
38	S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management
36	I. Farm diversification
35	P. Soil regeneration
29	M. Renewable energy
27	L. Natural flood management
26	C. Eco-tourism
22	G. Agroforestry
21	Z. Community owned energy
21	CC. Woodland expansion for climate change mitigation and adaptation
20	D. Historic and cultural heritage- tourism related opportunities
20	U. Regulation of green finance / green lairds
20	Q. Water quality
19	J. Rewilding
18	A. Development of recreational facilities
17	E. Historic and cultural heritage- strategic framework to address regional land use impacts
17	O. Natural capital investment
16	AA. Peatland restoration and carbon storage
11	X. Partnerships between private owners and public bodies to coordinate land management
10	W. Community commercial scale food growing
9	T. Forestry employment
6	Y. Policy design for fairer investment to enable shared benefits
6	BB. Stakeholder engagement to enable collaborative and bottom-up approach
5	climate change mitigation / carbon sequestration
5	more integrated land use
4	N. Coastal restoration
4	sustainable housing / policy
4	learning
3	nature restoration
3	biodiversity enhancement
2	water security
2	education for rural employment
2	diversification [employment >> agriculture]
2	green development / economy
2	land quality and population
2	communication infrastructure / public transport

- 2 investment and development
- 1 education of population - learn the Countryside Code; respect
- 1 motorway areas
- 1 public goods from private property
- 1 south east 500
- 1 Biosphere - investment and development
- 1 sustainable forestry
- 1 wildflower meadow creation
- 1 community action groups (Abundant Borders ...)
- 1 sustainability of land management
- 1 knowledge exchange - opportunities for global leadership
- 1 mosaic of land uses and nature networks
- 1 land ownership

Frequencies and ranks compared:

<b>opportunity</b>	<b>frequency standardised</b>	<b>rank standardised</b>
H. Local food production	100%	100%
B. Sustainable tourism and recreation	81%	83%
V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process	78%	73%
F. Rural employment in agriculture	76%	73%
R. Native woodland expansion	71%	60%
K. Regenerative agriculture	68%	72%
S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management	64%	56%
I. Farm diversification	61%	54%
P. Soil regeneration	59%	60%
M. Renewable energy	49%	49%
L. Natural flood management	46%	37%
C. Eco-tourism	44%	54%
G. Agroforestry	37%	30%
Z. Community owned energy	36%	34%
CC. Woodland expansion for climate change mitigation and adaptation	36%	31%
D. Historic and cultural heritage- tourism related opportunities	34%	44%
U. Regulation of green finance / green lairds	34%	21%
Q. Water quality	34%	20%
J. Rewilding	32%	26%
A. Development of recreational facilities	31%	40%
E. Historic and cultural heritage- strategic framework to address regional land use impacts	29%	40%
O. Natural capital investment	29%	28%



AA. Peatland restoration and carbon storage	27%	16%
X. Partnerships between private owners and public bodies to coordinate land management	19%	20%
W. Community commercial scale food growing	17%	12%
T. Forestry employment	15%	13%
Y. Policy design for fairer investment to enable shared benefits	10%	6%
BB. Stakeholder engagement to enable collaborative and bottom-up approach	10%	5%
climate change mitigation / carbon sequestration	8%	7%
more integrated land use	8%	11%
N. Coastal restoration	7%	5%
sustainable housing / policy	7%	8%
learning	7%	7%
nature restoration	5%	9%
biodiversity enhancement	5%	6%
water security	3%	6%
education for rural employment	3%	2%
diversification [employment >> agriculture]	3%	6%
green development / economy	3%	4%
land quality and population	3%	3%
communication infrastructure / public transport	3%	3%
investment and development	3%	6%
education of population - learn the Countryside Code; respect	2%	1%
motorway areas	2%	3%
public goods from private property	2%	3%
south east 500	2%	3%
Biosphere - investment and development	2%	3%
sustainable forestry	2%	1%
wildflower meadow creation	2%	3%
community action groups (Abundant Borders ...)	2%	1%
sustainability of land management	2%	3%
knowledge exchange - opportunities for global leadership	2%	3%
mosaic of land uses and nature networks	2%	3%
land ownership	2%	3%

## Appendix 4 Comments on the most commented on opportunities

### **H. Local food production 16 comments**

Lock3: more promotion of local food production, food use, reduce food miles

Lock2: to reduce the carbon footprint of our food

Lock2b: reduce C footprint from world trade. Don't allow cheap foreign food to be brought in instead of supporting local farmers.

Lock2e: domestic produce should be prioritised on shelves. Place tariffs on imports to help reduce carbon emissions and encourage Scottish agriculture

Lock5: support communities keen to get involved in small scale land management and production

Moff2c: coordinated land management to benefit soil, biodiversity, food security, carbon offset

WL1: including community food

WL2: everything centralised (abattoirs etc); premium / value in locally identified food

Lauder1: fewer food miles; naturally ripened food; known provenance; trust in the food; affordable farmers' markets and farm shops; market gardens and poly tunnels / vertical farming

NG3d: local and resilient (sustainable) land use and food production

Kelso1: and retail / marketing

Selk3: and adding value

Haw2: infrastructure for food production e.g. abattoir; local food incl for Glasgow and Edinburgh

Stranr1: make more of creating organic farming. This could be great for local s and tourists who can help with picking veg

Stranr2: OYSTERS! With balance

Duns1: with local slaughter / abattoir facilities

### **M. Renewable energy 13 comments**

Lock3: make use of Solway Firth tidal for renewable

WL4: make Scotland self sufficient

Annan1: challenges to secure community benefit; community ownership / shares / distribution

Lock2e: focus on improving the national grid infrastructure to enable more renewable energy projects

Lock1: renewable energy using water

Moff2a: solar and wind for electricity - need more and better grid connections. Then use electricity to produce hydrogen for heavy vehicles, care, tractors, trains etc. . Solar panels on uplands and on peat lands where wildlife and sheep can graze amongst them

Moff2d: increase in other green power - such as solar farms

Annan1a: in terms of giving communities funds to do this themselves - requires policy change

Lauder4: with the problems of grid connections

Selk1: solar, hydro, wind, air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps

Kirkc4: not wind but micro - hydropower and solar (with sheep grazing underneath)

Kirk5: as appropriate to setting

Kirk6: community owned / small scale (e.g. micro hydro)

### **CC. Woodland expansion for climate change mitigation and adaptation 12 comments**

Lock5: not monoculture conifers

Moff2c: emphasis on commercial conifer and well-designed multi-use forest

WL5: modern plantation forestry

Lauder2: not non-native forestry but native woodland expansion is great

Lauder4: and for biodiversity enhancement

NG3a: regenerative resilient agriculture and forestry: [illegible] biodiversity, community,

NG3a: appropriate mixed non-clearfell forestry

NG4: better balanced woodland expansion for climate mitigation, biodiversity and diversified species and recreation and public access

Peebles1: right tree in right place

Selk1: more diverse woodland cover

Haw2: NATIVE woodland

Duns1: holistic approach to forestry that considers impacts to biodiversity (i.e. not planting on carbon rich soils)

#### **F. Rural employment in agriculture 11 comments**

Jed5: Skills development / modern apprenticeships

Lock1: rural employment ACROSS ALL SECTORS

Lang2: rural employment: progressive, sustainable economic growth

WLF: change the education system

NG4: diverse rural employment

NG4d: rural employment in agriculture and forestry and energy and tourism / diversity

Peebles3: and rural housing (affordable)

Peeb6: learning and monitoring for colleges and universities

Selk1: rural jobs

Kirkc4c: must be considered and applied with regenerative agric, natural flood management, soil regeneration, restoration of ecological processes, native woodland expansion etc

Duns1: retain good permanent jobs that contribute to sustainability and the rural economy

#### **R. Native woodland expansion 7 comments**

Lock3: carbon credits for native woodland not spruce etc.

Lock5: small scale management of native woodland e.g. wood fuel. Incentives to sustainably manage small native woodlands

Lauder2: very important\*\*

NG1: in the best strategic places for wildlife and people. Through natural regen where possible.

AND!! Diversification of commercial forestry.

NG2: reversal of intensively managed land - restructuring / removal of commercial forestry, restorative agriculture, peatland restoration

Selk3: 'more diverse woodland cover'

Kirk4c: in the right place

#### **I. Farm diversification**

Lock6: not everyone has opportunity to diversify

Lock5: restructuring of agricultural and forestry support to favour small scale production and management

Moff2b: farm land ecosystem diversification - farmers should be helped, supported etc to turn 5-10% of their land in different ways to improve habitat ponds / waterways / hedges

Moff2d: by expansion of small to medium sized productive woodland

WL2: turbines, solar, holiday lets, enterprises, forestry, farm shops

WL3: renewable energy - one with less / no stuff

Lauder1: more mixed woods; farm business / shops ; hutting; glamping in farm woods; local food production

#### **V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process 7 comments**

WL2: e.g. Tweedsmuir community

Lauder4: connecting communities

Lauder4: integrating different views / needs into potential land use change

NG2: very pertinent but should also include implementation / delivery involvement

Kelso1: local community governance - community councils; place making; community mapping

Haw3: incl community councils

Stranr2: to use local knowledge to differentiate between 'targets' and appropriate land use - e.g. 250 000 ha of trees - some will fail if trees are planted on agri land that is too good. TREES for UPLANDS - NB this is creating pressure on good land for trees and upland NOT for trees (where they should be) as that is going UP UP UP ££ for carbon crediting

#### **B. Sustainable tourism and recreation 6 comments**

Kirkcud1: linked to ecotourism

Lock5: more than forestry and agricultural employment

Annan1: and education opportunities

Lauder2: tourism (biking walking etc) will encourage a more diverse use of land and allow more rewilding while still bringing money to local community

NG3b: access; right to roam

Eyem2: and education

#### **S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management**

Moff1: benefits of biodiversity habitats and ecosystem protection for natural capital e.g. River Annan and Moffat Water

Lauder1: riparian woodland; dendritic structure; beavers; re-wiggling rivers; rewilding; dead trees in rivers; peatland restoration

SAnq2: which would support NFM *and other environmental benefits*

Kelso2: we are ecosystem engineers - we have the skills and opportunities to change ours for the better

Selk1 and 3: 'mosaic of land uses and nature networks'

Haw1: and to support carbon management

## Appendix 5 Suggestions under 'other considerations'

### Decision-making processes – 42 suggestions

- any links with Borderlands?
- Avoid over-complicating
- awards seem to be abundant but communication and support seems lacking
- cash to make good ideas happen!
- clear chains of responsibility and influence
- common theme:  
integrated land use  
community involvement
- concerns over the Scottish Government's ability to listen from people on the ground in both agriculture and tourism
- Consider making the language a bit more user friendly i.e.. Most don't understand 'natural capital'
- continue the conversations
- encourage joined up community involvement
- feedback session from these sessions; follow with action
- Good design and planning leads to good outcomes
- greater publicity for these events
- how do you deal with the perception that the consultation is to evidence what you want?
- how do you satisfy yourselves that the participants are representative and not a self-selecting group?
- how to encourage more holistic approaches to land use and management (inc flood mitigation, climate change, biodiversity, access, recreation, viability of local communities)
- Improved communications
- it would be good to take a more targeted approach to consultation by tapping into existing networks (TSI?) and communities of interest
- jargon
- language barriers in terms of understanding terminology
- let good farmers do what they are good at  
don't interfere
- listen to locals not investors
- local councils must be given much more autonomy to tailor government legislation to suit their area. Central Glasgow needs very different legislation to D&G
- NGB. Speed up planning
- other people make or want to make decisions with little knowledge or understanding (including lack of understanding of financial impacts of management of land)
- partnership working
- People who are involved in Local Government Planning to engage and consult in communities!
- please ensure those people who have engaged in this process are kept updated as this progresses
- REAL decentralisation of decision making
- revolution
- speed up planning
- structured approach to this region becoming NET ZERO (sustainably) without damaging our natural world (protective of all life forms) and make sure our grandchildren are protected (inheritance!!)

- take this seriously - it matters! Time presses!
- Time is short. How much time will be lost at committee level when the time is for action
- Timescale. Carsphairn got 14% of the National Planting target consented in 2021. How much of our landscapes will be left by 2023?
- to use local knowledge to differentiate between 'targets' and appropriate land use
- tokenistic community engagement, designed to keep people quiet while the grown-ups get on with extracting value from our landscapes for private benefit
- try to break vicious circle of aggressive commercial proposals - poor governance - poor transparency - doing [illeg?] community engagement to fall
- use plain language - kill the jargon
- where is the true power? If Mairi McAllan says we can't fix the climate crisis by exacerbating the biodiversity crisis, and SOSE and SLC agree, why is more land being planted with Sitka every month with no oversight or brake?
- where tensions occur it is important to think of novel ways to overcome them. An example would be where tension around windfarm development is overcome by introducing community ownership of them.
- work on inclusive engagement - this isn't always most accessible through direct consultation

### **Governance structures (34 suggestions)**

- a more joined up approach to applications - forestry, development, renewables, carbon schemes
- Advisory board requires more than 3 representatives. They must have specialist and technical environmental and / or farming and wildlife knowledge.
- Advisory Council to support future Pilot Partnership Board
- community / rural delegation  
local decision making
- community planning / parish / area pilots
- devolve decision making as local as possible. It's really easy to decide that Galloway is excellent for sequestering Carbon if you've never been there and never seen the unintended consequences
- direct channels between communities and government
- Embed LU Framework in decision making (statutory)
- get a direct high level sponsor for RLUP issues
- Guidance from central government is essential
- how can there be collaboration between this process and emerging local place plans and Borderland place plans
- key to successful land use policy to satisfy diverse priorities and regional differences is a flexible collaborative outcome focused approach with top down, high level priorities met by bottom up ideas and actions
- Lack of cohesion at SG level - consultations on Land Reform, Biodiversity, Good Food etc etc, all at the same time. Gives no confidence that there's going to be a holistic solution
- less bureaucracy to facilitate growth and innovation - streamlined regulation
- local agency / authority to negotiate and use local resources for ecotourism / local food etc
- lots of legislation that is not very helpful - e.g. Paying SEPA to deal with river bank erosion before you can access
- making the outcome of this process meaningful and enforceable
- mandatory scoping (in writing and in person) with community prior to 'permitting' (with community required to respond in writing within e.g. 28 days of meeting); applies to renewables, forestry, agriculture, infrastructure, mines, quarrying etc.
- must have long term perspective and cross party support

- must tie in to other plans (LDP, F&WS, etc)
- partnership working across green investment
- planning rules for forestry applications need to be changed to give greater weight to community considerations
- planning system being a block to building more homes; building industry jobs; and local development
- planning system is too complex and slow - needs reformed
- Proportional penalties for land use abuse
- representation of advisory group - especially given Economic focus of REP
- RLUP should be statutory or danger that it becomes a "Talking Shop"
- RLUPS should be longer term for future generations (watch for unintended consequences!)
- Stranraer no longer has a chamber of commerce
- the complications around farm tenancies, housing tenancies, forestry regs - rural economies are very complicated and [illeg] and more resources for stakeholders would be helpful
- Top down policy is needed on some things but locally e.g. (Community Council) involvement and listened to and put into local actions
- vagueness / ineffectiveness of strategy
- Will people invest enough in RLUP / F if it has no powers and limited influence?

### **Balance of land use (28 suggestions)**

- balance current land uses with demand for afforestation and carbon credit schemes soon
- better composting facilities and techniques
- commercial forestry - right tree in right place.  
Longer term view  
consider traffic  
consider future use / landscape change  
more consultation
- commercial forests to be diversified with native species when clearfelled / restocked
- control of wild fire to reduce risk of large scale carbon release.  
Managing fuel load
- Cumulative effects: when is enough enough? (of anything - farming, housing, forestry, wind farms etc etc)
- experiment with different land / forestry management options e.g. continuous cover forestry, natural regeneration, commercial broadleaves tec.
- farming v trees: if food is imported it could be of lower quality and lower standard
- Focus tends to be on farming, forests, moors etc. Urban environments overlooked but are a vital element in the landscape. [agreed]
- how to stop farms being sold for conifer forestry without recognition of ecological or other significance
- Important to understand that taking sheep off the hills is the answer to everything. Tree planting and lack of rural jobs all connected to this. Because there are no jobs - people move and hotels, shops, schools close down.
- In terms of scenery, much of Scotland and the Borders looks the way it does because of the way it has been farmed historically and more recognition should be given that those who live and work rurally tend to be very aware of the current biodiversity [agreed]
- land use in urban areas
- local horticulture to cut food miles.  
Allotments and benefits they give the community
- local opportunity for local people to grow their own food

- monoculture conifer forestry destroying good habitat and destroying the look and ecology of the landscape
- multiple benefits of land use - food production - biodiversity - climate change etc.
- National predator management to help protect lots of red listed species of ground nesting birds, hedge hogs and red squirrels
- native woodland expansion - very good idea
- need to balance land use for food production while also protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- protection of natural areas, heritage and landscape for future generations to prosper from tourism
- regarding upland land use and woodlands:  
We need a national long-term quantitative strategy for 'native' and timber-producing woodlands. This needs to be then subdivided into smaller units.
- Stats and graphs on present land use
- subsurface environmental impact; minerals and water impact. Infrastructure both above and below surface
- the challenge is in the conflict of interests between sectors
- water scarcity is the pressing issue in a time of increasing climate change
- why not do the full scoping and design exercise for land going for big forestry, before land is put up for sale, not afterwards?
- Wildflower meadow creation:  
in 1945 there were 2.5 million ha of wildflower meadow in the UK. Now only 10-20 000 ha remain (Peterken - Meadows -British Wildflower collection).  
During the same period there has been a massive decline in insect biomass. Perhaps 85% since the 1980s. (Dave Goulson study on German national parks, now work is being done which indicates this scale of decline exists across the whole of Western Europe).  
Natural unimproved and semi-improved grassland and restored meadows provide a massive boost in insect numbers and a dramatic improvement in soil health and carbon capture capacity

### **Use of subsidies / incentives / investment (27 suggestions)**

- adequate funding for delivery
- align farming grants and subsidies with environment and biodiversity objectives
- any investment should be given to Scottish banks
- Assistance to owners of native semi-ancient woodland to maintain / protect.
- Better requirements for afforestation: not monoculture; we need carbon retention in grown timber (to be grown for construction, not fuel) so not spindly sitka planted to meet density requirements for subsidy
- financial investment
- grant pricing and integration into the incentives structures
- green lairds: complete scam, need to stop
- incentives to participate and deliver objectives - funding
- individual grants for householders to embrace renewables
- integration of public funds into private land use!
- List of present funding sources streams which support climate change and biodiversity
- more grants to plant native woodlands and encouragement
- more support for community change
- need for continuing funding for community initiatives set up with capital funding
- need for grants / incentives / policies to encourage cooperative working between landowners / managers to allow the development of habitat networks



- Need to improve facilities for tourism if we want to increase visitor numbers - so investment needed
- pollution from farms into waterways - polluters pay: cost of pollution deducted from land value
- Power of big business, forestry, green lairds is currently 'favoured' by the tax and policy regime
- practical, valued application of Natural Capital. Be able to see equivalent costs.
- providing support to landowners / managers on opportunities for land use diversification for climate change mitigation and biodiversity and incentivise
- removal of grants for energy companies
- removing single-species conifer option from FGS
- some residents get a LEP payment in DG14 but others don't - it's a line drawn on a map. The LEP payment is made to each household who applies (once) - currently £211 / annum. Why aren't all residents in a windfarm zone getting these payments? (current take-up about 35%!!)
- Stop government subsidising new exploitation of fossil fuels
- support for local communities -
  - land based roles
  - training opps
  - local circular economy opps
- windfarm money to landscape projects via SF as locational premium

### **Rural population and housing (26 suggestions)**

- Affordable rural housing
- Allow building esp. for old building. 'Older' community members need smaller houses. We don't all need large houses
- Allow us to build houses for locals
- better insulation in houses. Solar panels on roof
- connectivity and infrastructure - how to keep people in the Borders / SoS
- Consider development of derelict buildings etc before using up more productive land.
- cost effective house small single storey housing
- finding employees a challenge in the Borders
- holiday / 2nd homes
- housing
- housing
- Housing - granting consent due to recent house price rises
- how to stop young people leaving, more opportunities for young people - what role can land play?
- impact of tourism - Airbnb's, second homes - on sustainability of local communities
- land for family housing
- low cost housing
- mental wellbeing of community
- protecting small rural schools to avoid closure
- recognise that although there are a few bad landowners the majority have nurtured the land and left us the legacy of the Borders landscape in parallel with food production and employment, that has left us with the Border towns and villages and settlements i.e. we need people
- Redundant buildings for housing
- repurposing heritage / unused buildings
- rural housing - more relaxed rural planning policy and affordable
- rural poverty
- rural repopulation - jobs / affordable homes beyond agriculture and tied housing

- sustainable rural communities
- too many second homes

### **Stakeholders (24 suggestions)**

- balanced power in decision making mechanisms is important (investors, land managers, community, businesses)
- community councils as statutory consultee - must represent community
- conflict: farmers / public
- consider the views of our youth
- effective engagement with young people, old people and vulnerable people
- encouraging the community to support landowners as well as landowners supporting community
- engaging children and young people in all the issues being discussed this evening
- farmers need to be more understanding / communicative as we have the right to roam. Dogs can be under control on lead but farmers still threaten to shoot the dogs
- get rid of the silos! Stop thinking about all these things in isolation
- Horses - access, income generation
- how to engage the youngsters within the region
- lack of young people, farmers, local businesses who provide land services
- Landowners' take many different forms - from local people invested in their community to corporate investors who don't care at all. Have to differentiate
- let's have all stakeholders around the table
- listen to locals not investors
- local knowledge - local experts contribution
- ownership of land is key: whoever owns the land gets to say what happens with that land,. When a small number of people own vast amounts of land it can be used just for their interests - when communities own land they represent a wide range of interest in land use and land use can be more integrated -> wider benefits
- Please remember landowners in this area are usually involved in the community and want the best for the area :-)
- scale of change should have an equally proportionate level of input from other stakeholders
- support for local orgs doing impactful work e.g. Galloway Glens, Loch Ken Trust, SoS community housing
- those with a loud voice having a sense of ownership at the expense of the people who live on the land
- to create a cohesion of all to enable a fairer opportunities
- very important that local communities are involved in these processes
- voice of youth

### **Local enterprise and broadband (21 suggestions)**

- communications - better broadband! Taking too long!!
- Connectivity
- Connectivity (Wifi)
- fast broadband
- how can the local creative industries be involved and partner in these schemes?
- improved communication of attractions
- improvement of energy networks

- lack of belief that the town will succeed and therefore, lack of investment in businesses and properties.
- lack of entrepreneurial and enterprise support and training
- lack of understanding of possible job opportunities. There should be job shows in a nice hotel. Make people feel special.
- livestock processing plant  
potential mobile facilities / regulations on farm processing to reduce food miles and stress of animals
- local wool processing facility and hemp
- several companies locally cannot find people to employ to replace workers who retire. There is a MASSIVE need to train more skilled UK works who can do these jobs
- shared modern apprenticeships
- South of Scotland as an attractive place to do business and to visit
- support local investment to support growth and provide livelihoods
- support young people into land based jobs, and recreation - encourage outdoors, protect greenspaces for future generations
- sustainable and productive jobs
- sustainability - local jobs
- tourism and recreation markets could be so much bigger and better appreciated
- ways of communicating - broadband restrictions - working environment

#### **Scale and place (17 suggestions)**

- 20 minutes towns where everything is available on a 20 minute walk
- Annan - "Climate Ready Town" but no one knows??
- closer integration between countryside and settlements. I agree integration is required!
- D&G and Borders are too different areas to be together
- How will / can this work at national level?  
Would this be better focusing at regional level?
- I don't see the countryside functioning well until rural policies are formulated by people who genuinely understand how the countryside works
- impacts of changes in land use on rural social structure, viability of schools, shops, pubs
- Integration of rural and urban communities is important but often 'set against each other'
- local landscape scale collaboration incentivising clusters, supporting top-down strategy
- locally identified community needs
- Make D&G self-sustaining - food production, energy , jobs, decrease carbon footprint and decrease food miles  
Regional production / manufacture
- Maybe promote a SOSE brand for products produced in our areas - food and other products!
- Place principle' integrated into framework
- re-localisation (see NZ environment courts)
- sub-regional groups (Wigtownshire, Stewartry, Nithsdale etc) - feed into RLUP
- The people of the town need more self-belief. This is a social problem.
- Towns linked to their catchment areas economically etc - with jobs, food production etc

#### **Wider context (16 suggestions)**

- area is given higher profile
- Brexit / IndyRef2

- broader historical awareness: how did land ownership here and in wider Borders get as it is; ditto for landscape
- confusion around independence
- controlling price of land
- eco-anxiety - a form of anxiety / depression affecting people concerned with the environment and climate crisis
- how to convince Scottish government of the non-monetary value of land use and management so sale of farms is not dictated by forestry financial benefits
- Language surrounding 'Twin Challenge' needs addressing. We are at least facing: Climate crisis, biodiversity crisis, food crisis! Economic! And more.  
WWF address the triple challenge: food, climate and biodiversity!
- look beyond financial terms : well-being economy
- net zero / sustainable life as no. 1 priority
- respect local history/ heritage, cultures, rural way of life etc
- Rural Scotland is most of Scotland  
if we want to achieve the big strategic goals we NEED to invest in RLUP
- Scot Gov provides direction on public / private funding governance
- UK is not self-sufficient in food
- we have the knowledge but it doesn't pay!
- will independence affect any of these findings?

#### **Sustainable transport (16 suggestions)**

- better alternative bike and foot paths and bridle ways to access the area
- buses - transport linkages
- consideration of active travel route / cycle paths
- coordinated cycle route network
- improve railway - never runs on time / often cancelled
- Improved public transport links
- infrastructure - roads, public transport,
- old railway footpath: Portpatrick - Stranraer -N. Stewart - Whithorn
- please consider lending support to re-opening Beattock railway station - a form of 'green' transport which could transform Moffat and area
- public transport links
- Rail: New Luce to Glenluce
- restore railway Wigtown to Newton Stewart
- sustainable travel between spaces
- sustainable transport
- transport - land devoted to infrastructure e.g. parking, roads - more paths and cycling
- transport relative to land based industries