South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership
Phase 2 Stakeholder Engagement Report

Executive Summary

The South of Scotland has been chosen by the Scottish Government as one of five Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilots. The aim of each pilot is to establish a collaborative Partnership structure and develop a Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF) identifying land use changes that support national climate change and biodiversity objectives. This report covers phase 2 of the pilot which aimed to establish the South of Scotland RLUP and to develop the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework. The objectives for phase 2 included stakeholder collaboration in the development of the RLUF, adoption of a broad natural capital approach that 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; and identification of regional priorities/objectives for RLUF development.

The programme of work was structured around a 6-step process: building the baseline; understanding drivers of change in land use; exploring the opportunities for land use change to boost multiple nationally and locally needed benefits; investigating tensions and trade-offs between managing land for different benefits and then identifying land use change opportunities so that recommendations could be made for regional land use priorities/objectives for the RLUF.

Stakeholder engagement activities were split into two rounds, each consisting of a combination of face-to-face workshops distributed across the region and a smaller number of online workshops. Round 1 events helped to identify: the key benefits participants perceived they get from the land; the key challenges that are most important to address to ensure that key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced; and the opportunities which they thought were the most important to ensure that key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced. The second round of workshops was designed to explore how these challenges should be addressed through land-use change while at the same time seeking to deliver national targets for climate and nature. They also sought to identify perceptions of key trade-offs and points of potential conflict.

The findings from this research have provided a rich and complex range of insights into local people's perceptions of land use issues and opportunities across the South of Scotland. The latter sections of the report distil some key recommendations for the RLUF based on an initial analysis of the data and drawing links with relevant research and policy developments. Recommendations for regional land use priorities are set out, followed by recommendations on the potential for nature-based solutions, shaping the RLUF process and delivering impact through RLUFs. The report concludes with a concise summary of recommended next steps to develop the RLUF.

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Appendices

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:

1. 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
2. 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
3. signposting public and private funding opportunities

1.1 Objectives of RLUP Pilot project

The development of the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership is being undertaken in **three phases**. The phases are described below, and this document relates to Phase 2 only.

- Phase 1: Aimed to develop governance and build stakeholder relationships that will enable the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership to function. The Phase 1 report can be accessed on the Consultation Hub.
- Phase 2: Aims to establish the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership and to develop the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework.
- Phase 3 Will deliver the objectives in the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework.

LUC and the Southern Uplands Partnership are assisting South of Scotland Enterprise to deliver Phase 2 of the pilot.

The **specific RLUP objectives for Phase 2** (2022/23) 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.

2 Background

2.1 Policy context

RLUPs and RLUFs

The commitment to create Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs) emerged from the national Land Use Strategy as a platform for change to achieve Scottish Government's ambitions for sustainable land use, 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 in to 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 chose South of Scotland as one of five Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilots. They stated that the RLUPs 'will help national and local government, communities, landowners 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 December 2023. The RLUF must be developed in a collaborative way engaging stakeholders throughout the process. Each RLUF will include:

- How the RLUP objectives align with Scottish Government 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 Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.[1]
- 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 RLUF will be updated to ensure its validity

Wider policy context

The RLUP pilots are taking place within the context of a wider policy landscape that is dynamic and places multiple demands on land use. Key emerging policy areas include:

- National Planning Framework (NPF4) – a long term plan for Scotland, setting out where development and infrastructure is needed. It guides spatial development, sets out national planning policies, designates national developments and highlights regional spatial priorities. Key principles include just transition and rural revitalisation.
- Regional Spatial Strategies - The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new duty requiring the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) for Scotland. RSSs will focus on the delivery of the regional spatial priorities set out in NPF4. They will be prepared by a planning authority, or authorities acting jointly to consider the strategic development of their area. Whilst not carrying statutory weight, RSSs will have an important role to play in informing Local Development Plans.
- Local Place Plans – are part of the Scottish Government's wider work on planning reform and implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The aim is to significantly enhance engagement in development planning, effectively empowering communities to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places by setting out their proposals for the use and development of land.

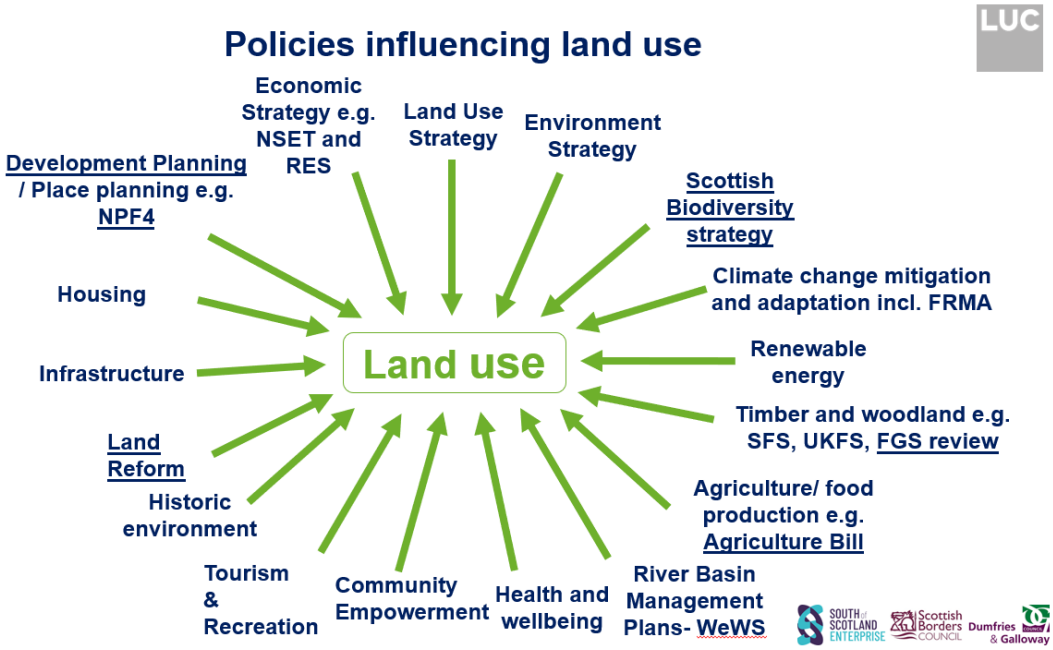
[1] https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-2045-tackling-nature-emergency-scotland/

- National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) - sets out the Scottish Government's priorities for Scotland's economy and the programmes, projects and actions it will lead to achieve a transformed economy. A just transition and new market opportunities will be targeted for Scotland, much of which are stated to require improved land use, including the use of sustainable farming and forestry, nature restoration, eco-tourism, and nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Agriculture Bill – is currently in consultation and seeks to revise agricultural policy in Scotland to respond to the challenges of exit from the EU, the pandemic and the threat of climate change. Among its proposed initiatives are direct payments for mitigation-supporting land-use changes, revised agricultural support packages to reward similar mitigation actions, modernised agricultural tenancies to support non-traditional land-use activities and other policy and financial packages to support economic transformation initiatives in rural areas.
- Land Reform – the Scottish Government has been consulting on land reform since 2003 and has passed bills and legislation to support community rights and other revisions to land ownership. A new Land Reform Bill is in progress – 'Land Reform in a Net Zero Nation' – and has just finished consultations.
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) - sets out the role of farmers, crofters and land managers in tackling climate change and biodiversity. Key actions include: Tackling habitat fragmentation; Restoring peatland and protecting soils; Development of local projects to improve ecological connectivity; Extending the area protected for nature. Delivery Plans are being developed for the SBS.
- Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) review – The FGS offers financial support for the creation of new woodland and sustainable management of existing woodland. A public consultation is taking place this year to advise on how the scheme could better support the Scottish Government's priorities of Net Zero, biodiversity, community wealth building and the economy.
- South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy – the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership has developed a strategy for the region for economic prosperity. Within its theme of a 'green and sustainable economy' is a priority to harness the region's natural capital with significant implications for land-use. It therefore seeks further embracing of innovation and technology to support tourism; protect biodiversity; lower carbon footprints; and develop nature-based solutions.
- SoSE has also published a 5-year plan which references the RLUP process[2]

The wide range of policy influences on land use in Scotland are summarised in figure 1 below.

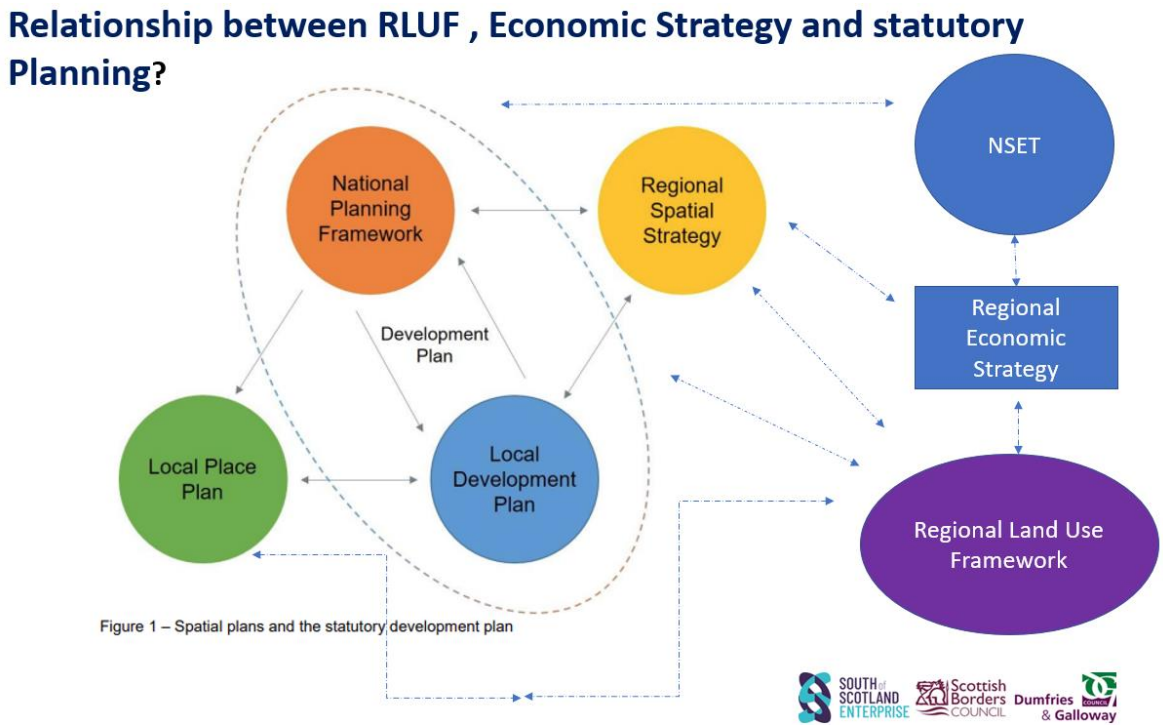
[2] https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/media/1942/our-five-year-plan.pdf

Figure 1: Policies influencing land use



The potential relationship between the RLUP/RLUF, NPF4 and the NSET and Regional Economic Strategy is illustrated in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Potential relationship between RLUF, Economic Strategy and statutory planning



Similar questions about land use change are now being explored in England. For example, the Land Use in England Committee of the House of Lords came out with a report in December 2022 highlighting *"the challenges and opportunities of a new environment where nature and biodiversity*

restoration, carbon sequestration, new development and infrastructure needs and the role of the land for energy, access and wellbeing are all taking on a greater priority." They proposed the development of a land use framework (sitting above county-scale 'local nature recovery strategies') to help landowners, managers and other decision makers to make the most appropriate decisions for land. This would clarify land use priorities and focus on multifunctionality i.e. delivering multiple benefits in the same locations. The UK Government has subsequently committed to develop a land use framework for England by the end of 2023.

2.2 Earlier work

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; and 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

Governance

Following this initial phase of work, it was felt there was merit in using existing structures to support the RLUP pilot and the RLUP was aligned with the Regional Economic Partnership (REP, https://sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk/) which also agreed to oversee establishment of supporting governance including a technical Advisory Group (AG) of stakeholders, It was agreed that the REP would have oversight of the RLUP process and development of the RLUF and align outcomes to the Regional Economic Strategy. The REP brings together wide and relevant representation aligning well with the requirements of the RLUP. The aim of the AG was to provide additional technical support to the REP with broad stakeholder representation for community, land use and statutory sectors and to support the development and recommendations of the RLUF. The RLUF will be presented for final approval by the two Local Authorities and SOSE. Any key decisions about the RLUF process would remain with [3]the two Local Authorities and SOSE, informed by the REP drawing on advice from the AG.

The AG was subsequently established alongside commencement of Phase 2 of the pilot in late 2022. This has fed into the progress of this research alongside the Officer Steering Group and REP.

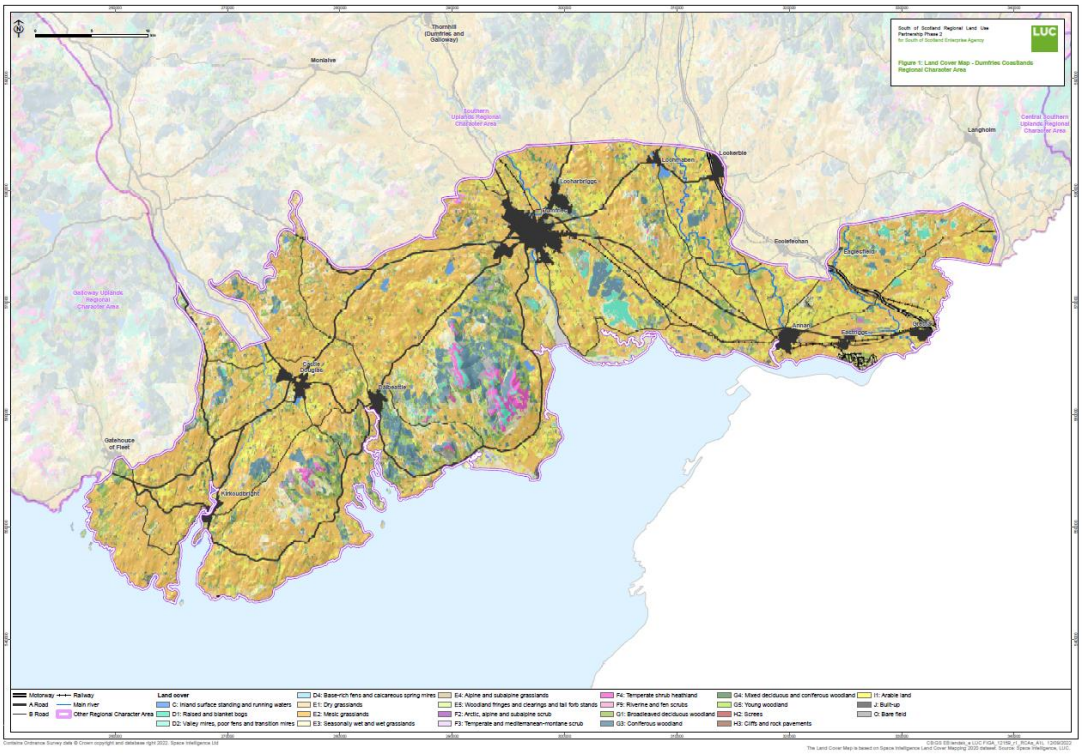
2.3 Project area

The pilot area covers the whole of the two local authorities: Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway (D&G), an area of more than 11,000 square kms. The land ranges from the Rhins of Galloway in the West to the Berwickshire coast in the East and from south of the central belt of Scotland in the North to the border with England. Within this, we have everything from high hills to coastal mudflats and from prime agricultural land to recognised "wildland".

[3] https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-2045-tackling-nature-emergency-scotland/

Land use mapping was produced for each Regional Character Area showing the key land uses, as illustrated by the example for Dumfries Coastlands below. The maps can be viewed in full detail on the online Consultation Hub page at: https://south-scotland-regional-land-use-partnership-pilot-luc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/phase-2-workshop-materials

Figure 3: Example of land cover map



Dominant habitat types across South of Scotland include mesic grassland (grasslands with a moderate supply of moisture such as pastures, hay meadows and improved grassland), arable land, dry and wet grassland and coniferous forestry, as indicated by the land cover statistics below.

Table 1: Summary habitat statistics for South of Scotland, 2020

Land cover	Ha
Mesic grassland	267,683
Arable	117,392
Dry grassland	116,069
Seasonally wet /wet grassland	100,324
Coniferous Forestry	100,052
Broadleaved Woodland	72,678
Shrub heathland	67,747
Raised or blanket bog	62,066

Source: SLAM-Map (NatureScot/Space Intelligence, 2021)

These land cover statistics are broadly reflected in economic data on agriculture, forestry and fishing in the South of Scotland, with most people employed in crop and animal production and also substantial though smaller numbers employed in forestry (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Employment in primary industries in South of Scotland

	D&G	Scottish Borders
Crop & animal production	8000	4000
Forestry & logging	600	600
Fishing & aquaculture	175	75
Mining & quarrying	75	30

Source: South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy. Technical Paper: Rural Development Best Practice Review (July 2021).

3 Methodology

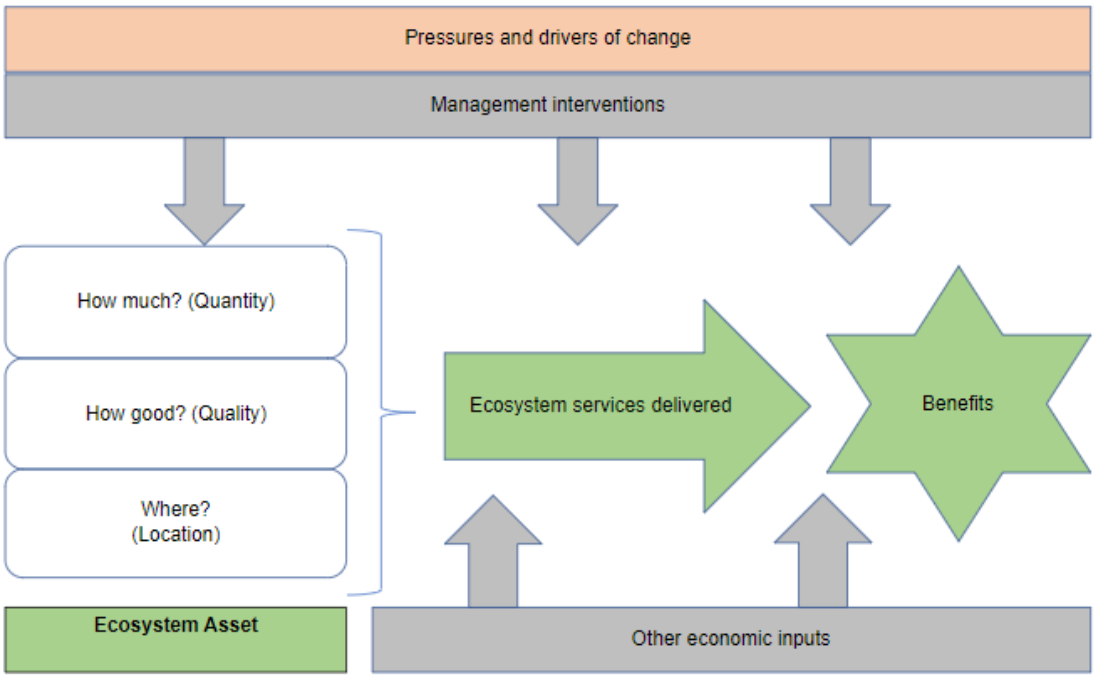
3.1 Overall approach

The focus of this project was on piloting a partnership structure to deliver a collaborative, inclusive approach to land use decision making, involving a representative range of stakeholders ("accounting for the diversity of landscapes and land uses in our region and ensuring that communities, the land use sector and public bodies are engaged in the process") and using a natural capital approach (see below) and associated mapping (drawing on available GIS data).

Natural capital approach

This research was informed by the natural capital approach. This involves viewing land as an asset that delivers a range of ecosystem services and benefits that flow from them (see figure 4 below). To sustain the flow of benefits we need to protect and manage these assets. The location of natural capital assets is a key consideration because this impacts the provision of some ecosystem services and also who benefits (e.g. location is important for flood regulation and recreation).

Figure 4: The natural capital framework



Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-enca-guidance/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-guidance

A natural capital approach seeks to explain how and why nature is important for people by viewing nature as an asset, or set of assets, which benefit people. It helps people to understand how positive management of these assets can increase the flow and quality of benefits to different beneficiaries, whilst actions that damage natural capital are likely to do the reverse.

Adopting this approach helps to support an inclusive, holistic and integrated approach to land use and helps to identify priority opportunities to invest in nature-based solutions and deliver multiple ecosystem service benefits, as promoted by the Dasgupta Review[4]. Using this approach also reduces the risk of the value of the natural environment (whether monetised or not) being ignored or under-appreciated in decisions, leading to unintended consequences.

[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review

6-step process

Early in the process and informed by the project objectives set out in section 1, a **6-step process** was developed to structure the overall programme of work. Building on the work completed in phase 1 the research sought to explore the following questions:

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 and strategic/cross-area land use change opportunities

Leading to identification of:

6. **Recommendations** for "regional land use priorities/objectives" (defined in 'ends' section above) for the RLUF.

3.2 Method for consultation round 1

The first consultation round aimed to tackle steps 1 to 3 of the process set out above. 18 "in-person" evening workshops were arranged across the Region with 2 additional events held on-line. Each event aimed to attract around 30 participants from as broad a range of interests as possible. See map in Figure 5 overleaf.

Round 1 face to face workshops

At each event, people were asked to self-identify as a particular interest group (from a suggested list of 19 interests ranging from land-owner to forester to conservationist to community rep) (see Appendix 1.2)

People were then asked to work in groups of between 3 and 6 to agree a list of about 5 "challenges" they saw in relation to land-use. Again, a list of issues identified at the earlier consultation round was provided to inspire, but people were encouraged to add to this list. Groups were asked to try to agree a priority order for these challenges, (see Appendix 1.3).

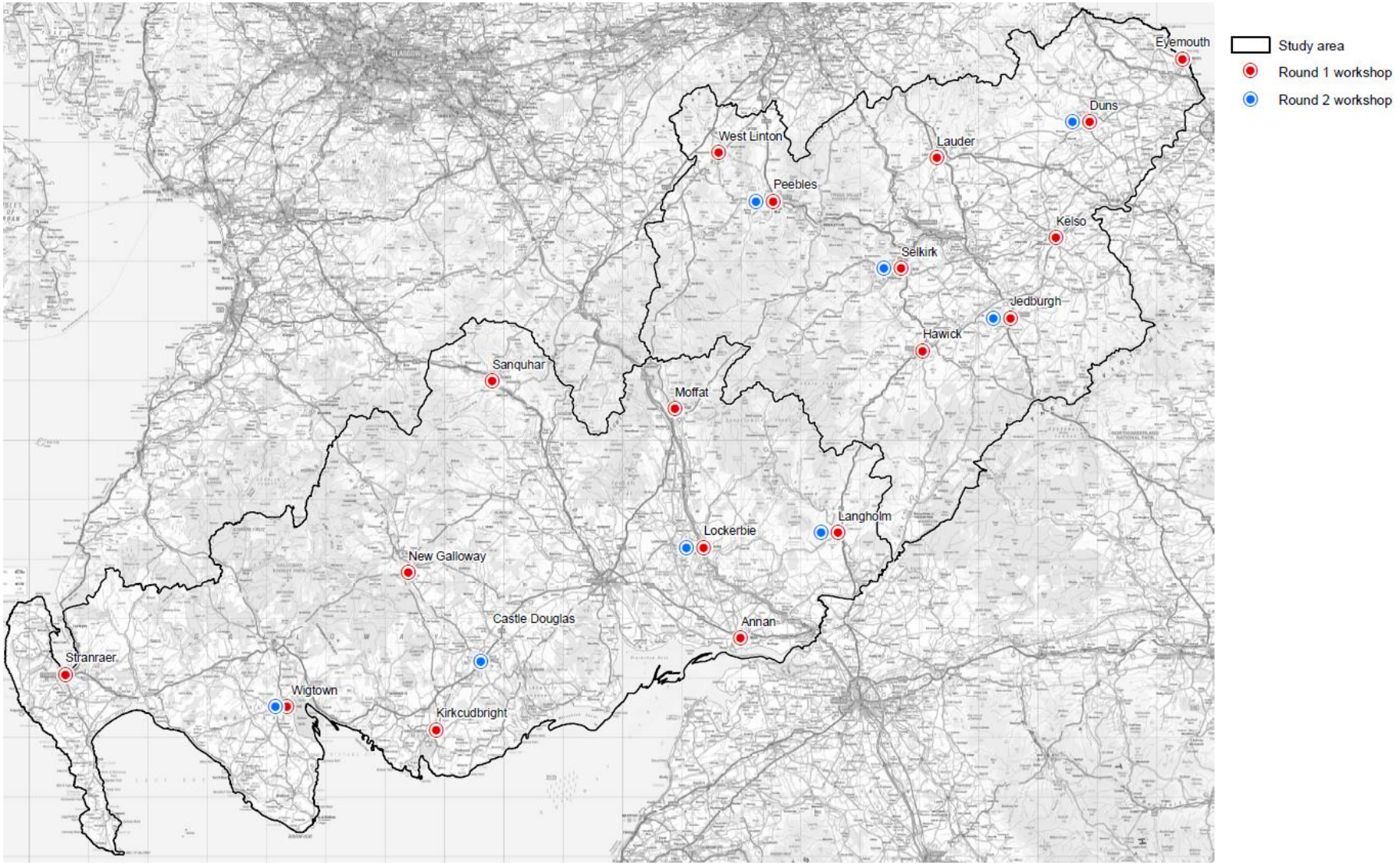
Participants were asked to record where there were disagreements.

The next stage was similar, but asked people to try to agree a list of opportunities and again to order them by priority (full list is in Appendix 1.4).

Finally, all participants were invited to make a note of anything they thought the RLUP should take into consideration.

Participants were asked to link all comments to the individual's "interest group" through a self-identifier number.

Figure 5: Workshop Locations for Consultation Rounds 1 and 2



The workshop venues had a number of maps and charts on the walls for people to look at before the start and at any point during the workshops. (See Appendix 1.6)

The data was collected after about 90 minutes.

A fuller description of the method is given in Appendix 1.

Round 1 Online Workshop Sessions

For the two online workshops (one for each of the Borders and D&G) we adapted materials and processes from the live events and reduced the overall event time to 90 minutes. Sessions were held on Microsoft Teams which supported use of virtual breakout groups. The first 30 minutes were used for scene setting with a presentation and question round followed by a 60-minute workshop.

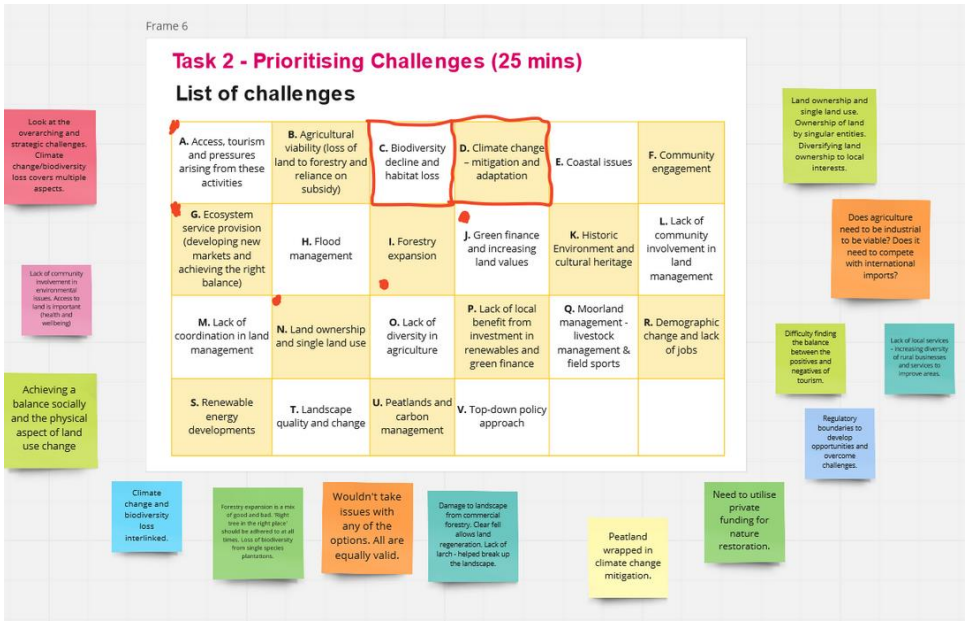
Based on the number of people booking the event, a series of virtual breakout rooms was set up with each having a facilitator and scribe. People were randomly allocated to a room on entering the meeting and were automatically transferred at the end of the presentation to that room.

The workshop materials were adapted so they could be loaded to a range of Miro boards in advance of the meeting. Delegates were invited to self-identify their interest from 19 categories and list the benefits from the land in their place via the chat function. Miro boards were prepopulated with the lists of challenges and opportunities and attendees requested to discuss these. Comments were recorded on virtual post it notes and the groups were requested to prioritise their selections.

Further comments people felt the RLUP should consider were also recorded.

All comments were transcribed, collated and analysed as part of Round 1 data.

Example of Online Workshop Board



3.3 Method for consultation round 2

Having identified the priority challenges and opportunities perceived by participants (and confirmed that views had been heard from a reasonable range of different stakeholders), the second round of workshops was designed to explore how these challenges and opportunities could be addressed through land-use change while at the same time seeking to deliver the national targets for climate and nature. It became clear that what some saw as a “challenge” others saw as an “opportunity” so it was agreed to merge the lists to create a combined list of “issues” that could then be considered further. We also wanted to start to identify key trade-offs and points of potential conflict. 8 in-person events were held, again covering the whole region. Ideally, these workshops would have taken place in all the previous locations but resources and timescales did not allow this.

In this round we also explored the topics of policy and process relating to the RLUP in further depth. This was in response to participants making significant reference to these issues in the first consultation round. These topics were the subject of 2 on-line workshops.

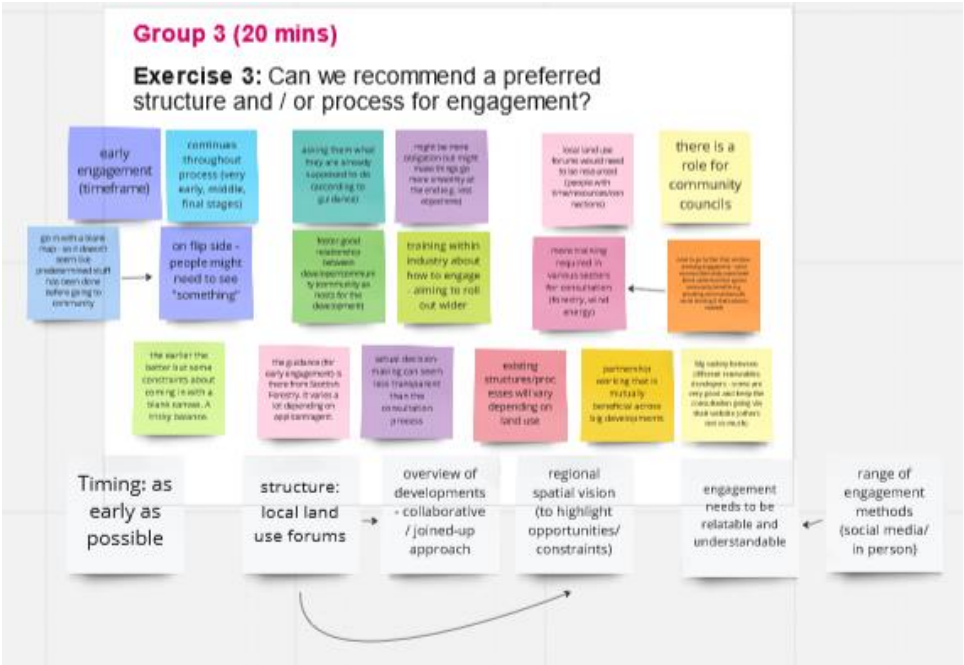
Round 2 face to face workshops

The workshop methodology chosen was similar to the previous round with groups of between 3 and 6 people working at tables. The task this time was to work on one particular issue out of the top 8 identified at the earlier session (see Appendix 3.2). Thus, each of the 8 workshops looked at slightly different issues,. tailored to locality based on earlier round 1 feedback

Each group was given a set of 10 information sheets, each describing a different land-use, the benefits and tensions and best practice relating to this land use (see Appendix 3.3). Groups were asked to consider for their particular issue which land-use actions would be useful and whether this action could be a quick-win (i.e. could be implemented now); whether it would need a bit of time for implementation or whether it was important but would be difficult (requiring negotiation or change in regulation). Some land-uses were not relevant to some issues and groups were asked to record this too. Finally, groups were asked to prioritise their suggested actions and to indicate whether they needed to be addressed at a local, catchment or regional scale. These latter tasks were often omitted as the first part of the exercise took some time.

After 90 minutes, the sheets on which the suggestions had been recorded were collected.

Round 2 Online Workshop Sessions



Example of Miro online workshop board

For the on-line policy and process workshops, after the same brief presentation as used previously, participants were divided into 4 groups, each with a facilitator and a scribe. Online “Miro boards” were used to both stimulate discussion and record opinions on virtual post-it notes. As with the other workshops we sought to encourage discussion and the reaching of consensus.

For the policy session we invited comments on what other areas of policy most impacted on land-use change (housing, place planning and land reform had all been mentioned in earlier workshops) and how these policies might be better aligned. Participants were asked to formulate a number of recommendations for the RLUP to consider.

For the process workshop, we again started with some quotes taken from earlier sessions concerning who should be involved in the work of the RLUP. People were then asked to consider whether existing mechanisms might help with this engagement and at what scale involvement was most likely to be productive. Again, participants were asked to finish by formulating some suggestions for the RLUP in relation to what sort of structure would be preferred.

The Miro Boards were then transcribed for analysis.

Advertising and promotion of events in rounds 1 and 2

LUC established an online Consultation Hub during phase 1 of this project and this was used to promote the events and tickets for workshops were booked via this site. Links to the hub were sent out to key stakeholders and the link was promoted on posters and on Facebook ads (see Appendix 5).

30 events (26 live and 4 online) in two rounds were held across south Scotland from September 2022 to February 2023. The events were promoted through paid advertising on META channels. The 32 paid adverts reached 403,325 users and generated 5,863 click links to 30 Eventbrite pages. The campaign was backed by 35 social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), emails and messages to networks (contact lists: 112 common interest groups/page/organisations, 473 SUP mailing list, 51 partner organisations), partners and delegates which generated a further 4,365 click links to Eventbrite pages. Of the 1,196 tickets 833/69.6% were ‘sold’ and a further 68 tickets were taken by ‘drop-ins’. Across both rounds 516 people attended (57.2% of total bookings and drop ins).

All expanded data can also be found in the Appendix 5.

SoSRLUP Follow-up Survey

A follow-up survey was circulated at the end of the consultation to all 714 email addresses on file. There were Approximately 16% had responded to the survey when it closed on March 24th 2023. The survey gathered information on location, experience rating, individual contributions, the publishing of the report and interest in future consultation on the Land Use Framework. 86% felt the events were good/excellent, 87% believed their contribution to the process was worthwhile, and 96% thought it likely/very likely/definite that they would read the forthcoming report. 84% were interested in being further consulted on the Land Use Framework, 14% responded to the question which aimed to address the issue of ‘no shows’ across both rounds, the main reason being ‘I didn’t have time’.

Delegates were requested to list their most important land use change and 93% responded to the question with forestry/woodland and food production/farming being the most popular. 61% included suggestions for future events some of which have been included in the key process learning section of this document. 72% would like to be kept informed of future SoSRLUP events and opportunities.

All survey questions and responses can be found in the Appendix 6.

4 Findings

4.1 Key land use findings from consultation round 1

The interim report completed in November 2022 sets out the full findings from the first round of stakeholder engagement. The following summarises some of the key findings, further details are provided in Appendix 2.

By far the most common **benefits** from the land expressed by participants were:

- Tourism
- Nature/biodiversity
- Food/drink
- Recreation
- Well-being

When asked to consider the range of **challenges** that land use faced, the top five choices were:

- Biodiversity decline
- Forestry expansion
- Agricultural viability
- Climate change
- Demographic change and lack of jobs

There were some differences between the priorities chosen in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway with forestry, demographic change and flood management featuring more highly in Dumfries & Galloway. We suspect that further local differences would appear if additional analysis of the collected data was undertaken.

Participants were asked to comment on issues/differences of opinion that arose in the selection process of key challenges and interestingly the following topics generated the most comments:

- Forestry expansion
- Demographic change
- Lack of community involvement in land management
- Top-down policy approach
- Renewable energy development

Participants were then asked to consider the **opportunities** that land use change offered in each locality. The top opportunities were more evenly spread but the top 10 overall were:

- Local food production
- Sustainable tourism
- Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process
- Rural employment in agriculture
- Native woodland restoration
- Regenerative agriculture
- Restoration of ecological processes
- Farm diversification
- Soil regeneration
- Renewable energy

Again, people were encouraged to comment on topics of contention or particular interest and the top topics that participants most commented on were:

- Local food production
- Renewable energy
- Woodland expansion for climate change
- Rural employment in agriculture

- Native woodland expansion

Finally, participants were encouraged to note any other issues they wanted the RLUP (or Scottish Government) to consider as part of this process.

These were categorised and the top issues were:

- Decision-making process
- Governance structures
- Balance of land use
- Use of subsidies / investment
- Rural population and housing
- Stakeholder related issues
- Local enterprise and broadband

It is clear from this that there is significant interest in the way the RLUP should be governed and be representative and the way policy and incentives are managed.

Drawing on the above, decision-making processes and governance were picked up in dedicated workshops as part of consultation round 2. These findings are included in the next section.

4.2 Key land use findings from consultation round 2

The eight in-person workshops in round 2 addressed a range of issues that were highlighted in Round 1. These issues and their geographical spread are summarised in Table 3. Additional issues were offered at some round 2 workshops but people chose not to address them.

Table 3: Issues addressed by groups at each workshop

	Duns	Jed-burgh	Sel-kirk	Lang-holm	Pee-bles	Lock-erbie	Castle D'las	Wig-town	totals
Access, tourism	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	7
Commercial and native woodland expansion	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
Ecological processes to reduce flooding	x		x		x	x		x	5
Farm diversity and viability	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
Flood management			x			x	x		3
historic and cultural heritage	x			x	x				3
Landscapes: how to maintain quality		x						x	2
Local food production	x	x	x		x	x			5
Moorland management	x								1
more integrated land use			x						1
Renewable energy	x	x	x	x			x		5
Soil regeneration					x		x		2
TOTALS	**8**	**6**	**8**	**4**	**7**	**6**	**6**	**5**	**50**

4.2.1 Face to face meetings

Quantitative analysis:

By asking attendees to rank their chosen actions in priority order, we had intended to be able to undertake some quantitative analysis of relative priorities across groups and workshops. However, only about half participants did this because they ran out of time, meaning the dataset was not sufficiently robust dataset to draw on. Participants were also asked to indicate the scale at which measures should be applied but again only about half managed to do this in the time available. Instead, an analysis was undertaken to reveal the land use measures that were considered most feasible and important for delivering sustainable change by research participants.

The proportion of all groups who selected each land use measure was analysed, where a group is the individuals who worked together on any particular issue (max 8 per event). The results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Number of groups (from a total of 50 across eight in-person workshops) which selected each land use measure as a response to given land use challenges

	quick wins	Medium	needs negotiation
A. native woodland	32	19	7
B. commercial forestry	15	12	10
C. peatland restoration	12	11	4
D. river restoration and NFM	13	11	11
E. sustainable arable	14	8	12
F. sustainable livestock	15	12	10
E, F, and / or 'E+F' all agriculture *	26	20	22
G. sustainable tourism	18	17	7
H. wind farms	8	8	11
I. large scale biomass	6	3	7
J. domestic & community renewable	21	13	8

* this category acknowledges that some groups chose 'E+F' as the land use measure. The figures in this row are therefore the number of groups which selected E, F, and / or E+F. (The total may be less than expected if one group has selected E, F and E+F – as this would only count as 1 for all agriculture).

When this data is presented as percentages of the total number of groups, it is clear that actions associated with Native Woodland, Agriculture (all) and Domestic / Community Renewables were viewed as the most feasible quick and medium-term actions (Figure 6).

Agriculture also tops the list for actions which 'need negotiation' (i.e. measures that are more complex and may take more time to develop and implement) but this list also highlights River Restoration, Wind Farms, and Commercial Forestry (Figure 7).

Figure 6: Percentage of all groups selecting each land use as a QUICK WIN and / or MEDIUM TERM measure to addressing land use challenges, across all eight in-person workshops

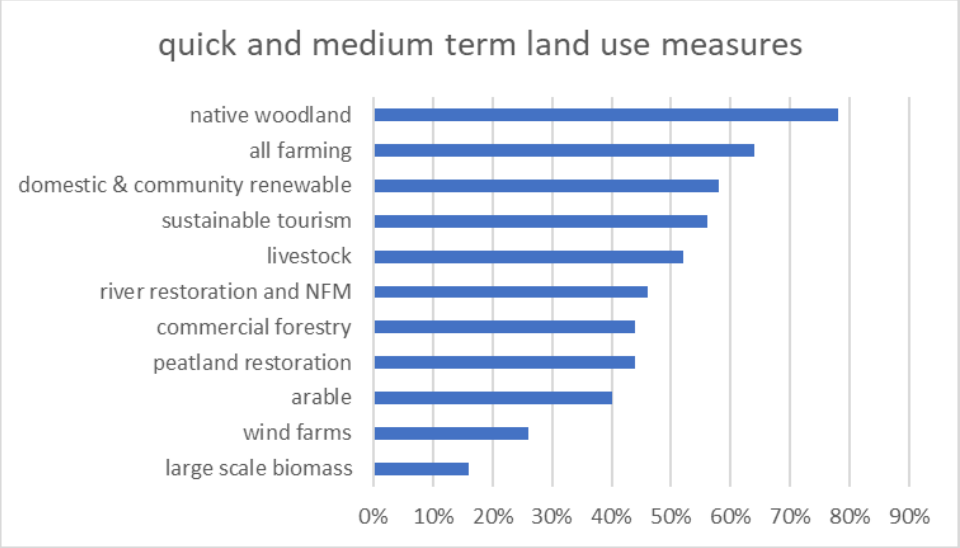
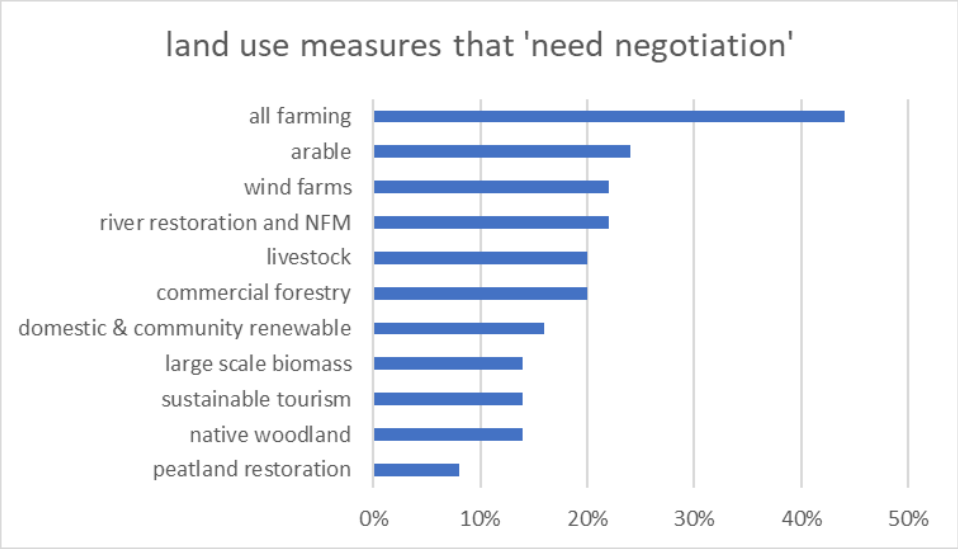


Figure 7: Percentage of all groups selecting each land use as a measure which NEEDS NEGOTIATION, across all eight in-person workshops



A summarised version of this is provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Summary of categorisations

	quick and medium term	needs negotiation
native woodland	very high	low
commercial forestry	Medium	medium
peatland restoration	Medium	very low
river restoration and NFM	Medium	medium
arable	Medium	medium
livestock	High	medium
all farming	High	high
sustainable tourism	High	low
wind farms	Low	medium
large scale biomass	Low	low
domestic & community renewable	High	low

It is important to note that these figures do not represent a 'vote' for any given land use, but instead indicate priorities for actions that are needed in relation to the identified land use measures. Suggestions on actions sometimes covered a wide range of options. For example, on river restoration comments ranged from "*Slow water down before it reaches built up areas*" and "*re-meandering rivers courses retains water and provides habitat for wildlife*" to support for "*dredging: not one mention on card; increase volume of existing infrastructure*".

The full range of actions identified under each land use measure is included in Appendix 4.

4.2.2 Comparisons between the regions

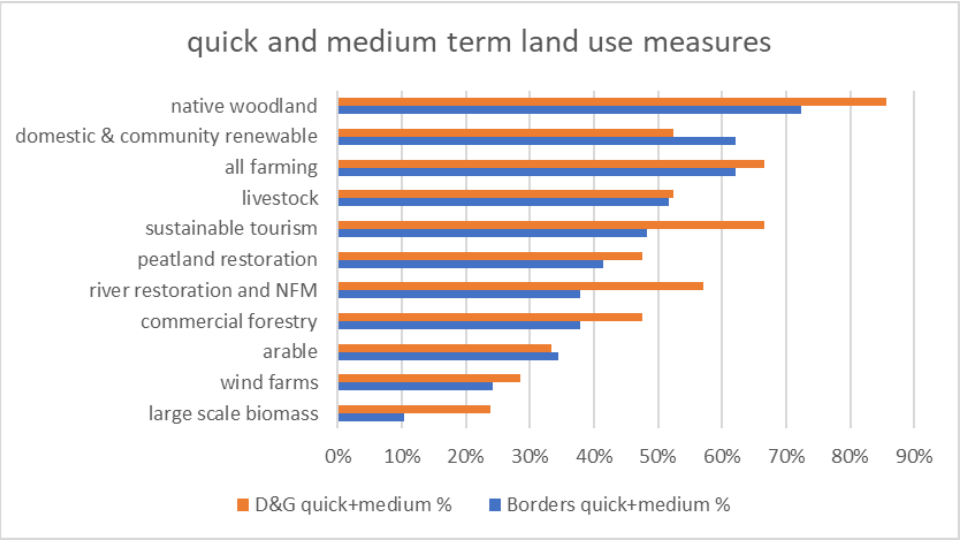
In order to explore differences between regions, a comparison was made of the frequencies with which groups in the Scottish Borders categorised land use measures as 'quick wins', 'medium term' or 'needs negotiation', compared with groups in Dumfries and Galloway. There were 29 groups in the Borders, and 21 groups in Dumfries and Galloway, so numbers have been standardised as percentages of all groups in that region (Table 6).

Table 6: Percent of all groups in each region, who selected each land use as a quick/ medium term measure, or as needs negotiation.

	Borders quick+medium %	*D&G quick+medium %*	*Borders needs negotiation %*	*D&G needs negotiation %*
all farming	62%	67%	41%	48%
arable	34%	33%	31%	14%
commercial forestry	38%	48%	21%	29%
domestic & community renewable	62%	52%	10%	24%
large scale biomass	10%	24%	10%	19%
livestock	52%	52%	17%	24%
native woodland	72%	86%	10%	19%
peatland restoration	41%	48%	7%	10%
river restoration and NFM	38%	57%	21%	24%
sustainable tourism	48%	67%	10%	19%
wind farms	24%	29%	21%	24%

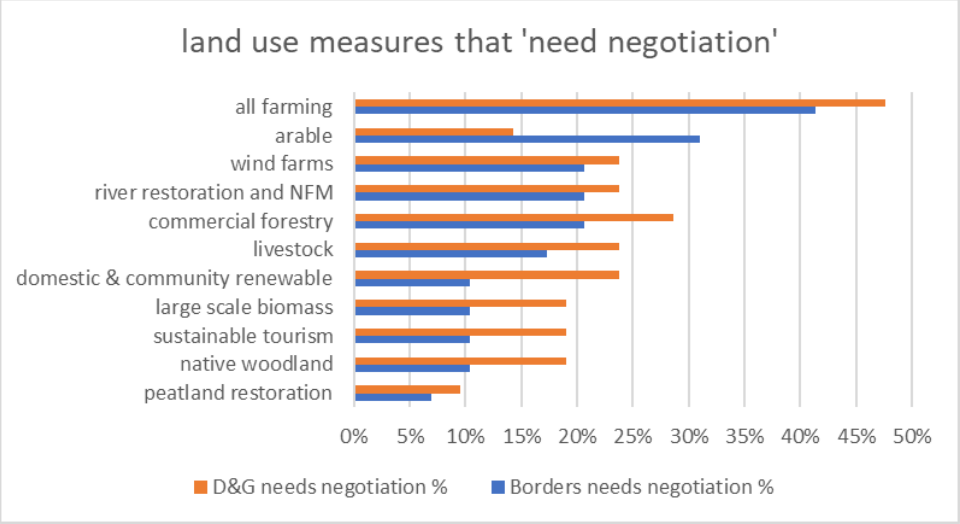
Direct comparison of the quick win and medium-term actions (Figure 8) shows that native woodland measures are top priority in both regions, and that relatively more importance is attributed to domestic / community renewables in the Scottish Borders than in Dumfries & Galloway. Conversely, sustainable tourism, river restoration and commercial forestry are more prominent concerns in Dumfries & Galloway than in the Scottish Borders. While this may not be significant in terms of the two local authority areas, it does illustrate that there are local differences which any RLUF will need to consider.

Figure 8: Comparison of percentage of all groups in Borders and D&G, who selected each land use as a quick or medium-term measure



Comparison of the measures that 'need negotiation' (mostly, that need consideration at wider policy level) (Figure 9) shows that agriculture is the top priority for negotiation in both regions, but that arable attracts much higher weighting in the Borders than in Dumfries and Galloway. Conversely, commercial forestry, livestock farming, renewables, tourism and native woodland were more frequently listed as 'needing negotiation in Dumfries and Galloway'.

Figure 9: Comparison of percentage of all groups in Borders and D&G, who selected each land use as a measure which 'needs negotiation'



4.2.3 Qualitative analysis:

The comments made by workshop participants (across all workshops and groups) are summarised by land use measure below. It should be pointed out that these are based on the responses from participants; other people may have a different view and a "quick-win" may not be as easy as people think. However, participants appeared to be largely very well informed, and because they were working in groups (so not one person's opinion), we feel the responses have validity.

This section focuses on ‘quick wins’ and ‘medium term’ measures because the RLUF needs to be practical, realistic and deliverable. The issues identified as “needs negotiation” or “difficult” will also need to be considered but these will take more time to address.

Full details of the comments captured at the workshops can be found, organised by land use measure, at Appendix 4.

Native woodland creation – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Generally, the results suggest there is support for more native woodland but also a call for better financial and advisory support to ensure woodland is created in ways that deliver multiple benefits (farming, access, flood-mitigation, food etc). There were few obvious tensions with other land-uses. Native woods can be fitted into farming or commercial forestry schemes and along water courses where they can provide multiple benefits. Good information is seen as important to guide planting to the right place, to ensure they do not conflict with other valuable habitats. There is an appetite amongst some community members to help some aspects of woodland management through volunteering.

Commercial Forestry – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Forestry is seen to conflict with other land-uses largely because of its scale. The switch from **agriculture** to forestry is a major change, and many participants expressed concern at the lack of control over it. The loss of an upland farm to forestry leaves neighbouring farms more vulnerable as the farming community is fragmented. Forestry can also conflict with **access** (where trails can be seriously disrupted) and **tourism** (e.g. clear-felled landscapes are unattractive). There was concern about the impacts of forestry on **biodiversity** and on **carbon,** with doubts expressed about the long-term benefits of softwood as a real carbon-sink. Possible impacts on **flooding** were also voiced. Much of this would be addressed with better data provision and more research. Some of these tensions can be mitigated through better design, more meaningful consultation and more diversity of species and density of planting.

Peatland restoration – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

The need to take better care of peatlands was well understood. Concerns related to **tree-planting** on peaty soils, **burning** of uplands and appropriate **grazing** regimes.

River restoration – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Tensions here relate to the perceived need to manage rivers differently. There were calls for a wide range of approaches - more **riparian planting, dredging, beaver introduction, improved access, re-meandering,** etc. This suggests that better advice and expertise may be needed. Some wanted more **regulation**, others called for less strict controls. Water abstraction (for agriculture) is an issue in some places.

Arable AND Livestock – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

The main tension in some areas is the hunger for land from the **forestry** sector, which some farmers see as taking good land away from food production. There is a tension between those who want to see **intensification** of production as a way of increasing profitability and those who want less intensive “**regenerative**” systems that would enhance soils, biodiversity and landscape quality. Soil was seen as essential for longer term sustainability and it was suggested that support for farming should be linked to **soil status** in some way to incentivise appropriate management. Again better access to data would be helpful here. There is a tension with river management in some areas where **water abstraction** is an issue.

Domestic and Community Renewables – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

The tensions here arise from perceived conflict between the policy of encouraging renewable energy generation and energy efficiency, and policies which are perceived to act as barriers to this (such as planning rules) and other constraints (such as grants and grid restrictions). There is some interest in

communities taking more of a stake in larger scale projects which could generate significant local income streams, but also significant barriers to realising these ambitions.

Large-scale Biomass - summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Tensions here related to those of commercial forestry and the conflict with food production. Moving quantities of bulky fuel around rural roads was also highlighted as an issue. Better integration was requested.

Sustainable Tourism - summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Tensions here arise from the need for affordable rural homes and the demand for holiday lets. Tourism businesses need local staff and somewhere for them to live. There is potentially some tension between land managers and visitors. Tourism in rural areas needs infrastructure and without it (car parks, trails, signage, toilets etc) problems arise (e.g., blocked gates, littering, disturbed livestock).

Windfarms - summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Land-use tensions here arise from the need to integrate renewable energy generation better with the local economy. If turbines can work within forestry, the access routes would serve both and other areas of land could be left “unspoilt”. Could the one grid connection serve both windfarms and solar arrays? Could farms benefit more from renewable energy schemes and thus be made more resilient as businesses (with an additional income stream or using cheaper local energy to power greenhouses?). Can access tracks also improve recreational routes or could they be used to get more timber wagons off the roads. These approaches need strategic support if they are to be realised.

The above section identifies a number of areas where tensions currently exist between different land uses and where trade-offs will be required. These will need to be considered by the RLUP as it drafts the RLUF. It also indicates some of the benefits that could be delivered if the balance between land-uses is optimised and trade-offs can be suitably resolved.

4.2.4 Comparison of two place-based workshops: Duns and Wigtown

In order to explore the richness of the place-based data in more depth, a comparison was made of the way that Duns and Wigtown workshops addressed four challenges. The four that both addressed were:

- Access, tourism and recreation and the pressures arising from these are a challenge to many and also an opportunity. How might land-use change help address this alongside protecting and enhancing biodiversity and tackling climate change? [‘Access’]
- Commercial forestry expansion is happening in many parts of the Borders. Native Woodland expansion also featured highly as an opportunity. How might woodland expansion be better achieved and integrated with other land uses so as to also protect and enhance biodiversity and tackle climate change? [‘Woodland expansion’]
- Ecological processes help us in many ways, flood control being a major one. How would land-use change if we wanted to maximise using nature to reduce flooding alongside protecting and enhancing biodiversity and tackling climate change? [‘Ecological processes’]
- Farm diversity, viability (and employment) are being impacted by afforestation and changes to government funding for farming (subsidy). How might land use change address this, alongside protecting and enhancing biodiversity and tackling climate change? [‘Farm diversity’]

For **access and sustainable tourism, Duns** focused on the merits of new tree planting to enhance landscape, and the possibilities of planning in tourist trails and wildlife corridors from the start. They noted the increasing demand for sustainable food sources, rural charging points and sustainable accommodation using renewable energy – all requiring improved infrastructure. They saw a need to ‘sell the Borders’ more, and for Borders towns to cooperate. They noted a need for incentives to encourage landowners to change practices. There were mixed views on whether livestock and / or forestry attracts tourists.

Wigtown chose similar land use measures to Duns but avoided selecting native or commercial woodland as land use measures appropriate to access and tourism. Instead, they focused more on advertising rights of access as an attraction, and enhancing those rights through activities and services, e.g. provision of all terrain wheelchairs, events, mapping 'wild swim' areas. Like Duns they argued for better infrastructure particularly electric car charging points and internet, and including toilets, campsites and waste disposal; and on community owned energy. "*We don't want large scale renewables, we want benefit for communities.*" There was more of a focus on education both as an attraction, including opportunities to see '*our community*', and about sustainability e.g. through forest school. Wigtown highlighted transport, proposing hydrogen powered / electric taxi and better public transport modelled on the "Pembrokeshire Puffin" and Chilean 'colectivos', and re-opening the railway.

For **woodland expansion**, both communities selected a much more restricted choice of land use measures.

Duns had been more affected by Storm Arwen and this was reflected in the comments. The group highlighted 'market failure' for timber and the cost of replanting and thought that woodland replacement should not be required. They wanted to see more support for productive broadleaf and hedgerow planting, with an end to grant subsidies for Sitka spruce planting. They described the '*fallacy of arguments put forward by commercial forestry*' which is '*excluding all other land use changes. Including young farming entrants around here*.' The group labelled this '*The most contentious land use issue for Scotland*' which '*could bankrupt Scotland*'. Distrust of data on '*water yield impacts of dense sitka*' was expressed.

The **Wigtown** group was milder in its expression but also concerned about balance of grant support. As in Duns they wanted to see more native broadleaf and hedgerows, and also listed riparian woods and orchards planted. They too wanted to see changes to grants and regulation, to '*improve monitoring of planting and felling practices (to ensure compliance*)' with '*clear government direction*' including change to grants to support diverse forests, regional differences, increased grants for native woodland and no forestry on peat bogs. They suggested felling plantations at different times to provide [spatial] diversity, and mapping habitats and species to establish a baseline and update regularly.

For **ecological process to reduce flooding**, a more diverse range of land use measures was selected.

The **Duns** group focusing on this challenge had much in common with the group focusing on woodland expansion. Like them, this group wanted to see hedgerow restoration, more native woodland, ways to address ash dieback, and grant support for that, as well as carbon credits. They saw scope for habitat creation e.g. by increasing biodiversity at field margins. They highlighted drainage as an issue in the Duns area and favoured upper catchment management to slow water down before it reaches built up area; they also advocated restricted muirburn while noting conflict between this view and shooting estates. They wanted consideration of more nature reserves (such as the Lammermuirs). Like the woodland group they highlighted the consequences of Storm Arwen and the impact on harvesting cycles. They saw a need to reduce conifer planting as 'Acidification of soils and water courses lessens wildlife'. Ecological processes were also linked to 'good tourism' by attracting through restoration of traditional energy sources such as wind and watermills, and through public and active transport links. This challenge also attracted comment about domestic and community renewables, although the link with flood management was not made explicit: the group advocated restriction of wood burners and imported biomass; less onshore wind farms; wanted easier planning for listed and agricultural buildings, and solar fields on non-agricultural land. They wanted strong incentives by '*rewarding good practice, and fining bad practice*'.

Wigtown also linked this challenge with a wide range of measures. Like Duns they related it to more riparian and broadleaf tree planting 'to assist fish habitat, bird, mammal and flora habitat' and advocated environmental subsidies for that. They were opposed to hard landscaping flood mitigation measures which '*reduce usable coastal land*'. Like Duns they focused on upper catchment management including peat bog restoration, broadleaf and montane vegetation planting to increase

water holding capacity. They noted that cattle grazing uplands 'can improve success of sphagnum moss' for water retention plant and carbon sequestration. They described Sitka spruce as '*only a cash crop not a legacy*'. They linked the challenge to domestic and community renewables which they noted are costly, and wanted to see more hydro and support for solar. They saw tourism as 'good for jobs but poor for biodiversity and climate change'.

For **farm diversity and viability** both places selected native woodland and agriculture. Wigtown added tourism and renewables into the mix.

Duns proposed a range of activities which could contribute to farm diversity including: fruit trees and nuts; local farmers markets; local production plants; connecting older people with young people to think of succession early; community land ownership and joint ventures; building more houses on farms to encourage increased population; land matching service. Some current conditions they felt work against diversification including: '*land being sold off to massive forestry companies who plant spruce*'; the economics of small-scale vegetable growing. They were in favour of small areas of native woodland, or larger where appropriate, but cautioned against incentivising woodland on arable land. They questioned definitions of 'native' which might '*get in the way of biodiversity and economic viability*'. They wanted to see support for cooperation between farmers (such as in relation to waterways) and to see incentives being long term and inflation proofed.

Wigtown proposed activities which could contribute to farm diversity and viability including regenerative farming; '*land sharing over land sparing to deliver multiple use of land within an area*'; short supply chains; local processing; circular economy; '*making private ecosystem markets work for the area*'. They cautioned against dismissing current land use. They felt that incentives should include: no Basic Payment Scheme area deductions for environmental features (e.g. small areas of rewilding, non-Scottish Forestry funded tree planting, gorse etc.) and other public goods / priorities (e.g. footpaths); capital grant schemes; They too wanted clarity around future policy - allowing land managers to plan ahead, and '*simplified Scottish Forestry grant schemes*' for farm-appropriate planting schemes which are small, flexible and ancillary to agriculture (e.g. shelter belts, field corners, field margins).

They also highlighted a need for voluntary regulation through soil carbon code, hedgerow carbon code, salt marsh carbon code and noted that these need to work for tenant farmers as well as owner-occupiers. They felt that a National Park would support diversity and viability goals. They drew attention to the need to support the workforce through '*well located affordable housin*g', improved broadband connectivity for the area, and diversity of employment. Finally, they highlighted some conflicting land uses which impeded farm viability: '*commercial forestry - large areas of uplands in south of Scotland moving to sitka spruce plantations, which has removed a traditional route in for new entrants in farming*'; large scale renewable developments ('*to be encouraged but reserve some national grid capacity for small scale local businesses'*). Policy support could come through a food security policy, and expert facilitators for private ecosystem markets.

In summary, these findings indicate there are some clear differences in perceived issues and needs between communities in different places across the region. The RLUF will ideally need to reflect these differences in the same way that the place-planning process is seeking to acknowledge and address local concerns, albeit the first version of the RLUF might be anticipated to be a higher level, strategic framework with more spatial resolution added in future iterations. There are clearly potential benefits from aligning the RLUF and place-planning processes to facilitate this.

*4.2.*5 Policy and process meeting findings

Findings from the two online workshops on policy and process are summarised below. Further details are provided in Appendix 4.

Policy workshop

The on-line workshop discussed a range of issues around policy and made the following recommendations to the RLUP:

Decision making should be based on current policies but needs to be more transparent and involve more people and include the local community. This might need facilitation and needs to be supported by access to good data (economic, environmental and social).

Decisions should look at the medium to long-term while acknowledging current Government policy. They should result in clarity about the ambition so that businesses can plan and invest accordingly.

Local benefits should be a priority. There was suggestion that this might need to bring land-use planning closer to development planning.

Monitoring and regulation should be carried out and results published.

Where scale was specifically mentioned, it was suggested this should be at the catchment or sub-catchment scale.

4.2.6 Process workshop – summary of comments

The on-line workshop discussed a range of issues around process and made the following recommendations to the RLUP:

There is an opportunity to use the place planning process to create a really robust plan that will identify local priorities and ideally integrated local land use that seeks to support collaboration. It could include “limits of acceptable change” (e.g. how much forestry / windfarm is enough).

This plan could then be used as a basis for dialogue between communities and developers. This would ensure trust is built throughout the process and that the local community is empowered and it would improve the chance that their views will be listened to.

Engagement should be open, ongoing and should start early and it should use existing structures wherever possible with facilitation provided if needed.

Representation on any Forum needs to be as broad-based as possible. It should combine expertise with local knowledge. It must not just be the usual suspects.

4.3 Key process learning from consultation rounds 1 and 2

This section summarises some key lessons learnt in terms of the process used to engage with participants. These lessons are important to capture given the assertion that *"The process is as important as the product".*

Lessons from the face-to-face workshops:

- Concerns about the costs and impact of engagement: People suspect they are not being truly listened to. There is a lot of consultation happening and it falls to relatively few people to attend meetings or draft responses. This investment of people's time must not be undervalued and yet if only a small number of people responded those views can be treated as insignificant/ not representative. The people who contributed to this work each spent at least 2 hours of their time sharing their ideas, not including travel time. This equates to well over 1000 hours of volunteer time. We have been keen to capture as much of what people said as possible – but it is time-consuming (and therefore costly) to do this. There is a case that research participants should be helped financially to respond to consultations to better reflect the value of their input, although it is accepted this goes beyond the remit of this study.
- Lessons on applying a place-based approach:
    - The initial round of workshops sought to break the region into 10 areas of similar scale using recognised regional landscape areas (5 in each LA). Workshop venues were chosen within these landscape areas with the aim of identifying a range of different land-use issues and opportunities. Whilst there was a clear logic to this approach, a clear shortcoming discovered as we implemented the workshops was that the landscape areas meant little to participants.
    - The second round looked at land-use in relation to catchments and this was more meaningful for participants. Maps were generated to provide useful land-use information on each of 8 catchments around the workshop venues. This included a 3D representation of the catchment, putting the towns in the context of the catchment; and mapping of designated sites, peatlands, nitrate sensitive zones and land cover as supplementary information that participants could draw on if they wished. While some participants appreciated the value of this information, the workshop structure and limited time meant that participants did not get the most out of this information.
- Effective facilitation is critical but this is constrained by budget considerations:
    - At the live events we gave everyone a written instruction sheet explaining the tasks outlined above, but many didn't read this, and so the facilitators needed to prompt and remind participants to address all the points.
    - People found creative ways to respond to the questions that did not always follow the format we had designed, or did not answer all questions e.g. many participants did not record priorities in the round 2 workshops as requested. This made the data collected more challenging to analyse.
    - Some groups struggled with tasks, more intensive facilitation (where budget allows) or simplifying tasks further could have helped.
- In some workshops, people wanted to feed into more than one issue, so there was some movement between tables. This was not a problem here but it might be something to consider explicitly when planning for in future events.
- The issue of forestry expansion (which was an issue of concern at all events) was by far the most "heated" topic, especially where there was strong forestry sector representation. In a couple of instances, the "discussion" was such that little was recorded on post-its etc. There were also some instances where participants were very willing to either listen or express a view, but did not want this to be recorded.
- The nature of this debate resulted in some participants attending more than one event which may have provided an opportunity for participants to try to raise the same points on multiple occasions to try to get them significant attention in this report. We were mindful of such issues when interpreting the results and would flag this as an issue to manage for future engagement.

- There were some issues experienced with some of the workshop venues that should be checked ahead of planning any future events e.g.
    - Different screen sizes at venues made it difficult for some participants to read presentation slides at some events.
    - Several venues were overcrowded.
    - Acoustics in some venues not ideal, making it difficult to hear speakers at times.
- It will be important to consider how to reach a wider audience for any future engagement activities on land use e.g., could do more to target specific groups such as young people, farming community, nature-based groups, businesses, etc; advertise across far more platforms and other forms of media – radio, publications, etc.; and identify a wide range of partners and networks with a view to forming an agreement to share information about events on a regular basis. This is all dependent on time and budget constraints.
- Bookings and attendance:
    - Conversion rate from page views to bookings was low (8.1% overall), possibly partly due to the terminology used putting some people off; or the general public not understanding what the workshops were about / why they should get involved.
    - Drop-out rate was high (46.2% overall did not attend). Future engagement activities need to plan for this and determine potential solutions.
- It is important to check all regional events diaries to ensure no clashes i.e. the Langholm consultation round 1 workshop date coincided with one of the largest sheep sales in southern Scotland.

Lessons from the on-line workshops:

- The on-line workshops worked well – but they required both a scribe and a facilitator per group so were quite resource intensive. Uncertainty about numbers (only 65/37.1% of bookings actually appeared) meant that we could have reduced costs by having fewer, larger workshop groups. However, this is hard to plan for in advance and our approach of adjusting the number of break out groups to fit the number of people who actually joined the meeting worked well.
- Drop-out rate from bookings to attendees was high (110/62.9% across all online events did not attend). There is a need to plan for this.
- Having a scribe to take notes on Miro boards in addition to a facilitator to lead the breakout group discussions worked well.
- Some people had far more to say than others and sometimes had to be managed to allow others to voice their opinions.
- Some had issues with sound and video and were not able to fully participate.

Lessons from the policy and process workshops:

- These workshops supported a much richer discussion than anticipated and provided some useful insights into potential ‘solutions’ to policy ‘problems’. This suggests we should not underestimate the knowledge, understanding and ideas that participants can provide if given the opportunity.

Wider lessons:

- Natural capital language can create barriers to engaging people, it is important to think carefully about appropriate language to use, consider how key concepts can be communicated in plain English, and define technical terms clearly.

5 Discussion and recommendations

5.1. What do these findings mean for developing the RLUF?

The key findings from the range of stakeholder engagement events held as part of consultation rounds one and two were summarised in the previous chapters. These findings have provided a rich and complex range of insights into local stakeholders perceptions of land use issues and opportunities across the South of Scotland. It is important to note that the views captured represent a small sample of the overall population of the region, based on those who were willing and able to participate in the events.

This section seeks to distil some key recommendations for the RLUF based on an initial analysis and interpretation of the data and drawing links with relevant research and policy developments. With more time and resource, additional analysis of the data could be undertaken (e.g. by area-based workshop) which could reveal further insights for developing the RLUP and RLUF.

Recommendations for regional land use priorities are set out below, followed by recommendations on the potential for nature-based solutions, shaping the RLUF process and delivering impact through RLUFs.

5.1.1 Recommendations for regional land use priorities/objectives

A key aim of this phase 2 work was to identify and agree current and potential land use priorities across the South of Scotland region.

To achieve national climate change targets and support other environmental objectives such as enhancing biodiversity across South of Scotland, in the context of a Just Transition and Green Recovery, will require significant changes to how land is used and managed.

"To restore nature and reach net zero carbon emissions globally, rural land use must change. Instead of being a source of emissions it must remove carbon from the atmosphere, while also making space for nature and food production." (Green Alliance, 2023[5])

The specific content of RLUFs has not been tightly defined as yet, but there is an emphasis on setting out a high level (non-statutory) strategic framework that identifies priorities for land use to address the climate change and biodiversity emergencies, based on the structure and format of a Regional Economic Strategy thematic action plan. It should also include a set of priority actions that can be developed and implemented in the region, and that can evolve over time. We draw out some key recommendations on land use priorities for South of Scotland below.

Regional land use priorities for South of Scotland

In the first round of consultation, participants in aggregate across the whole region identified the following **top land use challenges** (*excluding wider process and policy issues* such as top-down policy, demographic change and lack of community involvement) that need to be addressed to ensure that locally valued benefits from land are maintained and enhanced:

- biodiversity decline
- commercial forestry expansion (this was also the most commented upon challenge in the first round of consultation)
- agricultural viability
- climate change adaptation and mitigation
- access and tourism
- renewable energy development

[5] Green Alliance, 2023. Shaping UK land use: Priorities for food, nature and climate.

These were consistent across D&G and Borders, albeit as might be expected top rated challenges varied between different area-based workshops (e.g. whilst biodiversity and agricultural viability featured frequently across multiple workshops, Selkirk and Castle Douglas rated forestry more highly than other areas, Wigtown highlighted renewable energy and Lockerbie highlighted tourism/access).

Table 7. When participants were asked to consider the opportunities that land use change offered in each locality, these opportunities map quite well onto the challenges listed above:

Challenges	**Opportunities**
Biodiversity decline	Regenerative agriculture; Restoration of ecological processes; Native woodland restoration
Commercial forestry expansion	Native woodland restoration
Agricultural viability	Local food production; Rural employment in agriculture; Farm diversification; Soil regeneration
Climate change adaptation and mitigation	Restoration of ecological processes
Access and tourism	Sustainable tourism
Renewable energy development	Renewable energy

These region-wide findings are also broadly consistent with the 'quick win' and 'medium term' actions identified in the second consultation round, when groups most frequently identified actions associated with the following land use measures to address key challenges:

- Native woodland (most frequently identified in both D&G and Borders)
- Agriculture (arable and livestock) (most frequently identified in Borders)
- Renewable energy (most frequently identified in Borders)
- Sustainable tourism (most frequently identified in D&G)

These findings suggest that **a core focus for the RLUF should be the following land use priorities** (in no particular order of priority):

- Biodiversity protection and enhancement[6]
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Native woodland
- Commercial forestry expansion (see note below)
- Agricultural viability and sustainability
- Access and tourism
- Renewable energy development

Forestry expansion, specifically commercial forestry plantations, was highlighted as a contentious issue in both consultation rounds. Many participants perceived multiple negative impacts of such land use change and limited benefits for local people. Whilst some argued that modern forestry practices are much improved, the legacy of past practices is very visible to local people. Given the woodland creation target, part of Scotland's climate change plans, is 14,000 hectares per annum increasing to 18,000 hectares per annum in 2024/25, this appears to be a key issue for the RLUF to consider. The Regional Strategic Woodland Creation Project[7] could be a useful source of data for informing the RLUF in this respect. This project sought to build on Local Authority Woodland Strategies, carrying out more detailed opportunity mapping with the aim of providing more clarity on about where land is suitable for woodland creation. We recommend reviewing the approach used here to evaluate the potential to use this method, alongside further stakeholder engagement, to help inform opportunity mapping for commercial forestry in the RLUF.

To be persuasive, the final RLUF will **need to express both land use change priorities and potential actions to address these in a clear, concise and accessible way** (supported by a clear

[6] Biodiversity enhancement and climate change were overriding issues that all groups had to consider as part of the round 2 workshops.

[7] Scottish Forestry - Regional Strategic Woodland Creation Project

explanation of how these priorities were derived) that can be understood by a range of landowners, managers, decision makers and other interested parties. The evidence set out above provides a starting point for doing this, but this social research data will need to be combined with empirical data on land use opportunities and constraints, as discussed further below.

Managing tensions and trade-offs

The RLUF should include some commentary on managing tensions and trade-offs between different land use priorities. It needs to help tackle some of the tough choices between competing demands. For example, not all actions to support biodiversity enhancement are compatible with increased public access, as some species are very sensitive to disturbance and some habitats are susceptible to degradation (e.g. due to litter or erosion). Similarly, this research highlighted tensions between those who wanted to see increased access to support tourism and the health and wellbeing of local people; and those who were concerned about the impacts of increased access and irresponsible behaviour (e.g., littering disturbing livestock).

Tensions around woodland creation were also evident. As highlighted by participants in some of the engagement events, tree planting can contribute to government targets for woodland creation and climate change mitigation (amongst others) but the wrong tree planting in the wrong place can have negative impacts on carbon mitigation (if planted on peat), biodiversity (if it negatively impacts a valuable existing habitat), flood risk, access, landscape/sense of place and tourism. There are also concerns about the loss of farmland to forestry and the cumulative impacts this could have landscape character and on food production/ food security.

Other examples of tensions identified by research participants included: a tension between those who want to see intensification of food production as a way of increasing profitability and those who want less intensive “regenerative” systems that would enhance soils, biodiversity and landscape quality; and differing views on how to better manage rivers (e.g. dredging and canalising as opposed to re-meandering).

The RLUP could set out some high-level objectives and principles, alongside the regional land use priorities, to help to determine priorities and work through trade-offs in different places. This could build on the principles for sustainable land use set out in the Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016—2021 (e.g., opportunities for land use to deliver multiple benefits should be encouraged; where land is highly suitable for a primary use this value should be recognised in decision-making) and draw on the best available research and land use data.

Actions associated with agriculture were most frequently identified as “needs negotiation” in the round 2 workshops in both D&G and Borders, indicating that participants felt there are a range of wider policy issues and trade-offs relating to farming that need to be tackled over the longer term, albeit these may be beyond the scope of the RLUP pilot.

5.1.2 Potential for nature-based solutions

Actions which support and draw on nature to provide wider environmental or societal benefits are called ‘nature-based solutions’.

There are already good examples of land use in South of Scotland delivering multiple economic, environmental and social benefits, including food and timber production, nature recovery, carbon sequestration, flood risk management and places for recreation.

More strategic planning of future land use, supported by the RLUF and the latest data on natural capital assets, needs and constraints, could help to identify the best opportunities to invest in new multifunctional nature-based solutions that deliver a range of benefits from the same area of land. Delivering such projects on an opportunistic, piecemeal basis is unlikely to be as efficient and effective.

This research has indicated that one key area of focus should be native woodland creation. Native woodland was the land use which most people (in the consultation round 2 workshops) identified as benefiting a wide range of challenges and opportunities across South of Scotland. Reasons given for this related to the significantly greater biodiversity benefits, the more attractive “feel” of such woods, the greater landscape benefits and the potentially greater carbon benefits (although better data on this may be needed). Native trees have a greater benefit on aquatic ecosystems, thus benefitting fisheries, and they are considered better at stabilising riverbanks and may improve flood-water retention in the upper catchment.

There was also broad support for other types of “nature-based solution” (both in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of this research) such as peatland restoration (welcome given Scottish Government’s commitment to restore at least 250,000 hectares of peatland by 2030) and river restoration, though there were also conflicting views on some river management measures as mentioned above. There was also an emphasis on the need to maximise access and tourism benefits from such interventions.

The RLUF could seek to identify broad opportunity areas for these nature-based solutions, making use of existing publicly available data.

5.1.3 Recommendations for shaping the RLUF process and delivering impact

Ongoing stakeholder engagement is critical for developing the RLUF

There is recognition that the process of developing the RLUF in a fair and inclusive way is as important as the product. This chimes with wider research looking at the multiple demands now placed on land across the UK which has highlighted the importance of **democratic debate about trade-offs and priorities** (e.g. Green Alliance, 2023). For example, a focus mainly on producing food is unlikely to provide sufficient carbon sequestration and storage on the land to meet climate change mitigation targets.

The level and depth of participation in the engagement events as part of this project has demonstrated the importance of land use issues to local people and their appetite for a forum to share views on land use change. There are genuine concerns about the scale and pace of some land use changes, particularly forestry expansion. This underlines the importance of carefully planning the next phases of stakeholder engagement to shape the RLUF.

This project has also demonstrated strongly held views about the need for better community engagement in decisions about land use. Concerns were expressed about silo-based thinking in government, lack of join-up between national and local level priorities and weak enforcement of policy. Many felt that the current system is too cumbersome, slow and bureaucratic while others thought it paid too little attention to local interests and concerns. Participants identified the need for a better mechanism for the community to state what they are interested in (and what they are opposed to) and to facilitate open dialogue and negotiation about key decisions.

This resonates with a key point made by the Scottish Land Commission (SLC)[8]: *"Improved accountability and transparency in decision-making, together with clarity on how tensions in land use choices are addressed, will help support public confidence."* This report also flags the need to address cumulative impacts of land use change, a point also raised in our on-line workshops.

Similarly, the Lords Land Use in England Committee noted that developing a land use framework should include *"extensive consultation with those directly affected, identifying opportunities for regular engagement and feedback, overseeing improvements to data collection and accessibility, and taking an open and transparent approach to information gathering and sharing."*

Local partners will have an important role to play in identifying potential actions for delivery of the RLUF priorities. Further engagement activities, including to help identify key actions for the RLUF, should include (subject to sufficient funding):

- Engaging with local partnerships that may be important for both informing the final RLUP and delivering it
- Engaging with partners with ecological and environmental expertise
- Engaging landowners and managers, and the people who take regulatory decisions, so they can contribute to identifying what actions are proposed, where and why.

In all engagement activities the following principles should be prioritised:

- transparency – ensuring we can show how contributions have been considered and how decisions have been made
- inclusivity – enabling everyone with an interest to be involved where possible
- clear communication – avoiding use of technical terminology that may not be understood by all stakeholders

Mechanisms for engaging stakeholders at a smaller spatial scale should also be explored

Some workshop participants suggested community councils could be the vehicle for a representative community voice that takes national policy into local policy and context; however, they often lack funding and effective community representation. Others suggested Place Planning, which is based on settlement areas, offers a useful mechanism to create a robust plan that will identify local priorities and ideally local land use through wide participation. Some also identified a role for local councillors, community development trusts, land use forums and development officers to support this process.

Figure 10. Influencers of land-use.

[8] SLC, 2022. Natural Capital and Land: Recommendations for a Just Transition. https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/62baa9e7e982e_Natural%20Capital%20and%20Land%20Recommendations%20Report.pdf

The SLC[9] has pointed out that engaging communities in strategic decision-making at landscape scale can be more efficient and impactful than engaging them on individual schemes, reducing tensions and consultation fatigue. It highlights the potential of RLUPs/RLUFs to improve the integration of land use planning and the accountability of land use change decisions.

The importance of planning at a scale that people could relate to, possibly at catchment or sub-catchment scale, was also highlighted in this project. This resonates with the earlier Land-Use Strategy pilot work undertaken in the Scottish Borders. This finding suggests the need to think beyond the RLUF/RLUP (which covers the whole of the South of Scotland region) to how more localised and inclusive conversations about land use could be supported to feed 'up' into the RLUF and vice versa on an ongoing basis. The RLUF/RLUP could then become a mechanism for mediating national and local land use priorities.

An iterative approach to RLUF development and review could provide an opportunity for this 'feeding up' of findings from the catchment or sub-catchment scale to increasingly influence the shape of the RLUF over time. Whilst the first version of the RLUF might be relatively high level with an emphasis on strategic priorities across the region and key principles, a mechanism could be set up to allow future iterations of the RLUF to be increasingly informed by smaller scale land use plans.

The RLUF should draw on the best available data

"The demands we place on the land are many, complex and interacting and policymakers need the best scientific evidence and analytical tools to help them navigate the difficult decisions they face" (Royal Society, 2023)[10]

Alongside stakeholder engagement, accessing **robust, empirical data** will also be important for informing application of a natural capital approach to land use decisions. This includes data on current land cover (including habitat quality) and the ecosystem service benefits derived from current land use, as well as data on the suitability of land for supporting different uses and providing different benefits. For example, some argue that a 'three compartment' model of land use should be pursued in the UK[11], using data to classify land into three classes so that we can use the most productive land for high yield food production, the least productive land for semi-natural habitat and mixed wildlife friendly farming on the rest.

This RLUP pilot has made use of high-resolution land cover data from Nature Scot and Space Intelligence to inform stakeholder engagement[12]. However, this dataset does not provide any insights into habitat quality or land use change opportunities. Use of other GIS datasets could help to get a better understanding of opportunities to provide different benefits to inform the RLUF. For example:

- land capability for agriculture data (James Hutton Institute)
- land capability for forestry (James Hutton Institute)
- habitat network mapping (to identify key opportunities to boost biodiversity and ecological resilience; Forest Research/other sources?)
- natural flood risk management maps, including opportunity areas for 'runoff reduction' and 'floodplain storage' (SEPA)
- areas with poor water quality due to diffuse pollution (nitrate vulnerable zone mapping; SEPA mapping of WFD surface water classification).

[9] Ibid.

[10] Royal Society (2023). Multifunctional landscapes: Informing a long-term vision for managing the UK's land. https://royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/projects/living-landscapes/DES7483_Multifunctional-landscapes_policy-report-WEB.pdf

[11] C Feniuk et al, 2019, 'Land sparing to make space for species dependent on natural habitats and high value nature farmland', Proceedings of the Royal Society B, issue 286, pp 1909.

[12] https://www.space-intelligence.com/scotland-landcover/

This would need to be combined with data on key constraints such as designated sites, peatland, National Scenic Areas and land capability for Agriculture (as used in the Regional Strategic Woodland Creation Project referred to earlier). Socio-economic data could also be valuable, such as land value data, land ownership and information on employment in different land use activities (noting there are likely to be increasing employment opportunities associated with peatland restoration and woodland planting and related needs for new skills/training).

Nature Scot is currently developing a Landscape Scale Natural Capital Assessment Tool for Scotland. This is to be developed as an open access, free to use tool which aims to support integrated and collaborative approaches to land management by informing priorities with multiple benefits for people and nature. The next stage of RLUF development could seek to pilot the use of this tool if it is available in time.

The pilot core partners are also leading a data project under the Borderlands Natural Capital Initiative (part of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal) to provide a natural capital baseline dataset and opportunity areas for enhancing natural capital to be incorporated into a decision support tool. The pilot is also supporting a research fellowship study at Heriot Watt University that is reviewing existing and emerging natural capital planning tools.

Ideally the RLUF would include a strong focus on mapping, based on the best available evidence, including:

- Baseline mapping of existing land uses/land cover with accompanying information describing the land uses and habitat types and the benefits they provide, including areas of particular importance for specific benefits (e.g., peatlands for carbon storage)
- Mapping of existing land use change projects which are anticipated to have significant positive impacts in terms of addressing the climate change and nature emergencies
- Mapping of key indicative opportunity areas for land use change / nature-based solutions, to accompany the identification of priority land use changes (e.g. native woodland creation, “right tree in the right place”, peatland restoration).

The RLUF will also need to be sufficiently flexible to allow for updates as better data becomes available.

Better data can support better engagement

Better data on the impacts of different land uses (and related management practices) on the range of benefits provided by land could also inform more transparent consideration of the trade-offs involved between different land uses and optimal locations. For example, there were multiple calls for better information to guide appropriate actions. At present the rapid change from land which has traditionally been farmed to largely commercial forestry is being justified as beneficial for carbon sequestration, but there are many questions about this, and people perceive multiple negative impacts, for example on biodiversity. Questions extend to the wider impacts and costs of such forestry on flooding, jobs, community, tourism and road maintenance.

This need was also linked to a call from many quarters for more “education” about the impacts of various land-uses. For example, one participant highlighted the need to better understand the impacts of different peatland management practices, citing research on management methods for heather-dominated peatlands[13]. Understanding the characteristics which make peatland restoration more straightforward or more challenging would aid the targeting of restoration actions. Ensuring relevant research and data is accessible to all, and can be understood by all, could support awareness raising.

[13] No ‘one size fits all’ heather management method for protecting carbon-rich peatlands - News and events, University of York

Understand and communicate the impacts of climate change on land use in the region

Accessing data on the latest climate change projections and the anticipated impacts of ongoing climate change will also be important to inform the RLUF[14]. Climate change is likely to have direct impacts on food production, biodiversity, landscape, soil and water quality and flood risk. It could also exacerbate deterioration of peatlands, increasing further losses of stored carbon. Specific impacts are likely to include increased flooding due to increases in winter rainfall, more frequent heatwaves and droughts during the summer months, increased storm damage and wildfire risk and a likely increase in the prevalence of pests and diseases. The RLUF therefore needs to consider the latest information on these risks and impacts and contribute to building more resilient environments, economies and communities. The process of developing the RLUF could also help to raise awareness and understanding of climate change, its anticipated impacts over different timescales and the need to adapt land use.

A clear national policy steer would support a fair and accountable RLUF development process

As highlighted in the introduction, the land use policy context is dynamic and there are multiple policy drivers impacting on land use.

In addition to bottom-up engagement and good data, RLUFs ultimately need to be informed by a clear steer from Scottish Government about regional land use targets or preferred land use pathways and a clear indication of how this will be delivered. For example, through aligning agricultural funding with these targets and RLUFs, similar to the proposal in England to use Local Nature Recovery Strategies to inform the targeting of some environmental land management funding.

Clearer policy direction from the top (including clarity on RLUP/RLUF funding) would support the democratic debate about how to balance the multiple goals for land use highlighted above in future iterations of the South of Scotland RLUF. It would also help farmers and land managers to plan for the future and could give explicit support to actions by farmers that seek to benefit both natural capital and agricultural operations, as is being explored in the Borderlands Natural Capital Initiative.

This recommendation accords with previous advice to Regional Land Use Partnerships from the Scottish Land Commission[15] which highlighted the opportunity for the RLUPs to broker multiple sources of public and private investment and direct this to agreed regional priorities in a co-ordinated way.

As the SLC note in their more recent advice to Ministers[16]: *"Navigating the strategic choices inherent in meeting national priorities such as woodland expansion, food production, biodiversity enhancement, rural repopulation, and more, cannot be left to decision-making at a land holding scale. It requires a very deliberate land use strategy that provides a framework in which to address the choices at a regional and local scale in a way that is seen to be fair and accountable, and which delivers national ambitions."*

[14] UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (Scottish Government, 2019) and the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 (Scottish Government, 2019).
[15] Advice to Scottish Government on the Establishment of Regional Land Use Partnerships (2020), Scottish Land Commission.
[16] SLC, 2022. Natural Capital and Land: Recommendations for a Just Transition. https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/62baa9e7e982e_Natural%20Capital%20and%20Land%20Recommendations%20Report.pdf

5.2 Recommended next steps to develop the RLUF

The steps summarised below are drawn from the analysis and discussion above. The recommended next steps are:

1. Identify, collate and analyse relevant research and data, including opportunity mapping, to help identify appropriate broad locations for priority land use changes and multifunctional nature-based solutions in the RLUF.
2. Explore the potential to pilot use of an early version of Nature Scot's new natural capital tool to generate mapping and inform the application of a natural capital approach in the RLUF.
3. Develop some high-level objectives and principles for the RLUF, alongside the regional land use priorities, to help to determine priorities and work through trade-offs in different places.
4. Understand and communicate the impacts of climate change on land use in the region and measures to enhance resilience.
5. Undertake further analysis of the findings from this research, including comparing views expressed between and within area-based workshops.
6. Carefully plan how to keep stakeholders informed about progress on developing the first RLUF, and how to consult on the first draft RLUF, drawing on the lessons learned from this research and being mindful of consultation fatigue and the uncertainties around how RLUFs will integrate with wider policies and funding.
7. Discuss the findings of this research with the REP and Advisory Group (as planned) and agree the implications for the next phase of work needed to develop the RLUF (including the ongoing role of both in shaping the RLUF).
8. Seek clarity on ongoing funding for the RLUP/RLUF process (critical for implementing these recommendations) with Scottish Government, SOSE (as core funding partner to date), pilot partners and statutory agencies to ensure continuity of support
9. Continue to share the findings of this research with Scottish Government, linking with developing policy on agricultural and forestry support and the Place Planning agenda. This will identify
10. Continue to share the findings of this research with Scottish Government, discuss the implications (e.g. the link with place planning), seek clarity on ongoing funding for the RLUP/RLUF process (critical for implementing these recommendations) and liaise regarding any further policy steers or updated guidance on the content of RLUFs.
11. Identify key existing and emerging funding sources to support the implementation of the priority land use changes and nature-based solutions identified in the RLUP (e.g. revised Forestry Grant Scheme; proposals in the Agriculture Bill for direct payments for mitigation actions; Woodland Carbon Code; Peatland Code) and promote these to landowners and managers to support action.
12. Plan for what should happen beyond the publication of the first RLUF, including for the following actions (subject to securing the necessary funding):
    a. Define the role of the REP and Advisory Group in taking this work forwards beyond the publication of the RLUF, including in relation to the recommended actions below.
    b. Consider how existing key partnerships in the region (e.g. Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, Tweed Forum, Southern Uplands Partnership; others identified in Peskett, 2022[17]) can contribute to decision making, particularly at sub-regional scale, delivery of projects and/or monitoring and evaluation.
    c. Explore the potential to fund monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the RLUP/RLUF.
    d. Plan an appropriate review cycle for the RLUP so that it can be updated to reflect the latest evidence (including findings from any monitoring and evaluation) and policy and incorporate more detailed actions over time.

[17] Peskett, L. (2022) South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUP) pilot: revew of existing partnerships and their links to the proposed pilot. Available at: https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/media/1884/doc-3-sos_partnership_evaluation_final.pdf

e. Explore the potential to pilot a catchment or sub-catchment-based approach to land use planning that integrates with local place planning and seeks to develop location specific land use priorities, informed by the regional priorities in the RLUF and potentially in turn informing future iterations of the RLUF.
f. Seek support to strengthen and pilot mechanisms for securing stronger participation of local people in land use and development decisions.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Method for consultation round 1 – full description of face-to-face workshop method and materials

This appendix sets out full details of the methods and materials used for the face to face workshops in consultation round 1. Details of the method used for the online events were provided in the main report.

Key activities in round 1 included:

- 18 x face to face workshops in Selkirk, Peebles, Kelso, Jedburgh, Lauder, Hawick, West Linton, Duns, Eyemouth, Kirkcudbright, Lockerbie, Langholm, Moffat, Annan, Sanquhar, New Galloway, Stranraer and Wigtown Peebles, Lockerbie and Langholm
- 2x online workshops – 1 x Dumfries and Galloway, 1x Scottish Borders

The focus of the first round of consultation was to identify what the most important challenges and opportunities were with regard to land-use change in South Scotland. Workshops were introduced by staff from the lead partners (mostly SoSE). Workshops were led by staff from Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP) with input from Land Use Consultants (LUC).

The "place-principle" concerns people, location and resources creating a sense of identity and purpose. It seeks to bring local stakeholders together in different localities to work in partnership to agree what works, what could be improved and help put together a plan to achieve this. In relation to wider land use – it asks "what is important to you in your local place?".

The workshops sought to explore whether these issues differed across the region from place to place and what differences there were between particular interest groups. The approach taken was to divide up the region based on the 10 'regional landscape areas' identified across D&G and Scottish Borders by landscape assessments previously completed for both regions. Each area represents a similar landscape character using a range of variables such as topography and vegetation, landuse and settlement patterns, so these areas were viewed as a useful proxy for "place" (see further details in section 2.2 above). The regional landscape areas include the Galloway Uplands, the Dumfries Coast and the Tweed Lowlands. Workshop venues in larger settlements were then sought in each of these, with the intention that differences related to place could be explored.

Drawing on the data from the Phase 1 reports and expanded methodologies developed in the Regional Strategic Woodland Creation Project (2019), a range of resources was developed to help us to: identify the ways that people benefitted from the land; how participants identified as a land user; a list of challenges and opportunities (though participants were encouraged to supply their own thoughts on these - the lists were to provide a starting point) and a range of questions that would draw out specific area-based responses. By designing workshops making use of these resources we aimed to determine common and localised issues, highlight tensions/trade-offs and gain an understanding of people's priorities concerning land use.

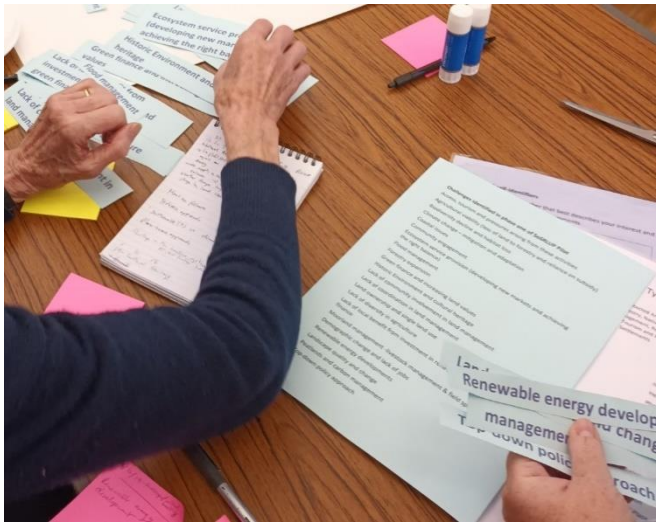
It was important to ensure that the tasks were easy to understand, could be undertaken in the time allowed and that the subject matter would provoke discussion in each breakout group as the aim was to gain consensus from each group in prioritising their chosen responses.

Face-to-face meetings (18) were set up across South of Scotland to engage a wide range of user groups. In addition 2 online opportunities (1 Dumfries and Galloway, 1 Scottish Borders) were provided for those unwilling or unable to attend a live event.

The format of both workshops is outlined below.

All Round 1 resources can be found in Appendix 1

Round 1 face to face workshops



Hawick Workshop

Live Workshop Sessions

“Letter to the RLUP”

We asked people to ‘write’ a letter to the RLUP using a range of preprepared resources.

Workshops were divided into tables of between 3 and 6 delegates depending on numbers. On each table there were a number of resources:

1. List of Self Identifiers: 19 categories including landowner, tourism, forestry, farming, leisure, etc.,

2. List of Challenges – 22 options e.g. biodiversity decline, climate change, forestry expansion, etc.,

3. List of Opportunities – 29 options e.g. agroforestry, rewilding, farm diversification, etc.,

4. ‘Letter to the RLUP’ 4 pages with the following questions:

- The benefits we get from this land include…
- The challenges that we think are the most important to ensure that the key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced in this place.
- The opportunities that we think are the most important to ensure that the key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced in this place.
- Other things to consider…

5. Workshop materials instruction sheet

A range of further resources in the form of posters were available to view on the following subjects: Ecosystem Land Services, Land Benefits, Natural Capital, Principles for Sustainable Land Use, Regional Landscape Areas, South of Scotland RLUP and maps specific to each location

Full list of Self Identifiers, Challenges, Opportunities, workshop instructions and posters can be found in appendices

Each event started with a brief overview presentation of the RLUP pilot process followed by the opportunity for questions and instructions on how to use the workshop materials. The workshop session started with participants choosing a self-identifier code from a prepopulated list. 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 affixed to chart paper. Analysis of this data allowed us to identify what particular benefits each user group received from the local land and to identify variations across the region.

The second task considered the list of challenges that had been identified during the first phase (to April 2022) of this pilot project. Participants were asked to consider whether there were any 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 (to April 2022) 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 Govt) to consider.

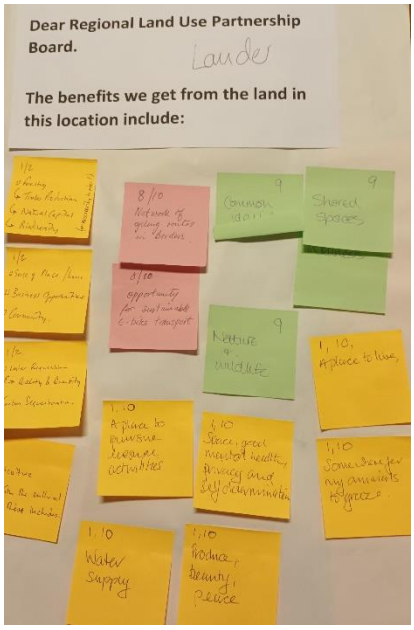
90 minutes was allowed for this exercise

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

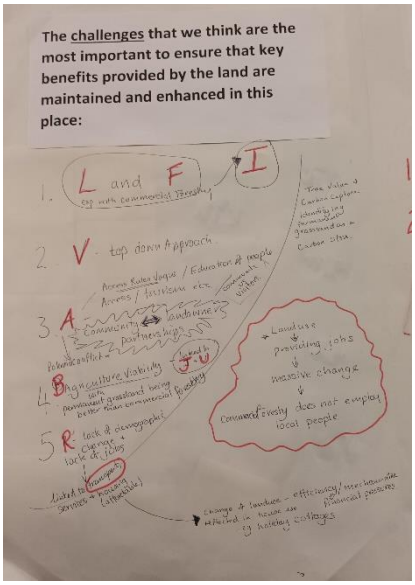
Round 1 workshop materials

Delegates were requested to consider 4 questions and work in groups to complete a ‘letter to the RLUP’ The following photographs represent working sheets for each question

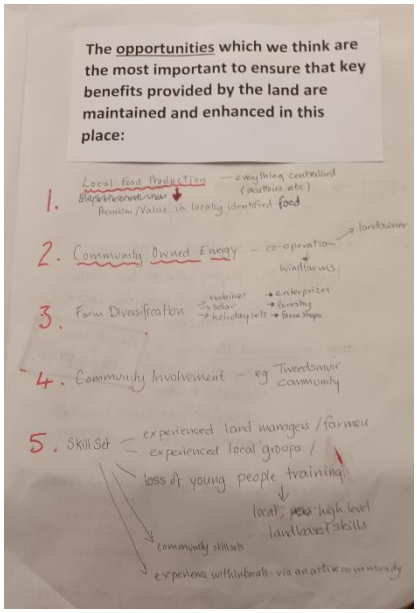
Page 1 Example



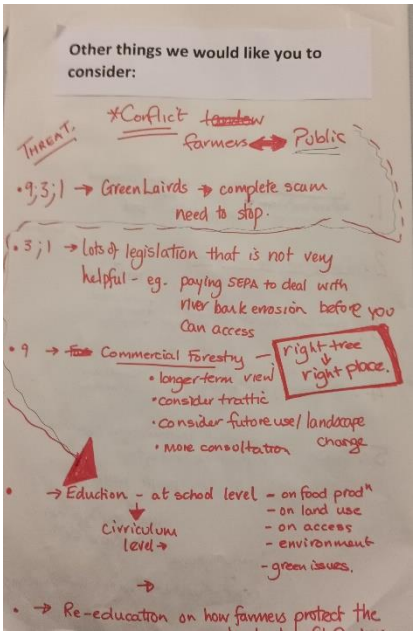
Page 2 Example



Page 3 Example



Page 4 Example



1.2 List of self-identifiers

Delegates were requested to select a number that best described their interest and include on all post it note comments

Table 1: List of Self Identifiers

1. Land Owner	2. Forestry	3. Agriculture
4. Tourism	5. Local Authority	6. Government Organisation
7. NGO - Natural Heritage	8. NGO, Social Enterprise, Charity	9. Local Community
10. Leisure User – Horse Riding, Walking, Cycling, Photography, etc.,	11. Wildlife, Nature	12. Field Sports
13. Water, Rivers, Coastal	14. Renewables	15. Built Heritage
16. Local Business	17. Minerals, Mining	18. Conservation
19. Other - please specify		

1.3 List of Challenges

Challenges identified in phase one of SoSRLUP Pilot were available at each table to allow delegates to prioritise these

A. Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities
B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss
D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation
E. Coastal issues
F. Community engagement
G. Ecosystem service provision (developing new markets and achieving the right balance)
H. Flood management
I. Forestry expansion
J. Green finance and increasing land values
K. Historic Environment and cultural heritage
L. Lack of community involvement in land management
M. Lack of coordination in land management
N. Land ownership and single land use
O. Lack of diversity in agriculture
P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance
Q. Moorland management -livestock management & field sports
R. Demographic change and lack of jobs
S. Renewable energy developments
T. Landscape quality and change
U. Peatlands and carbon management
V. Top-down policy approach

1.4 List of Opportunities

Opportunities identified from the first phase of the SoSRLUP Pilot were available at each table to allow delegates to prioritise these

A. Development of recreational facilities
B. Sustainable tourism and recreation
C. Eco-tourism
D. Historic and cultural heritage- tourism related opportunities
E. Historic and cultural heritage- strategic framework to address regional land use impacts
F. Rural employment in agriculture
G. Agro forestry
H. Local food production
I. Farm diversification
J. Rewilding
K. Regenerative agriculture
L. Natural flood management
M. Renewable energy
N. Coastal restoration
O. Natural capital investment
P. Soil regeneration
Q. Water quality
R. Native woodland expansion
S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management
T. Forestry employment
U. Regulation of green finance / green lairds
V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process
W. Community commercial scale food growing

X. Partnerships between private owners and public bodies to coordinate land management
Y. Policy design for fairer investment to enable shared benefits
Z. Community owned energy
AA. Peatland restoration and carbon storage
BB. Stakeholder engagement to enable collaborative and bottom-up approach
CC. Woodland expansion for climate change mitigation and adaptation

1.5 Workshop Instruction Sheet

Overall task. Each table will prepare a letter to the RLUP suggesting what it should **concentrate** on – and where possible their reasons for these choices.

Point out that we are keen to see what difference there might be between interest groups so we would like them to self-identify. They should choose a number (or more than one if necessary) from the violet Self Identifier list. Many people have been putting multiple numbers so I am urging them to use the number that they would use if they introduced themselves to someone new – i.e. the MAIN thing they do or are interested-in. Please ask them (several times) to write this number on each of their post it notes.

Front of letter

Task 1 – Benefits we experience from the land. Activity time 10 minutes. Use white sheet Land Use and Types of Benefits List for ideas.

We would like to learn what the top 3 or 4 **specific benefits** they get from the land that make this location different from the rest of Scotland. Please ask people to jot these down and if possible tell us why they are important in this place. Remember to use id numbers on post-its.

While this is being done – distribute the laminated Challenge lists – 3 or 4 per table.

Inside left of letter

Task 2 - Prioritising challenges. Activity time 25 minutes.

Aim: Address the question: *which challenges are the most important to ensure that key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced in this place*

Each table of participants to consider the list of challenges identified from the first phase of the stakeholder engagement and ask are they complete – add any considered important for this area.

Also point out that the wording can be amended if they want to clarify (we would welcome explanation for changes).

Ask to pick personal top 5 (or so) challenges in relation to this place. Once they have picked their own list, aim to try to agree a priority order for the table group. Scissors and glue are available to fix the results so we will have a record of the order agreed.

Any significant differences of opinion should be recorded (e.g. where there is a major difference in views). These can be recorded on post-its and added to the chart – ask that user-id labels are used.

While this is being completed – distribute the laminated opportunities sheet - 3 or 4 per table.

Inside right of letter

Task 3 – Prioritising opportunities. Activity time 25 minutes.

Address the question: *which opportunities are the most important to ensure that key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced in this place*

Each table of participants to consider the opportunities identified from the first phase of the stakeholder engagement and ask are they complete – add any considered important for this area.

Again, individuals should pick their top 5 or 6 and then try to agree the top 5 (or so) opportunities for the group in relation to this place. Aim to try to agree a priority order. Again, glue and scissors available for people who want to use the cut-up sheets, but it is fine to just write them.

Any significant differences of opinion to be recorded (e.g. where there is a major difference in views). These can be recorded on post-its and added to the chart. Ask post-its to labelled with a user-id.

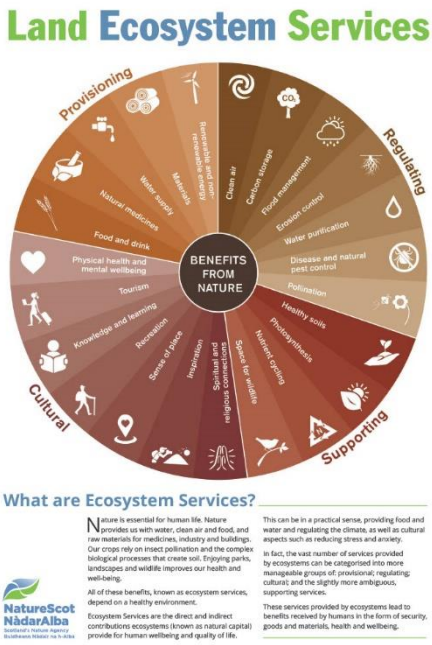
Back page

Any further questions and comments you would like the RLUP to consider. ID numbers please

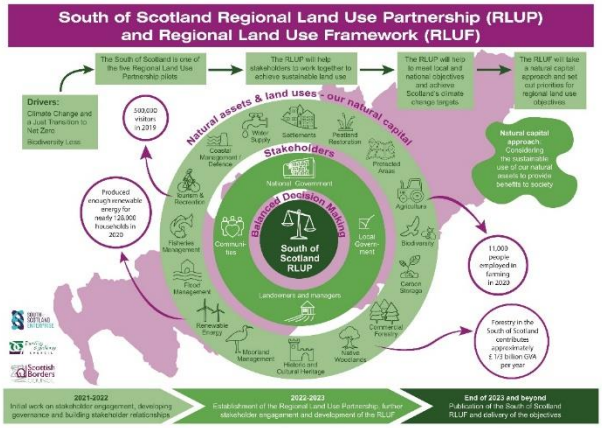
1.6 Posters

A range of resources were available to view at each event:

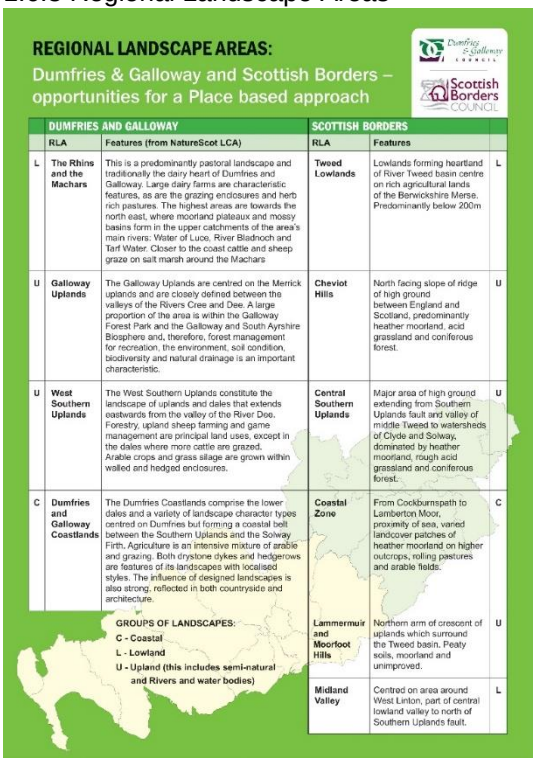
1.6.1 Land Ecosystem Services



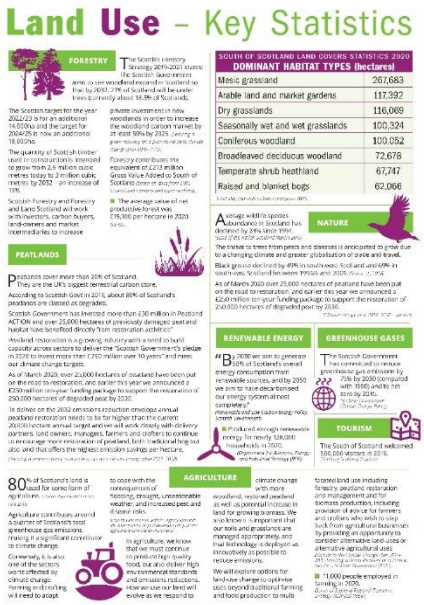
1.6.2 Regional Land Framework



1.6.3 Regional Landscape Areas



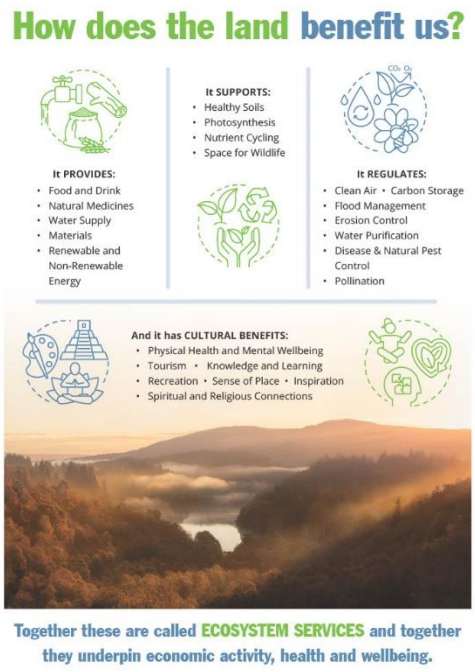
1.6.4 Land Use Key Statistics



1.6.5 Principles for Sustainable Land Use

1.6.6 Natural Capital

1.6.17 Land Benefits



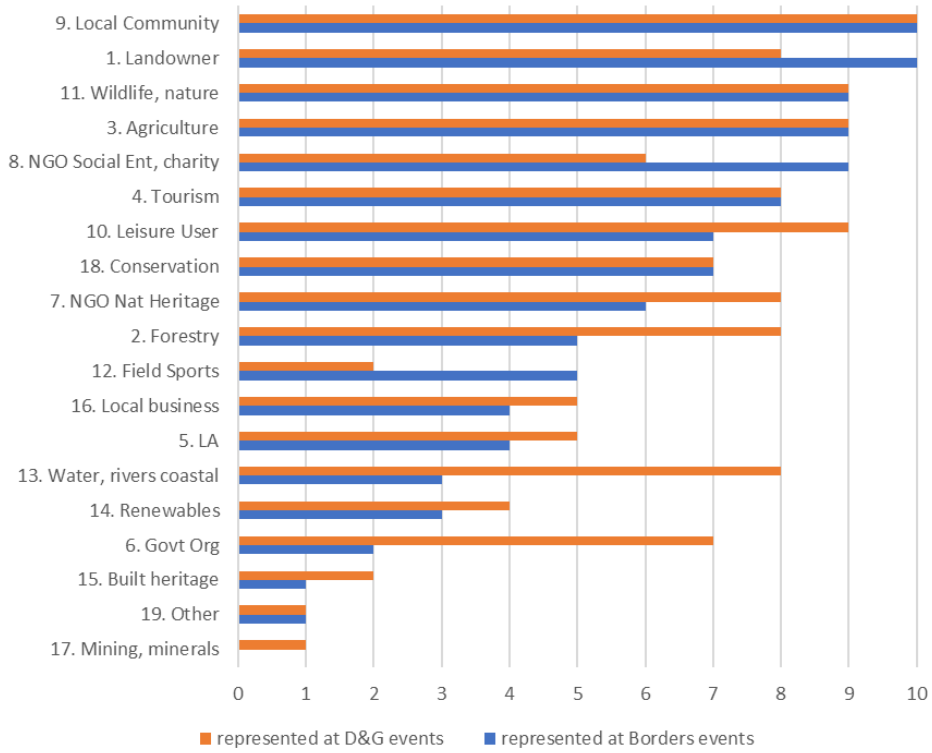
Appendix 2 Round 1 workshop data

This appendix sets out the key findings from consultation round 1 in further detail, including relevant graphs.

Stakeholder representation

Figure 5 shows the types of stakeholders present at the events across each local authority area in round 1. The data indicates that there was representation of every suggested category although there was only mining/minerals representation at the D&G event.

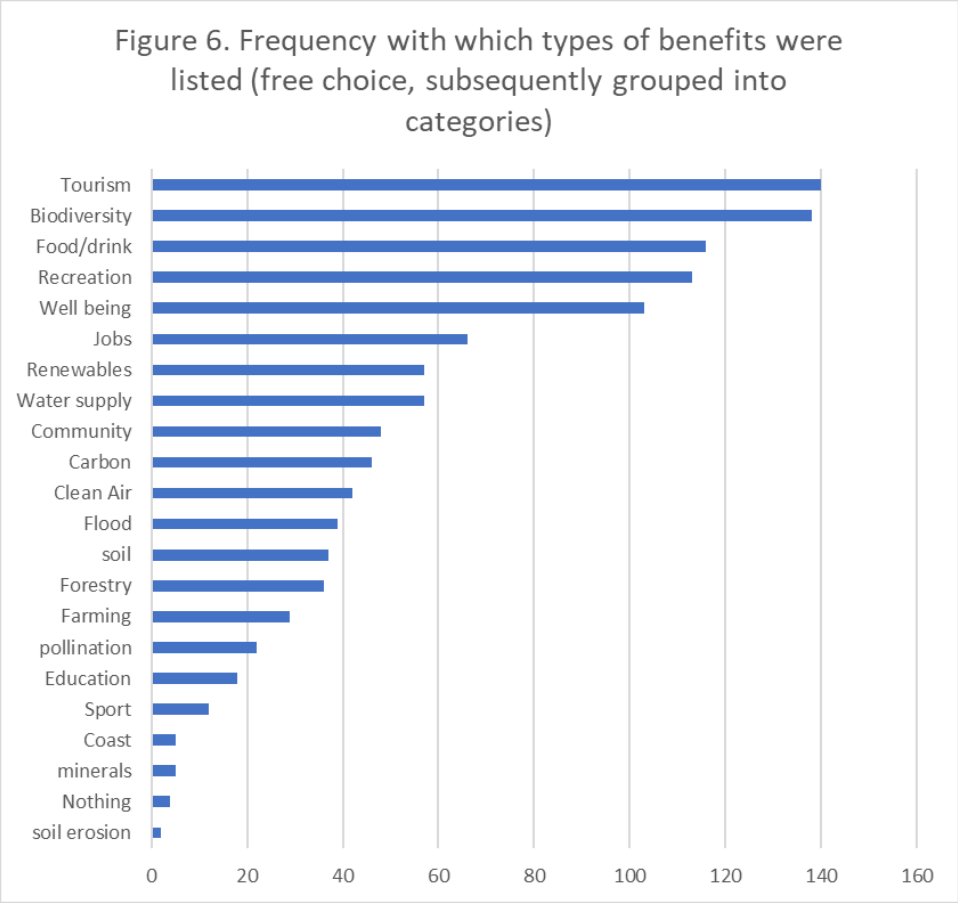
Figure 5. Stakeholder representation at events (number of events with representation)



The benefits we get from the land in this region

Each of 300 individuals provided responses in their own words about what benefits they currently got from the land. These identified benefits were then grouped into categories. Figure 6 below shows the frequency with which different categories of benefit were identified.

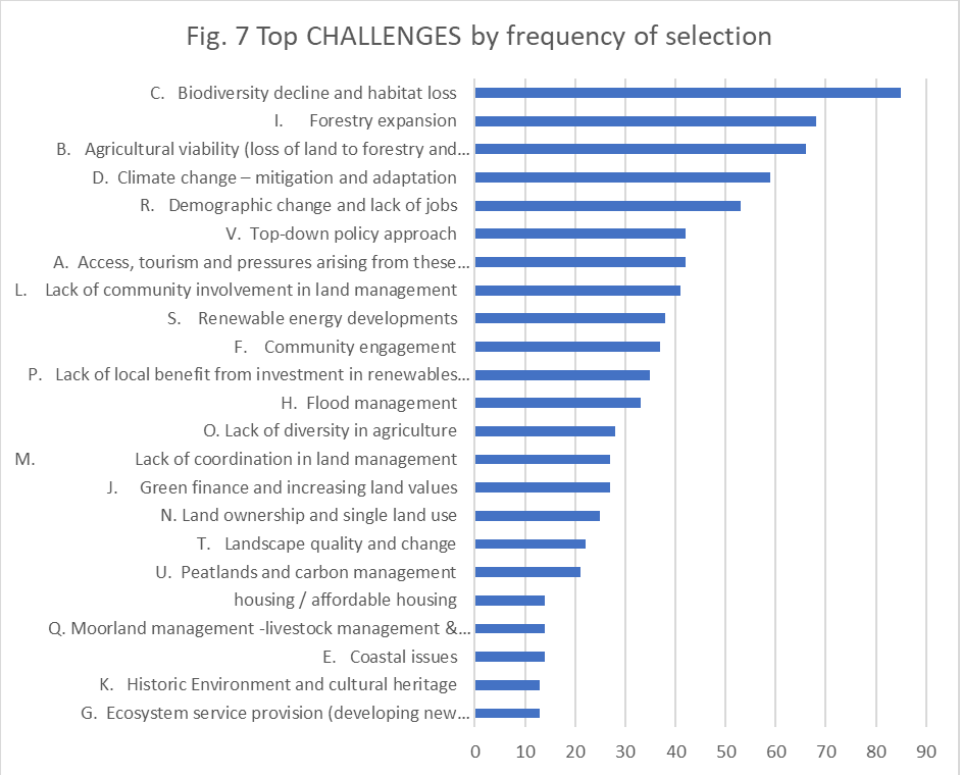
The five most frequently identified benefits from the land were: tourism, biodiversity, food/drink, recreation and wellbeing.

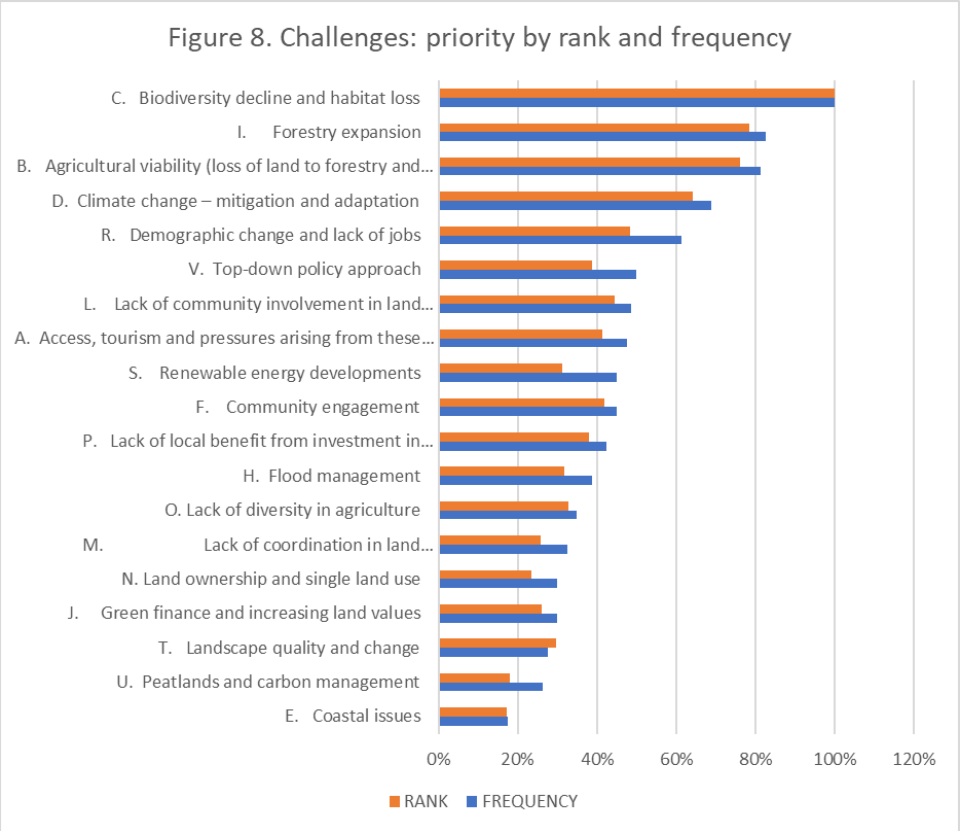


Prioritisation of challenges

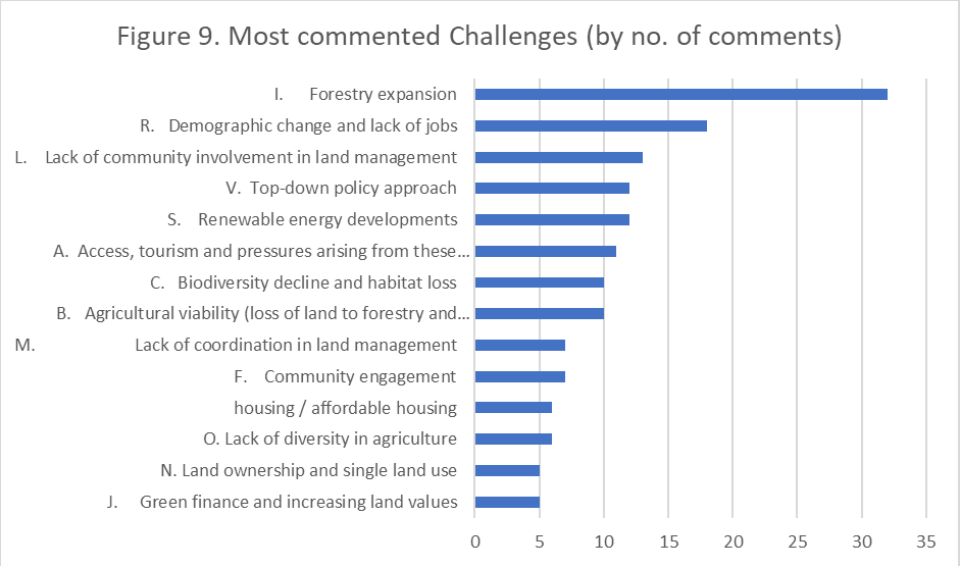
Workshop participants were asked to consider the challenges that are most important to address to ensure that key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced in this place.

Figure X shows challenges by frequency. Figure 7 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. These were biodiversity decline, forestry expansion, agricultural viability, climate change and demographic change/lack of jobs.





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 9 shows.



Forestry expansion was the most commented upon 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.

The interim report provides further analysis of wider comments.

Challenges compared between Borders and Dumfries & Galloway

Figure 10 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.

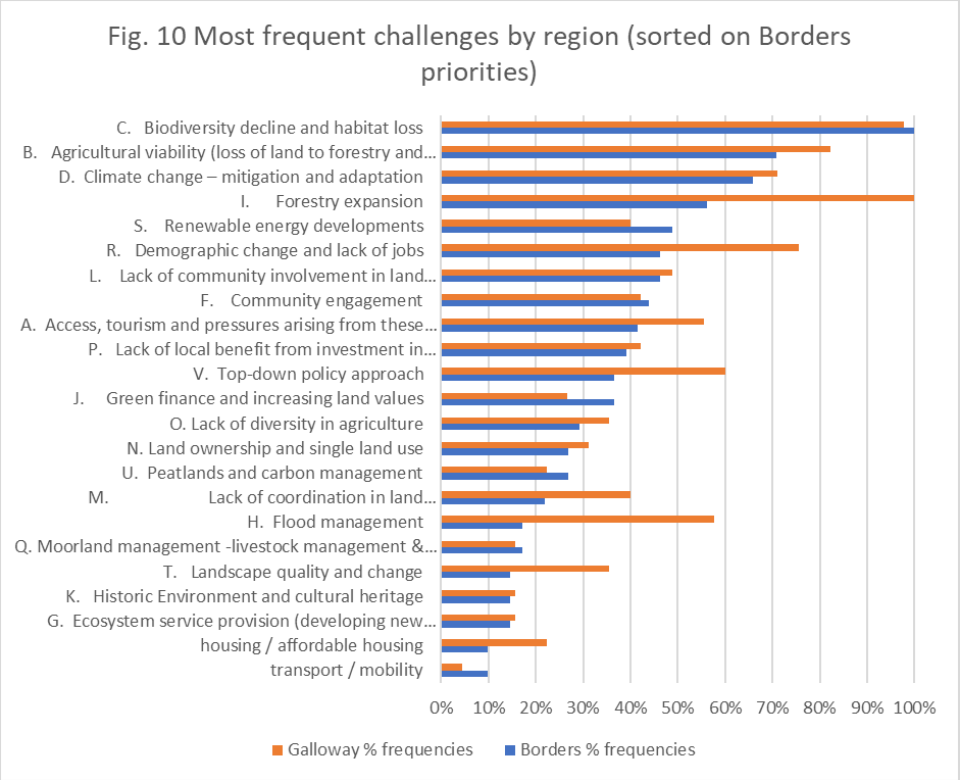
Biodiversity was the most frequently mentioned challenge in the Borders and the second most frequently mentioned challenge in Dumfries & Galloway.

Agricultural viability and climate change were also frequently mentioned challenges in both areas.

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.

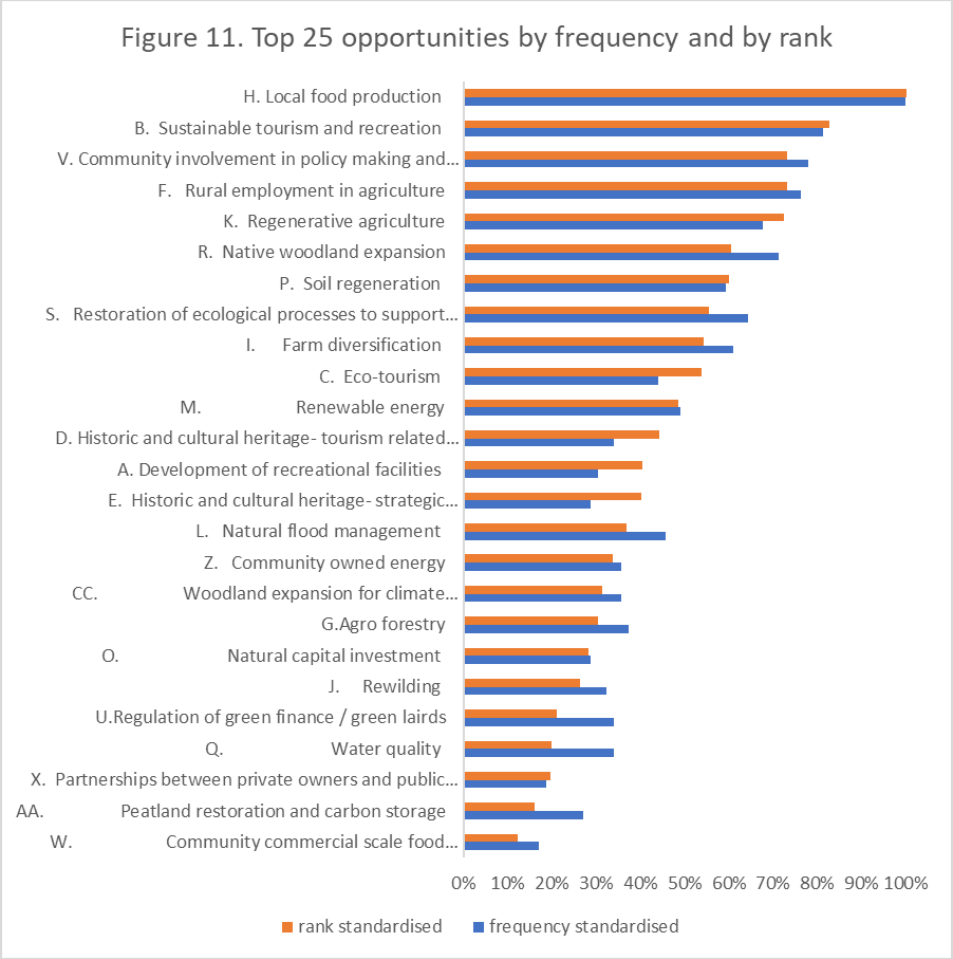


Opportunities

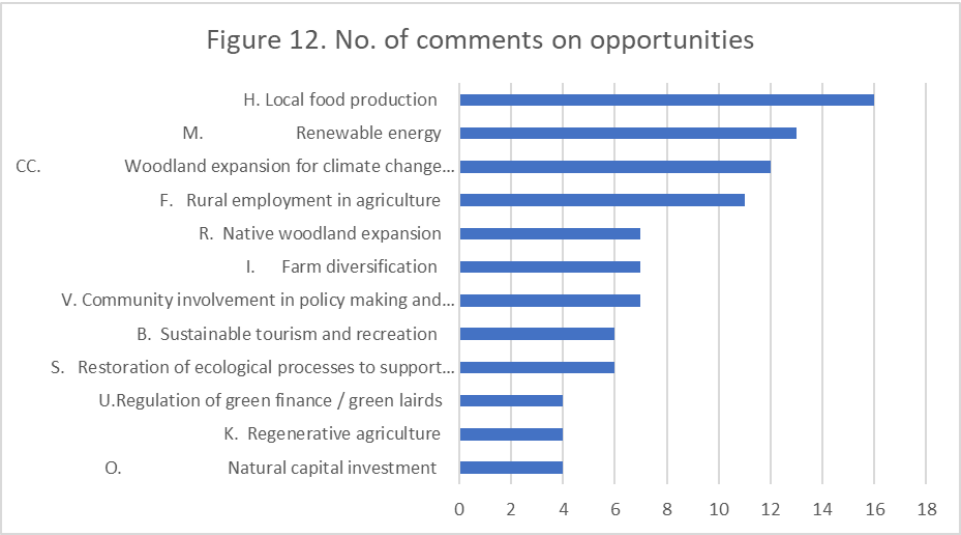
Workshop participants were asked to identify the opportunities which they thought were the most important to ensure that key benefits provided by the land are maintained and enhanced in this place.

Responses were analysed both by FREQUENCY (number of times an option was selected) and by RANK (priority assigned, where that was clear), as shown in the figure below.

Top rated opportunities across the region included: local food production; sustainable tourism; community involvement in policy making and rural employment in agriculture, regenerative agriculture and native woodland expansion.



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 12 shows.



Comments on local food production 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.

The interim report provides further analysis of wider comments.

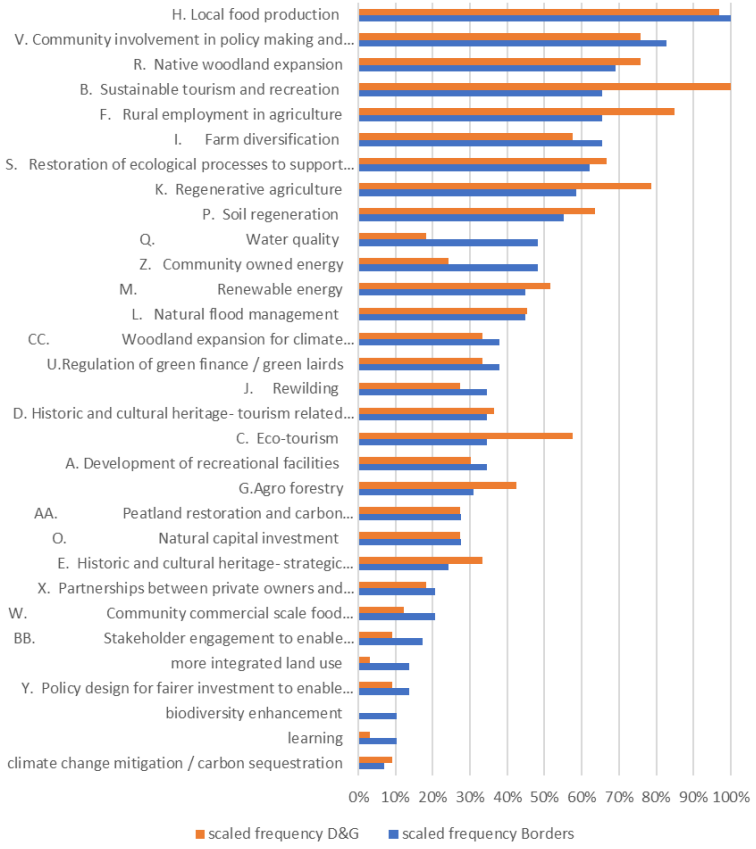
Opportunities compared between Borders and Dumfries & Galloway

Figure 13 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. 13 Most frequent opportunities by region (sorted on Borders priorites)



The most frequently identified challenges and opportunities were also identified for each area-based workshop. Details of these findings are included below in Appendix 3

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 (i.e. addressed to the RLUP).*

Comments were all transcribed, and sorted into categories (Table 3). 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.

Table 2: Categories of suggestions made under 'other considerations'

Topic	**no. of comments**
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

Drawing on the above, decision-making processes and governance were picked up in dedicated workshops as part of consultation round 2. These findings are included in the next section.

Appendix 3: Method for consultation round 2 – full description of workshop methods and materials

This appendix sets out full details of the methods and materials used for the face to face workshops in consultation round 2.

3.1 Key activities included:

- 8x face to face workshops in Selkirk, Jedburgh, Wigtown, Castle Douglas, Duns, Peebles, Lockerbie and Langholm
- 2x online workshops, one focusing one policy and one on process
- Borders College event for Agricultural Students
- NFUS engagement

Face to face events

The focus of the second round of in-person consultation events was to identify what land-use change actions would help address given issues, what priority they should be given and at what scale they needed to operate.

Data from Round 1 (see Interim Report) was reviewed and a range of resources and methodologies were developed that would help us to drill down into the data for each revisited location. These took the form of: the top 10 issues (identified in Round 1) for each place (locality) building upon our Place-based approach; 10 pre-populated Information sheets that outlined the benefits, tensions and best practice across a range of land-uses; a question sheet divided into 4 sections for people to categorise their responses, and to record a suggested priority and scale for those actions. From these we hoped to determine a list of priorities for south Scotland and to provide a list of recommendations for the RLUP.

Online Events

From the Round 1 data analysis a range of points were identified that grouped under the headings of policy and process. We felt it important to explore these further through two dedicated online workshop sessions. Two separate slide decks were produced to provide context for each workshop. The first 30 minutes was used for scene setting with a presentation and question round followed by a 60-minute workshop.

For the policy workshop we shared a range of the comments people had made concerning policy alignment (or lack of it) and how these related to housing, infrastructure, land reform, place and development planning. Participants were introduced to the subject by asking them to read a series of quotes (see list below) followed by 3 questions based around those quotes.

For the process workshop a similar structure was used with 3 questions, one of which had a range of options to provide further thoughts and a series of quotes identified in Round 1 workshop data.

The aim of both workshops was to gather a list of recommendations people believed would assist the RLUP when considering process and policy decisions.

As in Round 1, it was important to ensure that the tasks were easy to understand in both the live and online sessions and could be undertaken in the time allowed and that the subject matter would provoke table discussion as the aim was to gain consensus from each group in agreeing their recommendations.

Additional meetings

While the face-to-face meetings (8) across south Scotland engaged a wide range of user groups, attendance from young people was limited. It was therefore decided to hold an additional event to target this audience and this took place at Borders College Newtown St Boswells Campus for Agricultural students.

The pilot was also invited to speak to the Borders NFUS Branch to whom a presentation on the RLUP Process was made. A range of questions were asked at this event, re-emphasising the concerns of farmers about a wide range of pressures they feel, of which the proposed RLUP is one more. NFUS members were encouraged to review the report once it was completed in April and to contribute to the next phase, the drafting of the RLUF.

All resources for Round 2 Workshops can be found in Appendix 3

Round 2 face to face workshops

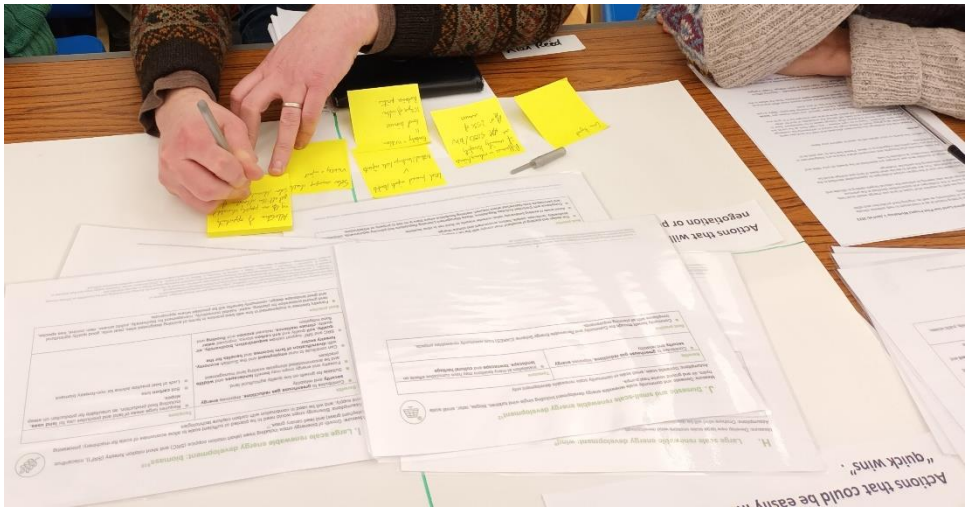


Photo from Duns Workshop

Workshops were divided into tables of between 3 and 6 delegates depending on anticipated numbers. On each table there were a number of resources:

1. Top 8" issues" identified in round 1 for each location (Selkirk, Jedburgh, Wigtown, Castle Douglas, Duns, Peebles, Lockerbie and Langholm). Each table in the venue had a unique "issue" for delegates to respond to. If there were less than 30 delegates expected, issueswere selected by order of priority from round 1 response e.g. 5 tables with top 5 challenges.

2. 10 cards that outlined the benefits, tensions and best practice for a range of land-uses which included: sustainable agriculture, native woodland, river restoration, etc.,

3. A sheet divided into 4 sections for people to categorise their responses to a particular challenge under the following headings:

- Actions that could be easily introduced right now, "quick wins".
- Actions that could/should be introduced in the "medium term".
- Actions that will be harder/more difficult because they will "need negotiation" or policy or law changes.
- Actions that are not relevant in this circumstance.

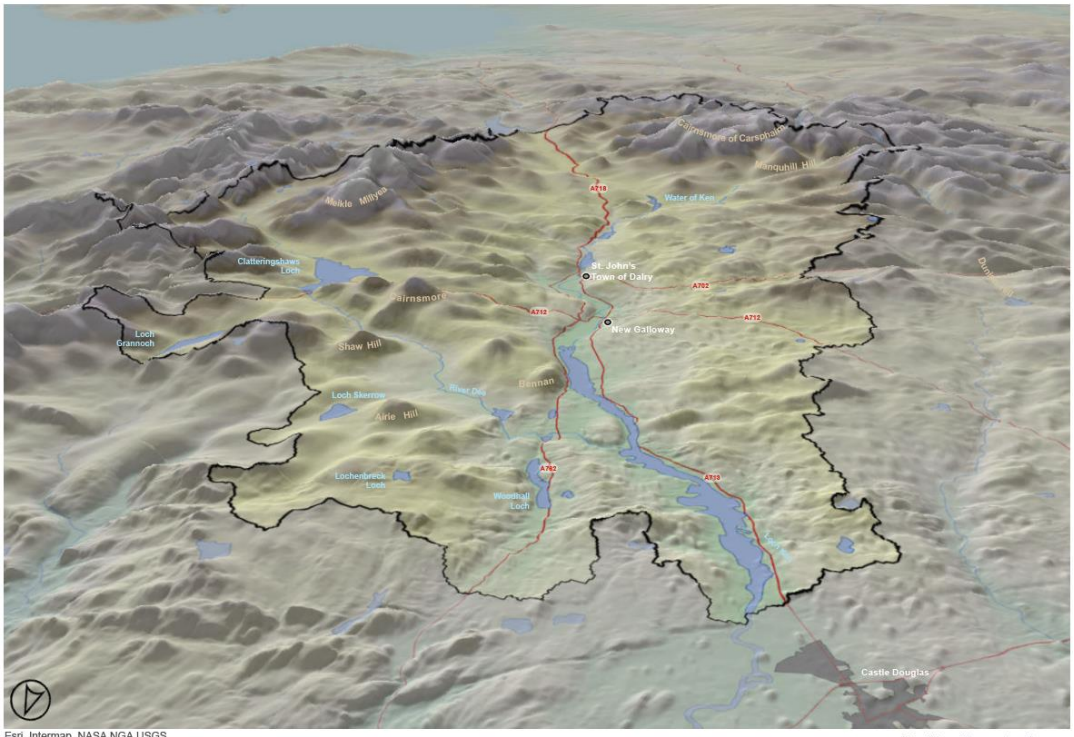
4. Delegates were requested to consider Scale of suggested changes:

- **S1**. Some changes might need to be applied at a very local scale (e.g. a particular site or number of local sites).
- **S2.** Other changes might be specific to particular sub-catchments or land areas.
- **S3.** Still others might be at wider landscape or region-wide scale.

5. Workshop materials instruction sheet

A full list of issues, workshop instructions and cards can be found in appendices.

Workshops participants were also able to view supplementary material on the venue walls to aid their discussions. Maps were generated to provide useful land-use info on each catchment. One of these was a 3D representation of the catchment, putting the towns in the context of the catchment (see example below; all the 3D maps can be viewed online at: https://south-scotland-regional-land-use-partnership-pilot-luc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/phase-2-2-workshop-materials). We also provided mapped information on designated sites, peatlands, nitrate sensitive zones and land cover, but it should be pointed-out that the limited time and space for the workshops made consultation of this other information difficult.



Ken/Dee Water Catchment 3D Representation of Catchment

Workshop process

On arrival, delegates were requested to review the subject on each table and select the table topic they were most interested in.

Each event started with a brief overview presentation of the RLUP pilot process, an opportunity for questions and instructions on how to use the workshop materials.

Delegates were requested to take on a particular issue (one of the challenges/opportunities from round 1) and to consider what land-use actions were required to address this. Discussion was encouraged by provision of 10 land-use information sheets (ranging from afforestation, arable or livestock agriculture through to peatland restoration and flood management). Groups were asked to determine which actions could be instigated immediately (quick-wins); which would take a bit more time or effort (medium-term actions) and which would require significant negotiation (difficult).

Groups were also asked to prioritise these actions within each option (quick, medium, difficult) and to indicate what scale they would need to operate at (local, catchment or regional). All responses were recorded on the sheets provided.

Generally, this technique worked well, with lively and constructive discussions taking place at most tables. 90 minutes was allowed for the exercise.

All comments were transcribed, collated and analysed as part of Round 2 data.

Round 2 face to face workshop materials

3.2 Top 10 Challenges by Area

Top 10 challenges and opportunities for Round 2 Events

The following challenges and opportunities were identified from Round 1 workshop data for each area-based workshop.

Table 3: Selkirk

Top 10 challenges	**Top 10 opportunities**
I. Forestry expansion	more integrated land use [**this was proposed by all three tables and voted highest even though not on the list]**
O. Lack of diversity in agriculture	H. Local food production
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management
R. Demographic change and lack of jobs	F. Rural employment in agriculture
S. Renewable energy developments	biodiversity enhancement
V. Top-down policy approach	A. Development of recreational facilities
B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)	mosaic of land uses and nature networks
D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation	M. Renewable energy
H. Flood management	B. Sustainable tourism and recreation
J. Green finance and increasing land values	V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process

Table 4: Jedburgh

Top 10 challenges	**Top 10 opportunities**
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	H. Local food production
B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)	I. Farm diversification
K. Historic Environment and cultural heritage	P. Soil regeneration
S. Renewable energy developments	R. Native woodland expansion
V. Top-down policy approach	L. Natural flood management
T. Landscape quality and change	G. Agro forestry

I. Forestry expansion	Z. Community owned energy
U. Peatlands and carbon management	E. Historic and cultural heritage- strategic framework to address regional land use impacts
A. Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities	D. Historic and cultural heritage- tourism related opportunities
Q. Moorland management -livestock management & field sports	K. Regenerative agriculture

Table 5: Wigtown

Top 10 challenges	**Top 10 opportunities**
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process
F. Community engagement	B. Sustainable tourism and recreation
S. Renewable energy developments	O. Natural capital investment
T. Landscape quality and change	C. Eco-tourism
I. Forestry expansion	F. Rural employment in agriculture
D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation	D. Historic and cultural heritage- tourism related opportunities
B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)	G. Agro forestry
P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance	E. Historic and cultural heritage- strategic framework to address regional land use impacts
G. Ecosystem service provision (developing new markets and achieving the right balance)	CC. Woodland expansion for climate change mitigation and adaptation
J. Green finance and increasing land values	R. Native woodland expansion

Table 6: Castle Douglas: [results are for New Galloway]

Top 10 challenges	**Top 10 opportunities**
I. Forestry expansion	K. Regenerative agriculture
L. Lack of community involvement in land management	B. Sustainable tourism and recreation
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	H. Local food production
R. Demographic change and lack of jobs	V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process

M. Lack of coordination in land management	F. Rural employment in agriculture
V. Top-down policy approach	P. Soil regeneration
O. Lack of diversity in agriculture	climate change mitigation / carbon sequestration
D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation	M. Renewable energy
Affordable housing	G. Agro forestry
H. Flood management	R. Native woodland expansion

Table 7: Duns:

Top 10 challenges	**Top 10 opportunities**
D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation	H. Local food production
B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)	V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process
L. Lack of community involvement in land management	D. Historic and cultural heritage- tourism related opportunities
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	M. Renewable energy
P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance	F. Rural employment in agriculture
R. Demographic change and lack of jobs	R. Native woodland expansion
I. Forestry expansion	S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management
M. Lack of coordination in land management	K. Regenerative agriculture
J. Green finance and increasing land values	B. Sustainable tourism and recreation
S. Renewable energy developments = Q. Moorland management -livestock management & field sports	I. Farm diversification

Table 8: Peebles

Top 10 challenges	**Top 10 opportunities**
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	H. Local food production
B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)	F. Rural employment in agriculture
D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation	P. Soil regeneration

V. Top-down policy approach	V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process
I. Forestry expansion	S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management
L. Lack of community involvement in land management	E. Historic and cultural heritage- strategic framework to address regional land use impacts
P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance	G. Agro forestry
J. Green finance and increasing land values	AA. Peatland restoration and carbon storage
A. Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities	R. Native woodland expansion
T. Landscape quality and change	U. Regulation of green finance / green lairds

Table 9: Lockerbie

Top 10 challenges	**Top 10 opportunities**
B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)	H. Local food production
H. Flood management	F. Rural employment in agriculture
A. Access, tourism and pressures arising from these activities	B. Sustainable tourism and recreation
V. Top-down policy approach	E. Historic and cultural heritage- strategic framework to address regional land use impacts
R. Demographic change and lack of jobs	S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management
D. Climate change – mitigation and adaptation	L. Natural flood management
I. Forestry expansion	R. Native woodland expansion
P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance	K. Regenerative agriculture
Housing / affordable housing	T. Forestry employment
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss	I. Farm diversification

Table 10: Langholm

Top 10 challenges	**Top 10 opportunities**

F. Community engagement	L. Natural flood management
R. Demographic change and lack of jobs	V. Community involvement in policy making and decision-making process
B. Agricultural viability (loss of land to forestry and reliance on subsidy)	R. Native woodland expansion
G. Ecosystem service provision (developing new markets and achieving the right balance)	S. Restoration of ecological processes to support natural flood management
	F. Rural employment in agriculture
I. Forestry expansion	C. Eco-tourism
M. Lack of coordination in land management	B. Sustainable tourism and recreation
H. Flood management	K. Regenerative agriculture
K. Historic Environment and cultural heritage	I. Farm diversification
C. Biodiversity decline and habitat loss = P. Lack of local benefit from investment in renewables and green finance = S. Renewable energy developments	H. Local food production

3.3 Workshop Cards

Delegates were supplied with the following list of cards to assist them with the tasks

A. Native woodland

Measure: Create new areas of native woodland.

Assumptions: new native woodland planting (e.g. birch, oak, ash, alder and willow) is carried out in line with best practice

Benefits	Tensions
n. Improves water retention, slows run off and reduces **flood risk** for land managers and settlements **o.** Provides new diverse **habitat** and can **further support biodiversity** by joining up existing areas of native woodland; supports **insect pollinators** and protects **soils** p. Watercourse woodland provides shading, improving river **habitat** and benefits **fisheries** management q. Increases **carbon capture** and **storage** **r.** Can provide new **access and recreation** opportunities, including supporting **tourism**	v. May remove land from **agricultural** or **sporting** use, with impacts on agricultural production and employment **w.** May result in loss of other open land **habitats** x. May exclude land from use for other types of **commercial forestry** which provides higher economic returns (see separate card) **y.** Conifer woodland may provide higher levels of **carbon capture** z. May alter the setting and views of **historic environment** and **cultural heritage** resources

s. Opportunities for **business diversification** and **income creation** from woodland creation, timber, local wood fuel, carbon offsetting, venison **t.** Can provide shade for **crops** and **livestock**, providing **climate adaptation** and protecting **soils** u. Compatible with **wind energy** development	
Best practice[1] aa. Avoid designated sites and peat soils; consider ground conditions, habitat connectivity, management for biodiversity, public access, deer control, tree species, and good landscape design.	

B. Commercial forestry

Measure: Create new areas of commercial forestry.

Assumptions: new commercial forestry planting (e.g. Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, Norway Spruce) is carried out in line with best practice

Benefits	Tensions
bb. Improves water retention, slows run off and reduces **flood risk** for land managers and settlements, improves **water quality** and protects **soils** cc. Increases **carbon capture** and **storage** **dd.** Can provide new **access and recreation** opportunities, including supporting **tourism** ee. Opportunities for **business diversification** and **income creation** from woodland creation and management, timber, local wood fuel, carbon offsetting, venison ff. Compatible with **wind energy** development	gg. Acidification of **soils** and **water** courses from conifer plantations hh. **Soil** compaction and damage during planting and harvesting operations ii. May remove land from **agricultural** or **sporting** use, with impacts on agricultural production and employment **jj.** May result in loss of other open land **habitats** **kk.** May negatively impact on **landscape** value, and associated **tourism** ll. May alter the setting and views of **historic environment** and **cultural heritage** resources mm. Can reduce **access and recreation** opportunities
Best practice[2] nn. Avoid designated sites and peat soils; consider ground conditions, habitat connectivity, management for biodiversity, public access, deer control, tree species, and good landscape design. Community consultation.	

C. Peatland restoration

Measure: Restore degraded peatland on upland areas.

Assumptions: Implemented through a range of measures including ditch blocking and reduced grazing pressure

Benefits	Tensions
oo. Reduction in **greenhouse gas emissions** from degraded peatland and improved **carbon storage** potential	rr. Precludes use of peatland for land uses such as forestry though will often not be appropriate), sporting activities or grazing

pp. Improves water retention, slows run off and reduces **flood risk** for land managers and settlements, improves **water quality** and protects **soils** **qq.** Improved **biodiversity**	
Best practice[3] ss. Livestock reduction/removal, limit damage from vehicles, implement deer culling, limited muirburn, no tree planting, no drainage.	

D. River restoration and natural flood risk management

Measure: implement catchment, floodplain and watercourse woodland, changes to land management practices to improve flood management and river and floodplain restoration.

Assumptions: Floodplain woodland may be conifer or mixed species, or short rotation coppice in a range of sizes. Watercourse woodlands are typically 30m wide and typically broadleaved species. Flood management may include measures such as changes to land and soil management practices[4]. River restoration may include measures such as changes to the river and floodplain including removal of embankments, restoring the natural course of a river that has been straightened, bank enhancement or creation of storage ponds

Benefits	**Tensions**
tt. Slows or stores **water** and reduces run off; delays the arrival of **flood** peak downstream, giving more time for affected communities to prepare uu. Improved **soil** structure and infiltration, reduces erosion and sediment deposition and protects soil **carbon,** and prevents damage to crops **vv.** Watercourse woodland provides canopy shade and shelter, with benefits for **biodiversity**, and **livestock** ww. Woodland and changed land management practices can reduce water **pollution** xx. Removal of barriers to **species** movement	yy. May remove land from **agricultural** or **sporting** use, with impacts on food production and employment **zz.** Requires **changes in land management practices** **aaa.** May result in loss of other open land **habitats** bbb. May exclude land from use for other types of **commercial forestry** which provides higher economic returns (see separate card) **ccc.** Conifer woodland can provide more **carbon capture** ddd. May alter the setting and views of **historic environment** and **cultural heritage** resources eee. May **increase flood risk** to some areas of land, impacting on productive use
Best practice fff. The design and planting of woodland must comply with the UK Forestry Standard and the associated guidelines on water, soil, biodiversity, landscape, people, historic environment and climate change. ggg. Avoid areas of existing biodiversity value; consider impacts on flood risk in other locations hhh. Compliance with Controlled Activities Regulations, Waste Management Licensing Regulations and planning requirements, consultation and permissions from NatureScot where required, restoring floodplains where there is no risk to property or infrastructure.	

E. Sustainable agriculture: arable

Measure: Implement regenerative arable agriculture to create a mosaic of land cover and use.

Assumptions: improve the resilience and quality of soils, increase the growth of natural vegetation, increase hedgerow length, and areas of semi-natural grassland, creation of ponds and wetlands

Benefits	Tensions
iii. Improved **soil health** and productivity, greater flood and drought tolerance **jjj.** Improved **biodiversity** **kkk.** Reduced run off, **soil erosion** and **water pollution** **lll.** Maintenance of **carbon sinks** and increased **carbon storage** **mmm.** Reliance on beneficial invertebrates instead of pesticides, and reduced **input costs** nnn. Rewilding of unproductive land to achieve **biodiversity** benefits **ooo.** Improved **climate resilience**	ppp. Activities need to align with agricultural support requirements, or funding opportunities
Best practice qqq. Minimise soil disturbance, increase crop diversity, keep living roots in the soil at all times and keep soil covered at all times, crop rotation, tree planting on areas of unproductive land, reduced inputs.	

F. Sustainable agriculture: livestock

Measure: Implement regenerative livestock farming to create a mosaic of land cover and use.

Assumptions: reduced grazing pressure, rotational grazing and mob grazing (short duration, high intensity grazing with a longer than usual grass recovery period), improved resilience and quality of soils, reduced fertilizer and manure inputs, use of cover crops in crop rotation, increased growth of natural vegetation, increased hedgerow length, increased areas of semi-natural grassland, creation of ponds and wetlands, reduced agricultural inputs, and new woodland

Benefits	Tensions
rrr. Improved **soil health** and productivity **sss.** Improved **biodiversity** **ttt.** Reduced run off with benefits for managing **flood risk**, **soil erosion** and **water pollution** **uuu.** Reduced agricultural inputs, reducing **soil and water pollution** and **greenhouse gas emissions** **vvv.** Reduced **greenhouse gas emissions**, maintenance of **carbon sinks** and increased **carbon storage** www. Improved **climate resilience** for livestock	xxx. Alignment with **agricultural support** requirements and **funding** opportunities yyy. Stock reduction may reduce **viability**, or there may be loss of hefted flocks
Best practice zzz. High farming standards which enhance animal health and welfare, emission reductions, biodiversity restoration, improved business resilience, efficiency and productivity, a whole farm approach, reduced agrochemical inputs, increased employment, skills development and co-operation.	

G. Sustainable tourism

Measure: Implement sustainable and responsible tourism.

Assumptions: supports off season activity, encourages visits to less popular locations; supports sustainable travel, the local economy, green businesses, eco-tourism; protects the landscape

Benefits	Tensions
aaaa. Reduces **greenhouse gas emissions** from travel, by supporting sustainable transport **bbbb.** Supports local **economies** **cccc.** Supports the development of **nature-based tourism** **dddd.** Supports understanding of **natural** and **cultural heritage** **eeee.** Delivers **recreational infrastructure**	**ffff.** Disturbance to **wildlife**, risks to **crops**, **livestock** and increased **fire risk** gggg. **Soil** erosion **hhhh.** **Littering** iiii. **Traffic** congestion jjjj. **Water** demand and water pollution
Best practice kkkk. Supporting off season activity, encouraging visits to less popular locations, supporting sustainable travel, supporting the local economy, supporting green businesses, protecting the landscape, supporting eco-tourism.	

H. Large scale renewable energy development: wind

Measure: Develop new large scale onshore wind development.

Assumptions: Onshore wind will be developed in line with national and local planning advice

Benefits	Tensions
llll. Contributes to **greenhouse gas reductions**, **mmmm.** Improves **energy security** and **reliability**	**nnnn.** Potential individual and cumulative adverse impacts on **biodiversity, landscape, cultural heritage and the historic environment, water, soil, recreation and tourism, communities and amenity**
Best practice oooo. Avoidance of impacts on designated sites, carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat, impacts on soil, water, amenity – including noise, visual impacts and shadow flicker, construction and operational impacts	

I. Large scale renewable energy development: biomass

Measure: Growth of bioenergy crops including trees (short rotation coppice (SRC) and short rotation forestry (SRF)), miscanthus (elephant grass) and reed canary grass.[11]

Assumptions: Bioenergy crops would need to be planted at sufficient scale to allow economies of scale for machinery, processing and supply, and will be used in combination with carbon capture technologies

Benefits	Tensions
pppp. Contributes to **greenhouse gas reductions**, improves **energy security** and reliability	uuuu. Requires large areas of land and precludes use for **land uses**, including food production, as unsuitable for production on steep slopes.

qqqq. Suitable for growth on low quality agricultural land. rrrr. Forestry and energy crops may benefit **landscapes** and **wildlife** and be accommodated alongside existing land management practices **ssss.** Can contribute to rural **employment** and the Scottish **economy,** with **diversification of farm incomes** and **benefits for the forestry sector** tttt. SRC and SRF support carb**on sequestration, biodiversity, air quality, soil** quality and **soil carbon** stocks, improved **water** quality, **climate resilience**, reduced **erosion** and **flooding** and flood mitigation.	vvvv. Soil **carbon** loss wwww. Lack of best practice advice for non-forestry biomass
Best practice xxxx. Forestry biomass is implemented in line with best practice in terms of avoiding designated sites, peat soils, good quality agricultural land ground preparation for planting, water, habitat connectivity, management for biodiversity, public access, deer control, tree species, and good landscape design, community benefits will be provided where appropriate.	

J. Domestic and small-scale renewable energy development

Measure: Domestic and community scale renewable energy development including single wind turbines, biogas, solar, small scale hydro, air and ground source heat pumps.

Assumptions: Domestic scale, small scale or community scale renewable development only

Benefits	**Tensions**
yyyy. Contributes to **greenhouse gas reductions**, improves **energy security** and reliability	**zzzz.** Installation at many locations may have cumulative effects on **landscape**, **townscape** and **cultural heritage**
Best practice aaaaa. Community benefit through the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) from community renewables projects, compliance with all planning requirements.	

3.3 Workshop Instruction Sheet

South Scotland Regional Land Use Pilot Project Workshop 2 (Jan/Feb 2023)

Land-use change is being looked at as a mechanism to help address climate change, the loss of biodiversity as well as ongoing food production and other economic activity.

This evening we wish to explore what types of land use change would most help address some of the challenges and opportunities identified in the previous workshops while also seeking to address the national targets relating to climate and nature.

Each table has one of the higher-ranked challenges or opportunities identified in the first workshops. You are asked to decide what types of land-use change would be useful in addressing this particular challenge.

A range of possible land-use changes are described on the sheets on your table and additional information is available to help

We really welcome your thoughts and comments where there is any disagreement or where you have particular suggestions or ideas. Please feel free to use post-its to record these.

The charts on your tables will be used to capture your ideas.

Exercise

1. Please note the challenge you have been allocated and read the land-use cards (lettered A to J) and consider as a group which of these might be helpful in addressing the challenge you have been allocated. There is no right answer – you might think all the land-uses are useful or you might decide that none of them are. Bear in mind that increasing some land-uses will reduce the availability of land for other purposes. We anticipate you will select several land-use changes but it is up to you.

2. We would like you to decide which of these "land-uses options" you have chosen are "**quick-wins**" – changes that could happen quickly and with minimal disruption. Make a note of the letters for the quick-wins in the first box of your chart.

Some land use changes might be desired but would require more effort and time to introduce – these can be classed as **medium-term** ambitions. Note the letters in the appropriate box on your chart.

Further land-use changes might be even more problematic – requiring difficult negotiation or further research or major policy or grant change. These changes should go in the "**difficult**" box.

Finally, some measures might be considered inappropriate or irrelevant in relation to this particular challenge. Note these in the "**not-relevant**" box. You should have allocated all 10 letters to at least one box!

You may well have other ideas about actions needed to address your "challenge" in which case please write them in the relevant box and a brief explanation for each would be much appreciated.

Nb This should be the agreed response of the group.

3. Now we would like you to try to agree a priority order for the contents of each of the first three boxes. Just annotate them 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. This should be the order agreed amongst the group.

If an individual disagrees – please feel free to put your own ideas and reasoning on a post it and attach it to the appropriate box.

4. Scale is also of interest to us.

S1. Some changes might need to be applied at a very local scale (e.g. a particular site or number of local sites).

S2. Other changes might be specific to particular sub-catchments or land areas.

S3. Still others might be at wider landscape or region-wide scale.

It would be helpful if you could indicate for each action you have suggested whether it would be S1, S2 or S3. Just write S1 or S2 or S3 beside each letter or action.

Once you have completed these tasks, please feel free to add any additional thoughts and comments that might help address the challenge/ opportunity you are dealing with. Use the post-its. This is also an opportunity to share thoughts that are additional to or different from the group consensus.

We would welcome as much detail as possible – please remember that someone has to analyse all this so clear writing and whole sentences will really help your points to be taken into account

Method for round 2 online workshops

For the on-line policy and process workshops, after the same brief presentation as used for the face to face events, participants were divided into 4 groups, each with a facilitator and a scribe. “Miro boards” were used to both stimulate discussion and record opinions. As with the other workshops we sought to encourage discussion and the reaching of consensus.

For the policy session comments were invited on what other areas of policy most impacted on land-use change (housing, place planning and land reform had all been mentioned in earlier workshops) and how these policies might be better aligned. Participants were asked to formulate a number of recommendations for the RLUP to consider.

For the process workshop, we again started with some quotes taken from earlier sessions concerning who should be involved in the work of the RLUP. Participants were then asked to consider whether existing mechanisms might help with this engagement and at what scale involvement was most likely to be productive. Again, participants were asked to finish by formulating some suggestions for the RLUP in relation to what sort of structure would be preferred.

The Miro Boards were then transcribed for analysis.

For the online workshops we developed new slide decks and a range of questions based around policy and process comments from Round 1.

The overall event time was 90 minutes for each workshop. The first 30 minutes was used for scene setting with a presentation and question round followed by a 60-minute workshop. Based on the number of people booking the event, a series of virtual rooms were set up with a facilitator and scribe in each. People were randomly selected to a room on entering the meeting and were automatically transferred at the end of the presentation to that room.

A series of questions were loaded to a range of Miro boards in advance of the meeting.

Policy Workshop

On entering the workshop session, delegates were requested to think about the policy areas of Housing and Infrastructure, Place Planning and Land Reform. Delegates were asked to consider key wider policy issues affecting land use and a range of quotes were on display to provoke responses

Exercise 1: Housing and Infrastructure, Place Planning and Land Reform - key wider policy issues affecting land use?

- *“Allow us to build houses for locals. We need more relaxed rural planning policy and affordable housing.”*
- *“There are too many second homes in this area.”*

- *"There's a lack of cohesion at Scottish Government level – we have consultations on Land Reform, Biodiversity, Good Food etc, all at the same time. This gives us no confidence that there's going to be a holistic solution."*
- *"Planning decisions should be made as sensible integrated decision making – they are currently siloed and often reactive rather than proactive."*
- *"Community buyout is an option only if the land sale isn't done privately first. We need to change the process to give more opportunities."*
- *"The Scottish Government is anti-landowner."*

Exercise 2: How can we bring these policy areas more closely together? At what scale should this happen? Local, Catchment, Regional? Are there other mechanisms that could help?

Exercise 3: Can we formulate 3 recommendations that the RLUP might consider passing on that would result in better integration of these policy issues?

Responses to each question were recorded on virtual post it notes.

At the end of the workshop, each facilitator gave a brief overview of the topics discussed in their group to the meeting as a whole.

Process Workshop

The process workshop followed a similar format with the following exercises:

Exercise 1: What do you think are some of the key issues with engagement in land use decisions?

A range of quotes from Round 1 were displayed on Miro board to provoke discussion:

- *"how do you satisfy yourselves that the participants are representative and not a self-selecting group?"*
- *"listen to locals not investors"*
- *"REAL decentralisation of decision making"*
- *"it would be good to take a more targeted approach to consultation by tapping into existing networks (TSI?) and communities of interest"*
- *"other people make or want to make decisions with little knowledge or understanding (including lack of understanding of financial impacts of management of land)"*
- *"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"*
- *"use local knowledge to differentiate between 'targets' and appropriate land use"*
- *"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. "*

Exercise 2: How can we improve engagement in land use decision making? What structure is needed – or could existing mechanisms / organisations deliver this?

Options were displayed for discussion:

- Broad based "opt-in", self-selecting "Advisory Group"
- Use of existing representative groups (community councils?)
- Advisory group of "experts" nominated / selected to ensure appropriate input

Exercise 3: Can we recommend a preferred structure and / or process for engagement?

Responses to each question were recorded on virtual post it notes.

At the end of the workshop, each facilitator gave a brief overview of the topics discussed in their group to the meeting as a whole.

All comments were transcribed, collated and analysed as part of Round 2 data.

Appendix 4 Round 2 workshop data

This appendix sets out further details of some of the qualitative data captured from the face to face workshops. It also includes comments from the process and policy workshops that were conducted online.

Qualitative data from the face to face workshops

The following is a summary of the actions suggested for each of the ten land-uses. . **Bolded comments** are those most frequently mentioned. We have focused here on 'quick wins' and 'medium term' measures because the RLUF needs to be practical, realistic and deliverable. The issues identified as "needs negotiation" or "difficult" will also need to be considered but these will take more time to address.

Native woodland creation – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Comments made on native woodland creation were broadly supportive and focused on how to do it well/better in the right locations, with care being taken to avoid sensitive sites:

- **Targeted native woodland planting - the right tree in the right place** (site sensitivity)
- **Consider targeting of woodland creation to increase benefits for flood risk or biodiversity or shade to rivers (e.g. riparian woodland schemes)**
- **Improved, simplified grant regimes to support agroforestry and native woodland planting**, including small areas, and other environmental features (e.g. small areas of rewilding)
- Farmers have no time so they need support to make this happen (beyond just cash) e.g. contractors who can do the work at reasonable cost
- Better afforestation practice e.g. cease ditches, minimise peaty soil disturbance; must have high standards for landscape and longevity; forest plans
- Look at best practice guidance and make statutory e.g. choice of species to mitigate climate change; enforce no planting on deep peat
- Native woodland shelter belts to protect arable soil between plantings and to protect livestock
- Support native woodland regeneration, particularly on higher ground
- Include fruit trees and nuts
- Local community engagement and management through voluntary groups
- How to stop land being sold off to massive forestry companies who plant spruce?
- Need supporting infrastructure to support visitors e.g. bins, toilets, parking
- Need subsidy for replanting (not just new planting)
- Counteract ash dieback
- Need greater diversity of land ownership
- Need better baseline data on existing habitat types and species occurrences
- Deer management is critical
- Local wood fuel in appropriate areas

Generally, the above suggests there is support for more native woodland but also a call for better financial and advisory support to ensure woodland is created in ways that deliver multiple benefits (farming, access, flood-mitigation, food etc). There were few obvious tensions with other land-uses, although native woods can be fitted into farming or commercial forestry schemes and along water courses where they can provide multiple benefits. Good information is seen as important to guide planting to the right place. There is an appetite amongst some community members to help some aspects of woodland management through volunteering.

Commercial Forestry – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Comments made on commercial forestry covered a wide range of opinions with some participants commenting on how to improve design and delivery to maximise benefits and minimise negative impacts; and others arguing for a temporary moratorium until best practice can be secured.

- **Tourist trails should run through new forestry (walks, mountain biking, horses, viewpoints)**
- **Support - financial or policy - for commercial forestry should incentivise species other than Sitka and other conifers**
- **Biodiversity and resilience should be considered – incentivised by a revised grants system**
- Public access should be ensured
- Integrate commercial forestry with other land uses
- Improve communication to local communities to facilitate cooperation or at least better stakeholder engagement
- Place a temporary moratorium on planting commercial forestry until developers put in place funded plans for best practice compliance or assessments are made of cumulative effects
- Avoid sites featuring peatland
- Storm Arwen showed the precariousness of newly planted forests as an option.
- Biodiversity and resilience should be considered with appropriate species mixes – incentivised properly by a revised grants system that prevents monocultures
- Commercial forestry can distort land values negatively

Forestry is seen to conflict with other land-uses because of its scale. The switch from **agriculture** to forestry is a major change, and many participants expressed concern at the lack of control over it. The loss of an upland farm to forestry leaves neighbouring farms more vulnerable as the farming community is fragmented. Forestry can also conflict with **access** (where trails can be seriously disrupted) and **tourism** (e.g. clear-felled landscapes are unattractive). There was concern about the impacts of forestry on **biodiversity** and on **carbon,** with doubts expressed about the long-term benefits of softwood as a real carbon-sink. Possible impacts on **flooding** were also voiced. Much of this would be addressed with better data provision and more research. Some of these tensions can be mitigated through better design, more meaningful consultation and more diversity of species and density of planting.

- **Peatland restoration – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term**

Participants recognised the benefits of peatland restoration and shared views on how to better manage peatland and deliver effective peatland restoration:

- **Peatland restoration (including forest to bog restoration) will enhance biodiversity, carbon sequestration and tourism (if create access opportunities)**
- Stop planting on peatland
- Restrict muirburn and drainage (trade-off with managing land for shooting estates)
- Better understand impacts of muirburn
- Change requirement to replant following felling of trees on deep peat
- Cattle grazing on uplands can improve success of sphagnum moss
- Shallow peat needs to be protected too (regulations too limited)
- Publish peat surveys for all sites
- Produce peat management plans for proposed forestry sites
- Needs continued funding / can be expensive
- Need to make it easy for farmers (e.g. access to experts)

The need to take better care of peatlands was well understood. Concerns related to **tree-planting** on peaty soils, **burning** of uplands and appropriate **grazing** regimes.

River restoration – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Participants commented on the range of benefits that river restoration can provide and suggested ways to better deliver river restoration in the future. Some participants advocated measures to carry flood water downstream quickly whilst others wanted a ban on canalising rivers:

- **River restoration (e.g. re-meandering of rivers, reconnecting rivers to floodplains) should enhance biodiversity as well as flood risk management and have access built in** (for walking and fishing)
- **More riparian tree planting**, **including in upper catchments of major rivers – can provide added benefit of water cooling (though some riverine species need sunlight)**
- Need to strengthen existing policy including grants to encourage native woodland planting and/or compensate landowners for loss of land
- Monetise carbon credits for new woodland
- Manage the rivers so that they are wide enough and deep enough to carry water without bursting their banks (contrary to SEPA)
- Coordinated approach needed across developers, planners and local community
- Hedge restoration
- Leave dead trees in rivers where possible
- Ban people from canalising rivers
- Fund SEPA to enforce regulations and support land users
- Cap or balance on water extraction for crops
- No beavers without very careful planning - not in intensively farmed areas
- Long term sustainability of land promotes and encourages a healthy river / river health is best indicator for health of surrounding land
- Do an audit of hydro power opportunities

Tensions here relate to the perceived need to manage rivers differently. There were calls for a wide range of approaches - more **riparian planting, dredging, beaver introduction, improved access, re-meandering,** etc. Some wanted more **regulation**, others called for less strict controls. Water abstraction (for agriculture) is an issue in some places.

Arable AND Livestock – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Participants were keen to see agriculture supported to be both productive and environmentally positive. The importance of soil was stressed by some.

- **Support Quality Assured Farming**
- **Align support and grants to favour regenerative farming**
- **Place soil biology at the heart of farm support**
- **Develop clear and consistent farm policy to allow farmers to plan and adapt.**
- **Consider generating smaller land units to encourage innovation and new entrants**
- Protect existing and promote new well-designed hedges.
- Incentivise good “regenerative” farming
- Develop a soil carbon code
- Consider intensifying agriculture on the best land to reduce pressure elsewhere
- Give greater weight to the teaching of ecology at all levels.

The main tension in some areas is the hunger for land from the **forestry** sector which some farmers see as taking good land away from food production. There is a tension between those who want to see **intensification** of production as a way of increasing profitability and those who want less intensive “**regenerative**” systems that would enhance soils, biodiversity and landscape quality. Soil was seen as essential for longer term sustainability and it was suggested that support for farming should be linked to **soil status** in some way to incentivise appropriate management. Again better access to data would be helpful here. There is a tension with river management in some areas where **water abstraction** is an issue.

Domestic and Community Renewables – summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

There were many comments about trying to increase the benefits to local people and businesses from renewables with some frustration that there are still barriers to increasing small scale schemes.

- **Encourage use of renewables in tourism businesses – low carbon heat, e-transport etc. Need more charge points**
- **Address issue of planners preventing low carbon technologies generally and HES preventing low carbon technologies in listed buildings specifically**
- **Encourage communities to take stake in windfarms. Use proceeds to address local fuel poverty and further investment in renewables or local green enterprises.**
- **need to be energy efficient**
- Make it easier to get objective advice on renewables.
- Incentivise collaboration between landowners and communities
- Make insulation easy and cheap.
- Make batteries easier and cheaper
- Alter rules to encourage more solar generation on buildings.
- Make all new builds at least carbon neutral.
- Link local renewable energy generation to fuel poverty

The tensions here arise from perceived conflict between the policy of encouraging renewable energy generation and energy efficiency, and policies which are perceived to act as barriers to this (such as planning rules) and other constraints (such as grants and grid restrictions). There is some interest in communities taking more of a stake in larger scale projects which could generate significant local income streams, but also significant barriers to realising these ambitions.

Large-scale Biomass - summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

Participants wanted to see appropriate biomass schemes integrated into wider land use issues.

- **Commercial forestry can produce a lot of biomass quickly. This can be converted to energy at a large scale (Lockerbie plant) or more locally (Eskdalemuir Community Hub).**
- **If this displaces imported fuel it is a good thing, but it should not be put on land that could produce food.**
- **Biomass production must follow best practice (no ploughing) and respect soils (avoid peat).**
- Can we combine biomass with wind-turbines so the same site produces both? Seek multiple benefits

Tensions here related to those of commercial forestry and the conflict with food production. Moving quantities of bulky fuel around rural roads was also an issue.

Sustainable Tourism - summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

There was lots of interest in promoting South Scotland as a green destination and some frustration that progress with this is often restricted by lack of resource and lack of collaboration.

- **Woodlands can be good for tourism, if well designed and managed**
- **Native woods considered to be more attractive (and better for biodiversity)**
- **Need better quality access (better maintained paths, better signage, disabled access, better links to public transport, more parking places, aires, etc).**
- **Need more e-charging points**
- **Address need for both affordable rural homes and holiday lets. More camping barns, pods etc?**
- **Seek to better integrate all above.**
- **Recognise, promote and reward good practice.**

- Promote history, culture, nature as attractions and more activities (sailing riding, cycling).
- Seek to better integrate forest and windfarm access routes and get timber lorries off roads as much as possible
- Encourage landowners to work together to create tourism activities
- Seek to educate about value and importance of nature to reduce negative impacts
- Provide better info (e.g. on wild swimming places)

Tensions here arise from the need for affordable rural homes and the demand for holiday lets. Tourism businesses need local staff and somewhere for them to live. There is potentially some tension between land managers and visitors. Tourism in rural areas needs infrastructure and without it (car parks, trails, signage, toilets etc) problems arise (e.g., blocked gates, littering, disturbed livestock).

Windfarms - summary of comments on quick wins and medium term

There was concern from some about the lack of any apparent limit to how many windfarms can be absorbed in an area. Others wanted to see greater benefits coming to local people and business from windfarms.

- **Make better use of access tracks**
- **Support communities to get maximum community benefit – including taking a stake in developments.**
- **Seek to integrate solar arrays with wind developments to make best use of grid connections.**
- **Ease restrictions to allow farms to develop schemes to support farm viability.**
- **Consider putting a cap on how many turbines are acceptable in an area – some communities feel they have more than enough.**
- **Grid needs more capacity if generation is to be maximised.**
- Use windfarm funds to enhance local food production, support local businesses with reduced energy costs or enhance access routes for local people.
- Use funds to help improve local skills- through subsidised training.
- Integrate with afforestation to reduce impacts
- Consider impacts on flooding
- Integrate with energy storage – e.g. pump-storage or battery technology.

Land-use tensions here arise from the need to integrate renewable energy generation better with the local economy. If turbines can work within forestry, the access routes would serve both and other areas of land could be left “unspoilt”. Could the one grid connection serve both windfarms and solar arrays? Could farms benefit more from renewable energy schemes and thus be made more resilient as businesses (with an additional income stream or using cheaper local energy to power greenhouses?). Can access tracks also improve recreational routes or could they be used to get more timber wagons off the roads. These approaches need strategic support if they are to be realised.

In the following four tables, Q = land use selected as a quick win; M = selected as medium term measure; N = needs negotiation.

Table 11 How Duns and Wigtown addressed **Access and tourism**

	Duns	Wigtown
A. native woodland	Q	
B. commercial forestry	Q and ?not relevant	
C. peatland restoration	Q	M
D. river restoration and NFM	Q	Q
E. arable	MN	
F. livestock	Q	N
E., F., and E+F ‘all farming’		N

G. sustainable tourism	QMN	QM
H. wind farms		
I. large scale biomass		
J. domestic & community renewable	Q	QMN

Table 12: How Duns and Wigtown addressed **Commercial and native woodland expansion**

	Duns	Wigtown
A. native woodland	QM	QMN
B. commercial forestry	QM	QMN
C. peatland restoration		
D. river restoration and NFM		Q
E. arable		
F. livestock		
E., F., and E+F 'all farming'		
G. sustainable tourism		
H. wind farms		
I. large scale biomass		
J. domestic & community renewable		

Table 13: How Duns and Wigtown addressed **Ecological processes to reduce flooding**

	Duns	Wigtown
A. native woodland	M	QMN
B. commercial forestry		
C. peatland restoration	M	MN
D. river restoration and NFM	QM	QM
E. arable		Q
F. livestock	N	Q
E., F., and E+F 'all farming'		
G. sustainable tourism		M
H. wind farms	Q	N
I. large scale biomass		Q
J. domestic & community renewable		N

Table 14: How Duns and Wigtown addressed **Farm diversity and viability**

	Duns	Wigtown
A. native woodland	QM	QM
B. commercial forestry		
C. peatland restoration		
D. river restoration and NFM		
E. arable	N	
F. livestock		

E., F., and E+F ‘all farming’	N	QMN
G. sustainable tourism		M
H. wind farms		N
I. large scale biomass		N
J. domestic & community renewable		MN

Policy workshop – summary of comments

Participants were asked: *Are there other **policy areas** that people feel are important to consider and that should be better aligned? Can we get examples of where this misalignment has caused (or might cause) land-use planning issues?*

The main policy issue that people mentioned related to forestry but other policy areas were also mentioned such as farming; housing; energy generation; roads; biodiversity: carbon: peatland and childcare.

Examples of the effects of policy misalignment:

Forestry expansion conflicting with farming viability. Hopes expressed that the Agricultural Bill might address this so that farmers could plan better. At present, lack of clarity was driving farm sales to forestry with a range of knock-on impacts such as local economy, jobs, loss of young people, loss of local food production (and food security), loss of diversity of habitats and species.

Several pointed out that forestry policy was working against the idea of **community wealth-building** and the local economy as the beneficiaries of commercial forestry were not local. Unlike with windfarms, there were no community benefit funds nor encouragement for communities to take a stake in the forests. In fact, local benefits were hard to find.

Some pointed at a clash between forest policy and **peatland policy**, with afforestation still being permitted (or not prevented) on peat-rich soils where carbon benefits were questionable.

The lack of diversity of trees and the low proportion of native trees seemed to go against **biodiversity targets** and many called for greater care to avoid planting on existing valuable habitats (grasslands, peatlands, etc) which would be helped if forest schemes had to be screened against biological records.

Questions were raised about the impacts of forestry on **flooding** at key stages of the cycle.

There was some confusion about whether the **Place-Planning process** currently being promoted by Local Authorities included land-use, but the consensus seemed to be that it should.

Other policy conflicts included:

Wind farm policy and the drive for **renewable energy generation** can create land-use issues (e.g. loss of opportunity to use land for other purposes such as forestry or farming). Smaller-scale “community” schemes can be prevented by the lack of grid capacity. The prohibitive expense of creating new grid connections was also mentioned.

The lack of **affordable rural housing** has an impact on the policy of encouraging local added-value businesses because it creates difficulties in staff recruitment. This is seen by some as being caused by unimaginative planners.

The lack of **affordable childcare** in rural communities making it hard for people to return to work.

The poor quality of rural roads (and the high cost of transport) also acts as a barrier for people getting to jobs or training courses from rural locations.

Some felt that it was not all down to conflicting policy, but rather it was poor practices and lack of regulation that caused problems. The fact that Councils no longer had the staff or expertise to usefully comment on forestry proposals was seen as significant. However, most comments felt that policy was still not integrated and that the traditional silo-based thinking was the problem.

On the positive side, there were a number of comments pointing out that forestry could be a significant benefit if it was done differently. These included allowing communities a greater chance to influence forest design to maximise local benefits (access, culture, biodiversity, etc.

Are there any existing mechanisms that might help align these policy areas or what sort of mechanism might be developed?

There was a strong feeling that the missing bit of the current system lay between Govt Policy (top-down) and community/business (grass-roots). This resulted in the current ad hoc process where one or two Govt priorities (e.g. for timber and wind farms) were driving major land-use changes with all sorts of unintended consequences.

There was a call for any mechanism to operate at a scale that people could relate to. A single regional partnership or even a local authority area being considered too large. The role also needed to work in both directions – taking policy messages from Govt but also feeding messages to Govt about local issues.

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership area was considered by some to be an example of an appropriate scale, although it was also agreed that different areas might want or need to work at a greater or smaller scale. There was support for some flexibility. The important thing was that existing silos could be broken down at this scale – with people already able to trust one another and work together.

Place-planning partnerships were also put forward as a useful model as they were already seeking to maximise the breadth of participation. It was agreed any mechanism would need to be able to demonstrate broad-based support and community backing.

There was agreement that national policy was often one-size-fits-all and that dialogue was needed to work out how best to implement policy locally so that it was effective.

Community representatives felt that they were close to consultation burn-out and that what was needed was a clear mechanism for them to state what they were interested in (and what they were opposed to) which could then be shared and used as a starting point for negotiation. Place plans might provide this mechanism.

The mis-match between Govt departments (e.g. wind farm and forestry) were seen as cumbersome and more effort was needed to get alignment so that local benefits were maximised and communities were not left to demand coordination between development proposals.

Some felt forestry should be brought into the planning process (see process section below).

Can we formulate a few recommendations that the RLUP might consider passing on that would result in better integration of these policy issues?

The recommendations made by the 4 groups can be roughly grouped into the following:
Decision making needs to be more transparent and involve more people and include the local community. This might need facilitation and needs to be supported by access to good data (economic, environmental and social). Decisions should look at the medium to long-term while acknowledging current Govt policy. It should result in clarity about the ambition so that businesses can plan and invest accordingly. There was suggestion that this might need to bring land-use planning closer to development planning. (Based on 5 suggestions)

Public funds should be used to generate maximum public benefit (which might include biodiversity, carbon sequestration, access etc). This process should be transparent and audited. (Based on 4 suggestions).

Community input is essential and it should be valued. Local people have to live with the changes and have a right to have a say over how impacts can be mitigated. (Based on 4 suggestions)

Forestry policy is not currently supported by communities because it generates too little local benefit; it often harms biodiversity and it is seen to be undermining farm viability. However, it could generate significant local benefit if it was done differently (2 suggestions).

Access to good data to better understand the economics as well as to guide better forestry management was called for (2 suggestions).

Regulation of current policy is currently too weak so that best practice is not delivered. (2 suggestions)

The added value for forestry (and farming) is too often done elsewhere – because the required support structure (saw mills, abattoirs, etc) is not here. If we are serious about local wealth-building this needs to be addressed. (2 suggestions)

Where scale was specifically mentioned, it was suggested this should be at the catchment or sub-catchment scale (2 suggestions).

Process workshop – summary of comments

After some sample comments reflecting a range of views expressed on engagement issues in round 1 were shared with workshop participants, groups were asked *"what do you think are some of the key issues regarding engagement in land use decisions?"*

Key comments made are summarised below:

Need to **consider use of language**. Can put people off very easily if plain English is not used.

There was support for the suggestion that decisions need to be made locally although capacity is currently limited. Need to take **a balanced approach** - two sides to the coin. Importance of dialogue between different stakeholders. Local and community councils should be the vehicle that takes national policy into local policy and context.

It was also thought important that the **wider context** was considered – the bigger picture. Experts had a role to play here and decisions needed to take national policy into account. But dialogue between parties was seen by most to be essential even if there was a financial cost involved. And policy makers needed to be better at listening!

Some felt that it was sometimes difficult for communities to fully understand the potential impact of changes in land use (forestry applications etc.). Communities need to be treated and respected in the same way as investors. **Open dialogue** is needed between all parties. Land use decisions are long-term and there is a need for decisions to take account for these long-time frames.

There was concern that **decisions** (especially in cases of appeal) are often made against community wishes – suggesting local opinions are not important. Any framework should apply at multiple levels. It can be difficult to talk about land use with residents - leads to issues surrounding knowledge sharing and transfer.

It can also be difficult **to define community** - often multiple community groups with a wide range of interests and agendas. Dealing with the local community can be chaotic. We all need to learn how to do this better and to learn from past mistakes.

Need to find a way of engaging **young people** who often have innovative ideas. Making more use of social media might help. Also, efforts should be made to seek engagement from existing networks such as TSI and communities of interest.

There is a lack of **democratic structure** at local level - need more conversations locally using existing structures e.g. stronger remit for community councils. E.g. Greener Melrose hosted conversations re local food.

Speed of change across forestry, agriculture, renewables is a concern. Developers often inform, but rarely do **proactive engagement**. Should require that before applications go in.

Putting the community of place at the heart of decision-making process. Making it manageable for landowners to know who they need to consult with. **Place Planning** offers a useful mechanism for this.

How can we improve engagement in land use decision making? What structure is needed – or could existing mechanisms/organisations deliver this?

Resource. Communities need help if they are to fully consider and understand the implications of large-scale development and land-use change and thus respond usefully. This is especially important in "fraught" proposals.

Data is also needed – in a form that is up-to-date and easy to understand. Experts may play a valuable role here in interpreting/translating the data.

Scoping stage – it could be a mandatory requirement for developers to present design and any assessments completed. Community can comment on it; can require developer to present to them. Time period to respond to that scoping opinion (no planning application until completed). Determining authority to respond to community points in writing.

Land use change is quite piecemeal - one farm goes to forestry, 6 months later another. Need to look at larger scale - how much change re renewables, forestry etc are we going to allow/accept. We need a cohesive policy for the area - with targets. Need to consider **cumulative impacts** when looking at any proposal.

Role for **councillors** to bring different parties together/ act as catalyst for conversation in different areas/ create forums? Similar role for SOSE too?

It depends on the specific land use decision. Is it a high-level decision or an analysis on a specific project? How do we **facilitate negotiations** - example of mapping resources of the local community to use this as a tool to negotiate with developers.

Self-selection is not a great idea. Needs to be **trust** in the mechanism that is ultimately chosen.

We currently have no **plan or framework** for communities to follow and allow them to put developments into context. Leads to feelings of being under siege with endless proposals to comment on. Plan needs to be formulated, combining top-down policy and bottom-up concerns and interests. Needs a strong local authority that can see the wider context but many Councils are not in the position to be dynamic due to budget cuts etc. Leads to a lack of policy framework to which development proposals are adjudged.

Community **development trusts** can sometimes help as they help focus a "community view". They can also provide a link with the wider community which can be extremely helpful, but there are potential resourcing issues in delivering this.

Community councils currently do not represent the community effectively. Not providing proper representation but some are effective and with support, all could be. Need to tap into local knowledge and ensure broad-based representation, not just the usual suspects. Strengthening CC Forums would also be good so they can share ideas and good practice. Development officers have been effective in understanding the views of the community and concentrating opinions.

Any local land use forums should have **experts** in them as well because sometimes land use decision making has to be guided by experts.

Sub-regional land use forums should feed into a much bigger plan - for greater connectivity.

It is not helpful to look at biodiversity/habitats/species on a piecemeal level. Need to engage local ownership/inputs to make more **strategic** decisions about land use. Local action - regional impact.

Confor are aware of consultation issues and are running a training programme to help foresters with community engagement and regional forestry stakeholder group re-started recently perhaps signalling an acceptance that more dialogue is needed.

Can we recommend a preferred structure and/or a process for engagement? Record justification if possible.

Engaging early in the process, almost at the pre-scoping stage which may require expert support to ensure implications and options are understood. Then can discuss with developer and advise them re suitable mitigation.

Use existing structures as far as possible (for forestry, planning, farming etc). Is there a threshold for land use change before things are referred (accepting that there will be costs involved). What is the relative importance of different benefits from land? Everything is still being treated in silos. We should be looking at integration, balance and resilience through partnership working.

Can we have an “opportunities app” - seek ideas re jobs from school children, share this information with business sector.

What incentives are there for farmers to collaborate together? Farmers are seeing a reduction in grants plus more demands re biodiversity etc. The uncertainty regarding what is coming is not conducive to positive change.

Consider cumulative positive and negative impacts e.g. planning wildlife corridors, access routes, limits of acceptable change (how many turbines or how much forestry is too much”).

There is an opportunity to use the place planning process to create a really robust plan that will identify local priorities and ideal local land use. This should be used as a basis for dialogue between communities and developers. This will ensure trust is built throughout the process and that the local community is empowered and improve the chance that their views will be listened to.

Dialogue needs to be ongoing and should continue throughout process (very early, middle, final stages).

Can we publish the details of what developers are already supposed to do (according to guidance)? This might be another obligation, but it might make things go more smoothly at the end (e.g. less objections). Grounds for decision-making can seem less transparent than the consultation process. The lack of refusal of forestry applications suggests full impacts not being considered.

Can we foster good ongoing relationships between developers/community (community as hosts for the development consultations?). There is a degree on inter-dependency.

More online consultations would help and use should be made of social media to get young people taking part although this would need resource for social media/consultation comms and to maintain that as active channel for coordinating voices.

Regional body, resourced to monitor upcoming issues plus ability to support local consultation, even to step in where there is a lack in local ability to respond to proposals.

Start with a blank map - so it doesn't seem like change is predetermined before going to community (although on the flip side - people might need to see "something" before they will engage).

Think wider than the typical community benefits e.g. providing communities with social housing if that's what is needed.

Can we identify any criteria that such a structure/process must address?

Need to go further than window-dressing engagement - what communities really want/need.

Needs to be on-going and it needs to be facilitated. Need more community energisers/ facilitators - setting up meetings/ conversations. With right skills.

Representation on any Forum needs to be as broad as possible. It should combine expertise with local knowledge. It must not just be the usual suspects.

Appendix 5 Rounds 1 & 2 Events Promotion and Results

This appendix sets out further details of the promotion of the engagement events and the levels of interest and attendance secured.

5.1 Methodology

Event locations across south Scotland were selected by landscape area type. Care was taken to ensure an even spread across rural (rather than main population) locations and the two local authority areas. The following towns were selected for Round 1 (18 locations): Selkirk, Peebles, Kelso, Jedburgh, Lauder, Hawick, West Linton, Duns, Eyemouth, Kirkcudbright, Lockerbie, Langholm, Moffat, Annan, Sanquhar, New Galloway, Stranraer and Wigtown.

In Round 2 (8 locations), towns were selected by landscape type and greatest audiences from Round 1: Selkirk, Jedburgh, Duns, Peebles, Wigtown, Castle Douglas, Lockerbie and Langholm.

4 online events (2 in each Round) were organised to allow those not wishing or unable to attend live events, to participate in the process.

An additional event was held at Borders College Newtown St Boswells Campus at the end of Round 2 targeting young people studying agriculture and land use practices. 27 people attended the event.

Borders College Workshop

Where possible, community owned or operated venues were selected to support local organisations and groups. All live events began at 5.45pm and finished at 8pm (online 6pm to 7.30pm). In person events offered a selection of sandwiches, cakes and refreshments on arrival for delegates.

South Scotland has a diverse and difficult to reach (no central dissemination channels) population and it was important to engage as many people as possible in each round of the consultation process.

There was a limited advertising budget for both rounds so a decision was taken to concentrate spend on META social media channels as this was viewed as the most cost-effective platform to reach a maximum number of people in south Scotland (multiple campaigns on radio, local publications and other social media channels were costed for comparison). A range of posters and social media adverts were generated for each event and round to promote the events. In order to 'cast a wide net' targeted advertising, social media posts, local networks (partners, community networks, community councils, common interest groups), bulk emails and posters (for venues, common interest groups, partners and community councils) were utilised.

5.2 Promotion

SoSE put out a press release to promote the events and BBC radio interviewed a member of SoSE staff about the process.

A paid advertising campaign was promoted through META (Facebook, Instagram, Messenger): Round 1 (21 adverts running for 7 – 10 days each) between 13th September 2022 and 8th November 2022 21; Round 2 (11 adverts running for 7-10 days each) between 17th January 2023 and 28th February 2023. Adverts were set to reach people within a 25-mile radius of each event location, regionally for Round 1 online events and south Scotland wide for Round 2 online events. The adverts provided a direct link to Eventbrite or the Consultation Hub https://south-scotland-regional-land-use-partnership-pilot-luc.hub.arcgis.com/ for multiple events promotion.

Round 1 advertising achieved 546,698 impressions, reached 237,826 and generated 3,594 click links to Eventbrite pages. Round 2 advertising achieved 404,356 impressions, reached 165,499 and generated 2,269 click links to Eventbrite pages.

Advertising examples from each round

South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot Project Events

Have your say on Land Use!

Meeting Wednesday 12th October 6-8pm
Buccleuch Centre Langholm

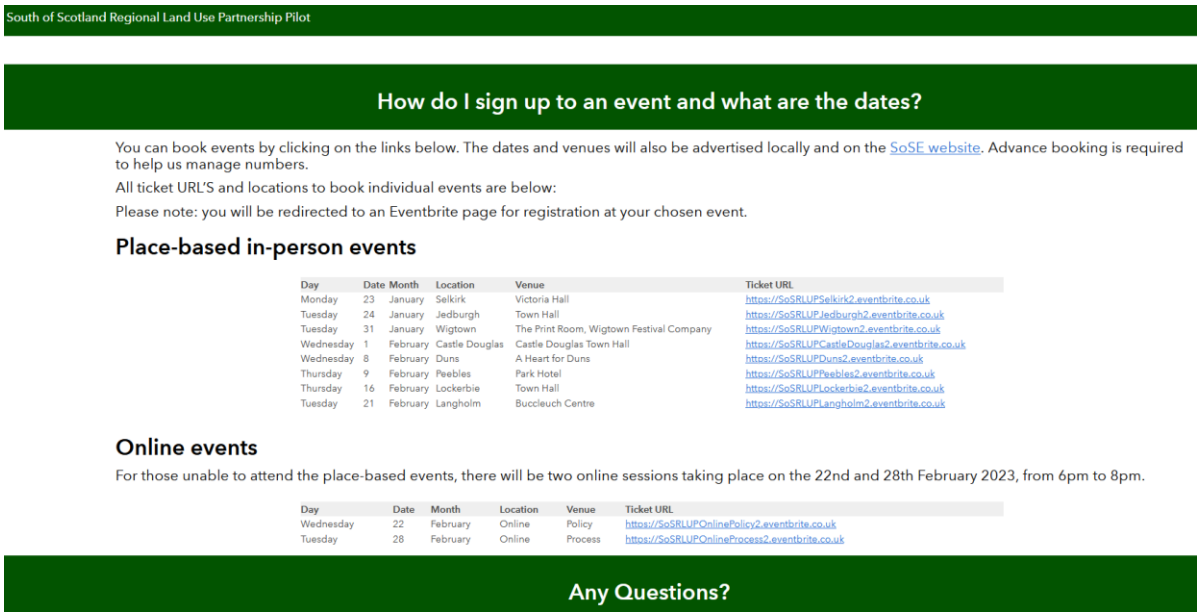
The Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilots are to help develop Scotland's approach to land use in support of our green recovery and the Just Transition to net zero.

Help shape this in the South of Scotland

Everyone Welcome

Scan the QR code to book your place or go to:
https://SoSRLUPLangholm.eventbrite.co.uk

Consultation Hub Page



35 social media posts were generated between 6th September 2022 and 24th February 2023 via SUP social media (Facebook 1,051 followers, Instagram 685 followers, Twitter 345 followers) each targeting a single event or weekly programme e.g. ''we are in … next week', 'events are on in … this

week'. Main partners (DGC, SBC, SOSE) were tagged in each post and followers encouraged to share.

Those agreeing to be contacted (143) from the first consultation (completed April 2022) formed the basis of a contact list. People booking tickets were added to the list (currently 714) and a range of emails (events programmes, event reminders, thanks for attending, online joining instructions, end survey) were sent on 27 occasions between 6th September 2022 and 20th March 2023. Regular emails were also sent out to 473 SUP mailing list subscribers and 51 partner organisations alongside articles in SUP newsletters in September and December 2022 and a e-newsflash in January 2023.

A list of 112 common interest groups, community councils, community organisations, charities and events pages were gathered across the project term and contacted via social media messages, posts on group pages and via email in the lead up (7 days) to each event. This activity centred on each event location and the groups within that geographic area and a request was made to share the information across other local organisations and groups. Venues were also encouraged to disseminate information to their user groups and partners.

Those attending events were sent a follow up email with links to SoSE RLUP page https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/RLUP and the Consultation Hub https://south-scotland-regional-land-use-partnership-pilot-luc.hub.arcgis.com/

5.3 Results

The adverts, social media posts and emails directed people to a range of Eventbrite pages (20 in Round 1 and 10 in Round 2) where people could book a free ticket for their chosen event. User information was recorded on booking which included an email address and land use interest. Eventbrite pages were set up to generate automatic confirmation, reminder (48 hours before event) and thank you (14 hours post event) emails to all delegates.

In Round 1 the 20 Eventbrite pages received 6,406 page views (3,594 coming from paid advertising) which resulted in 479 (7.5% of page views) ticket bookings. In Round 2 the 10 Eventbrite pages received 3,822 page views (2,269 coming from paid advertising) which resulted in 354 (9.3% of page views) bookings.

Of the 779 tickets available for Round 1 events, 479 (61.5%) were 'sold', 248 (51.8% of bookings) attended and 52 (21% of attendees) dropped in (didn't book in advance). Total attendees for Round 1: 300.

Of the 417 tickets available for Round 2 events, 354 (84.9%) were 'sold', 200 (56.5% of bookings) attended and 16 (8% of attendees) dropped in. Total attendees for Round 2: 216.

A table containing all booking information can be found at the end of this section.

Jedburgh Workshop

5.4 New and Repeat Bookings

The following information has been compiled from analysis of email addresses recorded in each Round.

Original list (from April 2022) contained 143 email addresses. Email addresses on file at end of Round 1 totalled 421. Of those, 22 (15.4% of original list) came from the original list and 399 (94.8%) were new.

The email list for Round 2 contained 282 entries. Of those, 119 (42.2%) had attended or dropped in to a Round 1 event, 163 (57.8%) were new.

Across the consultation periods a number of people both booked and attended multiple events as outlined in the tables below.

Table 15: Multiple Bookings and Drop In's

Multiple Bookings and Drop Ins				
	Booked 1 Event	Booked 2 Events	Booked 3 Events	Booked 4 Events
Round 1	377 / 78.5%	36 / 15% (72 bookings)	9 / 5.6% (27 bookings)	1 / 0.8% (4 bookings)
Round 2	235 / 68.1%	38 / 22% (76 bookings)	10 / 8.7% (30 bookings)	1 / 1.2% (4 bookings)

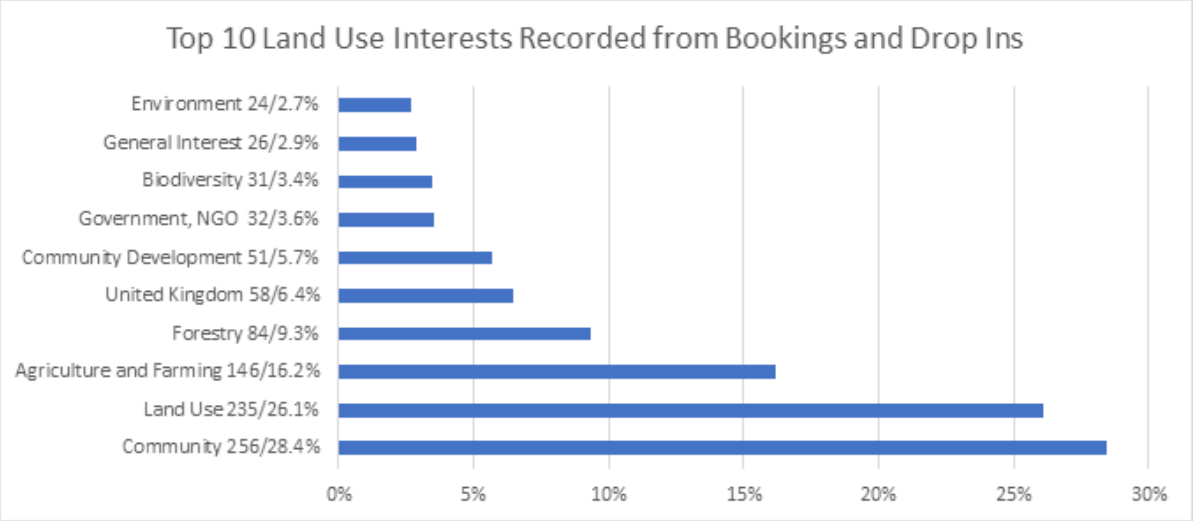
Table 16: Multiple Attendance and Drop In's

Multiple Attendance and Drop Ins				
	Attended 1 Event	Attended 2 Events	Attended 3 Events	Attended 4 Events
Round 1	250 / 83.3%	22 / 14.7% (44 bookings)	2 / 2% (6 bookings)	0
Round 2	168 / 77.8%	19 / 17.6% (38 bookings)	2 / 2.8% (6 bookings)	1 / 1.9% (4 bookings)

5.5 Land Use Interest

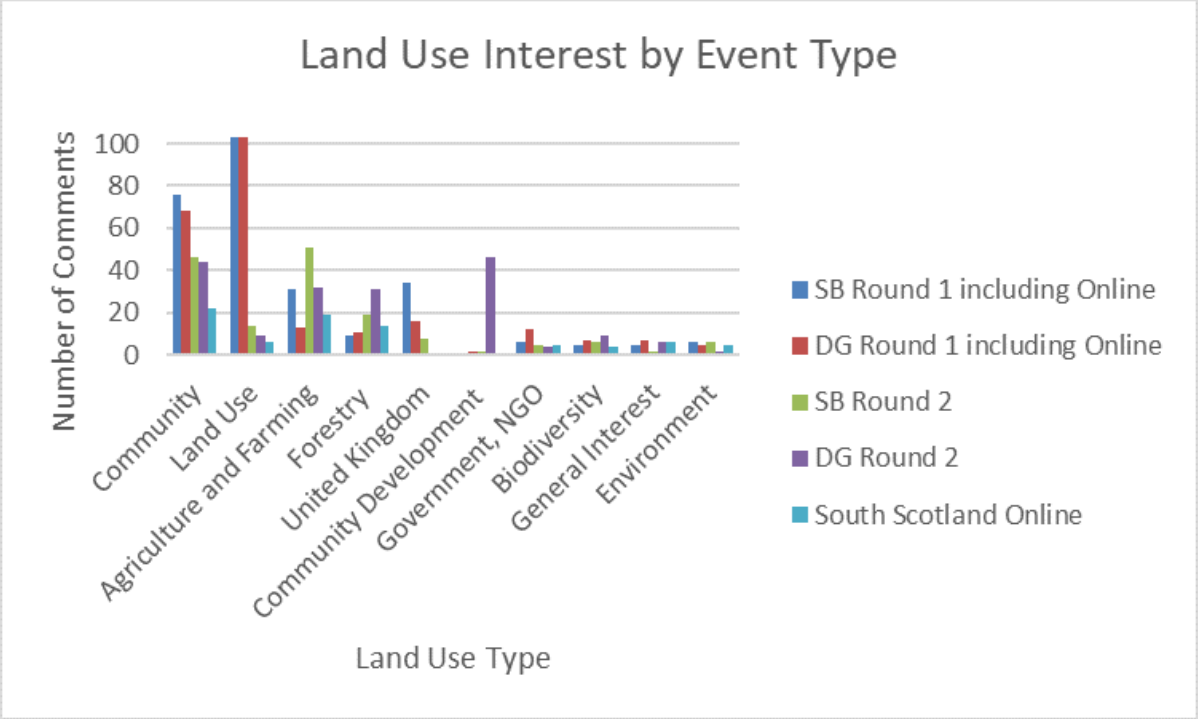
Those booking on line and dropping into events were asked to record their land use interest. 901 replies were recorded across 66 topics. The following chart displays the top 10 responses. The full chart can be found at the end of this section. While we do not understand the reference to "United Kingdom" we include it here for accuracy.

Figure 14: Top 10 Land Use Interests (all)



The following chart displays land use interest across a range of events: Scottish Borders Round 1 (10 events), Dumfries and Galloway Round 1 (10 events), Scottish Borders Round 2 (4 events), Dumfries and Galloway Round 2 (4 events) and South Scotland Online (2 events).

Figure 15: Land Use Interest by Events



5.6 Expanded Charts, Tables and Lists

5.6.1 Ticket and Attendee Data Full Chart

Table 15 Ticket and Attendee Data

Ticket and Attendee Data								
Event Location	Page Views (from ticket URL's)	Tickets Available	Bookings	Attended	Drop In	No Show	Double Bookings - those who booked multiple times for same event (included in no show)	Total Attendees
Round 1								
Selkirk	427	40	20	13	0	7	2	13
Peebles	380	40	34	21	6	13	4	27
Kelso	365	40	21	6	0	15	3	6
Jedburgh	320	40	25	20	1	5	3	21
Hawick	206	40	12	8	4	4	1	12
Kirkcudbright	315	40	27	16	6	11	3	22
Lauder (cancelled due to weather)	180							
Lockerbie	460	40	32	21	4	11	5	25
Langholm	297	40	15	10	1	5	1	11
Moffat	303	40	25	9	1	16	5	10
West Linton	242	40	21	15	1	6	3	16
Lauder Rescheduled	248	40	32	15	1	17	0	16
Annan	256	40	17	10	2	7	2	12
Sanquhar	299	30	10	6	3	4	1	9
New Galloway	223	40	20	11	5	9	3	16
Stranraer	317	40	12	6	4	6	1	10
Wigtown	312	40	22	14	2	8	3	16
Duns	429	40	30	13	9	17	4	22
Eyemouth	344	26	21	12	2	9	3	14
DG Online	253	43	43	10	0	33	2	10
SB Online	230	40	40	12	0	28	2	12
Round 1 Totals	**6406**	**779**	**479**	**248**	**52**	**231**	**51**	**300**
Percentages		7.5% of page views converted to ticket sales	61.5% of available tickets sold	51.8% of those booking a ticket attended	21% of those attending were drop ins	48.2% of bookings did not attend	10.6% of bookings were double bookings	Potential from bookings and drop ins 531
Round 2								
Selkirk	502	45	45	33	2	12	1	35
Jedburgh	391	40	28	15	2	13	7	17
Wigtown	299	40	24	16	2	8	1	18
Castle Douglas	362	40	28	19	0	9	1	19
Duns	434	40	32	24	2	8	1	26
Peebles	405	40	39	18	5	21	1	23
Lockerbie	326	40	30	17	0	13	5	17
Langholm	412	40	36	15	3	21	8	18
Online Policy	347	47	47	22	0	25	0	22
Online Process	344	45	45	21	0	24	0	21
Round 2 Totals	**3822**	**417**	**354**	**200**	**16**	**154**	**25**	**216**
Percentages		9.3% of page views converted to ticket sales	84.9% of available tickets sold	56.5% of those booking a ticket attended	8% of those attending were drop ins	43.5% of bookings did not attend	7.1% of bookings were double bookings	Potential from bookings and drop ins 370
Combined								
Combined Round 1 and 2 Totals	**10228**	**1196**	**833**	**448**	**68**	**385**	**76**	**516**
Percentages		8.1% of page views converted to ticket sales	69.6% of available tickets sold	53.8% of those booking a ticket attended	15.2% of those attending were drop ins	46.2% of bookings did not attend	9.1% of bookings were double bookings	Potential from bookings and drop ins 901
Additional								
Borders College Workshop	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	27
All								
Final Totals	**10228**	**1196**	**833**	**475**	**68**	**385**	**53**	**543**

5.6.2 Land Use Interest Full chart

Land use interest stated by delegates when booking a ticket or dropping in. 66 categories were recorded.

Table 16: Land Use Interest (all)

Interest	SB Round 1 including Online	DG Round 1 including Online	SB Round 2	DG Round 2	South Scotland Online	Totals of Stated Interest	Percentage of Interest (901 bookings and drop ins)
Community	76	68	46	44	22	256	28.4%
Land Use	103	103	14	9	6	235	26.1%
Agriculture and Farming	31	13	51	32	19	146	16.2%
Forestry	9	11	19	31	14	84	9.3%
United Kingdom	34	16	8			58	6.4%
Community Development	1	2	2	46		51	5.7%
Government, NGO	6	12	5	4	5	32	3.6%
Biodiversity	5	7	6	9	4	31	3.4%
General Interest	5	7	2	6	6	26	2.9%
Environment	6	5	6	2	5	24	2.7%
Tourism	9	4	6	1	1	21	2.3%
Climate Change	2	6	2	8	1	19	2.1%
Energy and Renewables	2	7	2	6	1	18	2.0%
Access	3	6	2	1	2	14	1.6%
Interest not stated						14	1.6%
Land Owner	7	4	2		1	14	1.6%
Business, Enterprise and Industry	3	2	4	3		12	1.3%
Community or Local Councillor	3	3	2	2	2	12	1.3%
Ecology and Conservation	3	1	3	3	2	12	1.3%
Housing	3	2		4	2	11	1.2%
Land Agent/Management	2	2	2	2	3	11	1.2%
Leisure	3		5	2	1	11	1.2%
Community Land Ownership	2		2	4	1	9	1.0%
Regenerative/Sustainable Farming		5			4	9	1.0%
Food Production and Security	2	3			3	8	0.9%
Statutory	5	1	1	1		8	0.9%
Education and Research	3	1		2	1	7	0.8%
Policy	1	2			4	7	0.8%
Landscape/Countryside	1	1		4		6	0.7%
Nature	2	1	1	2		6	0.7%
Place Planning		4		2		6	0.7%
Wildlife		3		2	1	6	0.7%
Planning	3	1			1	5	0.6%
Sustainability	1			3	1	5	0.6%
Water and Watercourses	1		1	2	1	5	0.6%
Biosphere		4				4	0.4%
Small Holder			4			4	0.4%
Circular Economy		2	1			3	0.3%
Community Woodland	1		2			3	0.3%
Country Pursuits	1		2			3	0.3%
Flood Prevention	1	1	1			3	0.3%
Green Issues			3			3	0.3%
Heritage and Culture	1		1	1		3	0.3%
Just Transition		2		1		3	0.3%
Rewilding		1	2			3	0.3%
Woodland	1		1	1		3	0.3%
Woodland Regeneration			2	1		3	0.3%
Agroforestry			1	1		2	0.2%
Connectivity					2	2	0.2%
Creativity				2		2	0.2%
National Park	1				1	2	0.2%
Natural Capital			2			2	0.2%
Net Zero		2				2	0.2%
Peatland		1			1	2	0.2%
Rural Regeneration			2			2	0.2%
Social Enterprise	2					2	0.2%
Shepherd			2			2	0.2%
Transport	1			1		2	0.2%
Architecture Planning			1			1	0.1%
Carbon Sequester		1				1	0.1%
Fisheries				1		1	0.1%
Health				1		1	0.1%
Local Resilience				1		1	0.1%
Marine and Coastal					1	1	0.1%
Restoration		1				1	0.1%
Soil Testing			1			1	0.1%

5.6.3 List of Groups, Pages, Community Councils and Partners

163 organisations were contacted, shared posts or emailed across the consultation period:

A Heart for Duns

Abington Crawfordjohn Crawford Leadhills Wanlockhead & Local Area Group

Ancrum Community Resilience

Ancrum Village

Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Services

Buccleuch Centre

Business and Services Langholm

Castle Douglas Development Forum

Castle Douglas Town Hall

Catstrand

Coldstream Community Group

Community Centre

Corner House Hotel

Copshaw Community

Denholm Village

Dumfries & Galloway: Local Information and Advertisements

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Dumfries and Galloway What's Going On

Dumfries and Galloway Wildlife and Birding

Duns Business Directory

Edinburgh, Midlothian and Borders Business Directory

Eskdalemuir Village

Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys

Ettrickbridge

Eyemouth Hippodrome

Food Community

Galashiels Community Resilience

Galashiels Hub

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

Gatehouse of Fleet Community

Glen Douglas Community Hall

Glenkens Gazette

Greener Berwickshire

Greener Duns

Greener Ettrick and Yarrow

Greener Hawick

Greener Melrose

Gretna Community Association

Gretna Community Foundation

Hawick Community Energy Group

Jedburgh and Eildons Community

Jedburgh CC

Jedburgh Community Trust

Jedburgh Resilient Communities

Kelso CC

Kelso Community Connect

Kelso Community Connect

Kelso What's On

Kirkcolm Hub

Kirkconnel and Kelloholm CC

Kirkcudbright Development Trust - The Johnston

Land Reform

Langholm Alliance

Langholm Common Riding

Langholm Community

Leadhills and Wanlockhead Notice and Discussion Board

Lilliesleaf, Ashkirk and Midlem CC

Live Borders

Lockerbie and Lochmaben Info and Gossip

Lockerbie Town Hall

Love Gretna

Melrose and District Wildlife Watch

Millennium Centre Stranraer

Moffat and District CC

New Cumnock Notice Board

Newlands CDT

Newlands Centre

NFU Scotland

Old Luce CC

Old Luce Development Trust

ONUS South Scotland

Park Hotel Peebles

Peebles CC

Peebles Food Challenge

Peeblesshire - W4 - Who, What, Where and When

Peeblesshire Community

Project Hawick

Roberton SWI

Sanquhar Arts Festival

Sanquhar Community Centre

Sanquhar, Kirkconnel, Kelloholm, Wanlockhead and Leadhills Community Support

Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce

Scottish Borders Climate Action Network

Scottish Borders Council

Scottish Borders Events

Scottish Borders What's On

Scottish Land and Estates

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Sea the Change

Selkirk CC

Selkirk Community Action

Selkirk Response Team

SOSE

St. John's Town of Dalry CC

Stranraer CC

Stranraer DT

Support Local Businesses of Selkirk

Sustainable Selkirk

Teviothead Hall

The Print Room, Wigtown Festival Company

Tweedgreen

Visit Moffat

Walkerburn and District Community

Wanlockhead Community Trust

Wanlockhead Village

We Love Dumfries and Galloway

West Linton CC

What's going on, around The Rhinns

What's on in Peebles

What's On in and around Langholm

What's On in Gretna Green

Wigtown CC

A further 51 partners were contacted via SUP mailing list

Total 163 organisations and groups

5.6.4 Additional

The following 68 organisations were included in the mailing list:

Architecture and Design Scotland

Association for Real Change

Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service

Berwickshire Marine Reserve

Borders Forest Trust

British Association for Shooting and Conservation

British Horse Society

Buccleuch Group

Crichton Carbon Centre

Confor

Creetown Initiative

Cycling Scotland

Cycling UK

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group

Eskdalemuir Community

EVOC

Forestry and Land Scotland

Forestry Commission

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Galloway Fisheries Trust

Greener Hawick

Heriot-Watt University

Historic Environment Scotland

John Muir Trust

Moffat Mountain Rescue

National Farmers Union Scotland

National Sheep Association

NatureScot

Newcastleton Community Trust

Newton Stewart Initiative

Nourish Scotland

OTBDS

Paths for All

Peebles Community

Quality Meat Scotland

Ramblers

Restoring Annan's Waters

RSPB

Scotland Food and Drink

Scottish Agricultural College

Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society

Scottish Association Of Young Farmers Clubs

Scottish Borders Council

Scottish Communities Climate Action Network

Scottish Gamekeepers

Scottish Land and Estates

Scottish Renewables

Scottish Tenant Farmers Association

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Scottish Woodlands

SEPA

Solway Firth Partnership

South of Scotland Destination Alliance

South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre

Stranraer Development Trust

Stranraer Millennium Centre

Sustainable Selkirk

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

The Bridge

Tilhill

Tweed Ecology

Tweed Forum

University of Dundee

University of Edinburgh

University of Glasgow

Visit Scotland

Woodland Trust

Appendix 6 SoSRLUP Follow-up Survey

The following survey was sent out twice to everyone who had shown an interest in the RLUP consultation (714 email addresses) via a SurveyMonkey link in early March 2023.

6.1 SoSRLUP Follow-up Survey

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.

Further details on the pilot can be found at: https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/RLUP

Information and resources from the pilot can be found at: https://south-scotland-regional-land-use-partnership-pilot-luc.hub.arcgis.com/

We are contacting you as someone who expressed an interest in the Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) Pilot consultation between October 2022 and March 2023.

Your responses to the following questions would be much appreciated. Survey closes 24th March 2023

1. Please provide first 4 letters of your postcode

2. How would you rate the organisation of the event(s) you attended?

Excellent

Good

Average

Poor

3. Do you feel your contribution was valued and that it was worthwhile for you to participate?

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

4. What is the most important land use change you would like to see in south Scotland? Please note that this question has a text limit of 150 characters

5. The report on the consultation will be published on-line in April. How likely are you to read it?

Definitely

Very likely

Likely

Unlikely

Not interested

6. There will be further consultation on the Regional Land Use Framework later in 2023. Would you would be interested in being consulted on this?

Yes

No

Maybe

7. If you booked a ticket but then did not attend a consultation event - can you tell us why?

I forgot

I didn't have time,

It clashed with another event

I decided it was not for me

I didn't understand what it was about

Other: text limit 150 characters

8. If you would like to tell us how we might improve the events please include your suggestions here. (Please note that the comment field is limited to 150 characters)

9. If you would like to be kept informed of future SoSRLUP events and opportunities please include your email address below. Please be assured that your information will be stored securely and we will not share, rent or trade our email lists with any other organisation or business.

Thank you for your responses. Engaging with and listening to people in the South of Scotland has been a key way in which we work and we are committed to continuing to do so.

6.2 Survey Responses

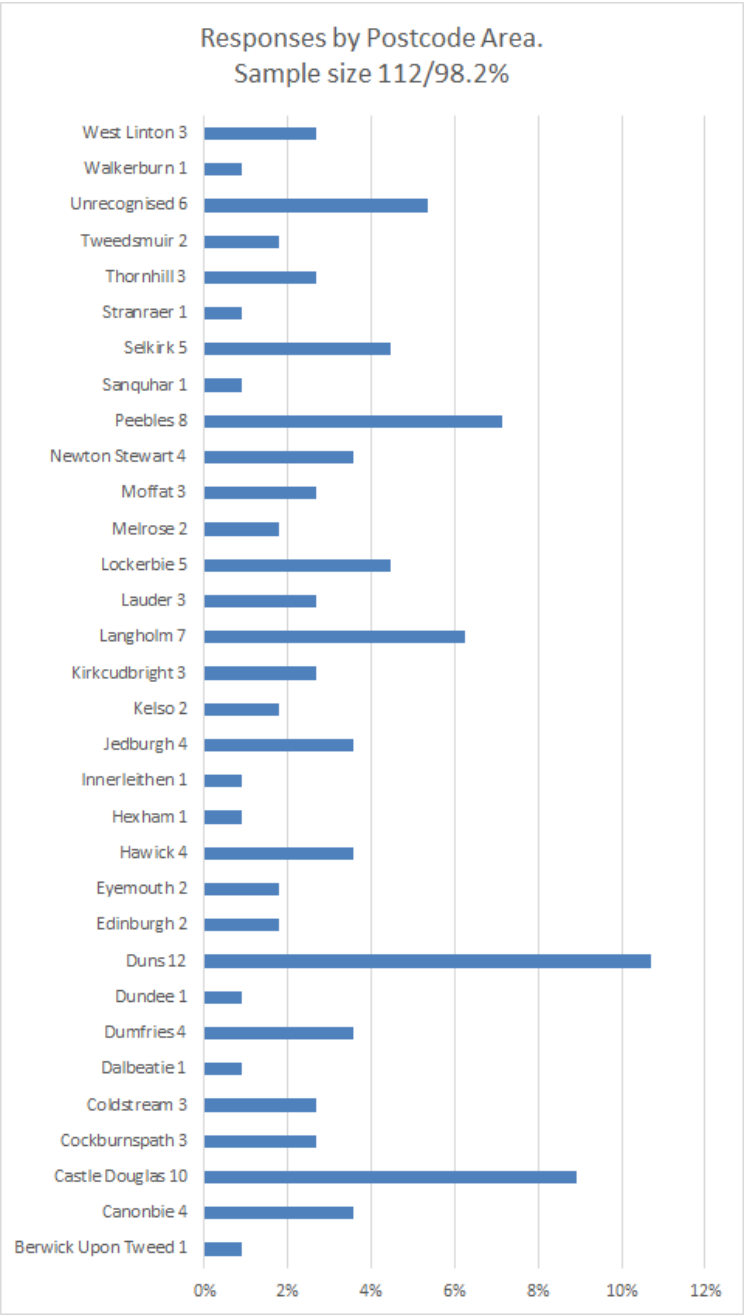
There were 114/ 15.97% responses to the survey when it closed on March 24th 2023

The following results were recorded:

Question 1

Please provide the first 4 characters of your postcode. Sample size 112/98.2%

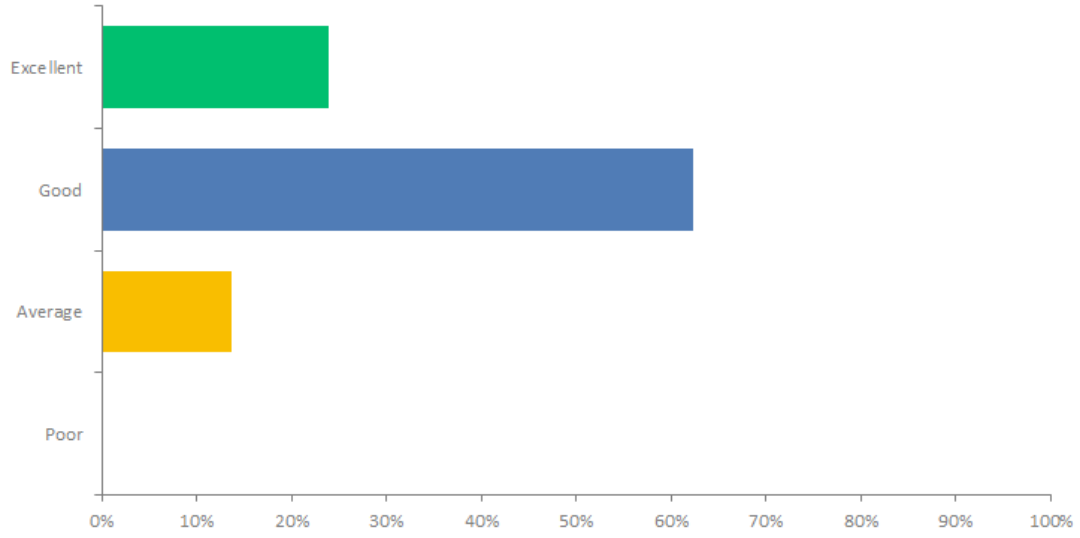
Figure 14: Responses by Postcode Area



Question 2

How would you rate the organisation of the event(s) you attended? Sample size 109/95.6%

Figure 15: Rating

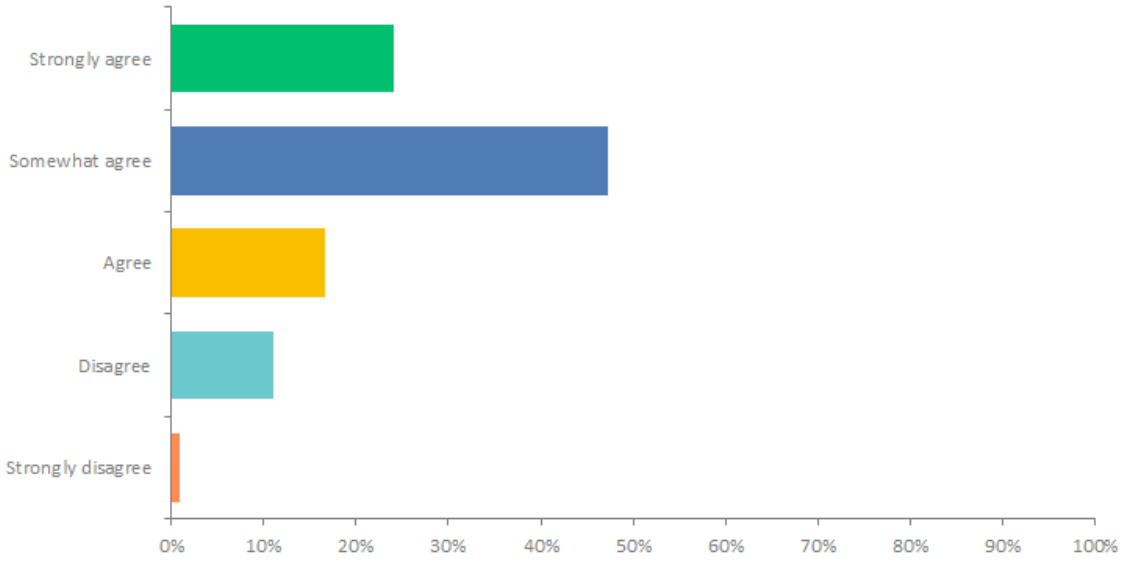


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	23.85%	26
Good	62.39%	68
Average	13.76%	15
Poor	0%	0
TOTAL		109

Question 3

Do you feel your contribution was valued and that it was worthwhile for you to participate in the workshop(s)? Sample size 108/94.7%

Figure 16: Contribution Valued



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	24.07%	26
Somewhat agree	47.22%	51
Agree	16.67%	18
Disagree	11.11%	12
Strongly disagree	0.93%	1
TOTAL		108

Question 4

What is the most important land use change you would like to see in south Scotland? Sample size 107/93.9%

Responses have been grouped for ease of reading

Forestry and Woodlands

Less blanket forestry more integrated tree planting with other land uses

Moratorium on conifer plantations and wind farms.

Less forestry expansion, less wind farms both of which are having a huge impact on local communities

Less commercial forestry, less intensive commercial agriculture.

Reduce concentration of commercial monoculture timber

Less forestry

Less commercial forestry

Less new commercial forestry

Less commercial forestry.

Less commercial conifer forestry. Equal to that less nitrogen-based agriculture

Less forestry and re-fertilisation of the soil for future farming needs and self sufficiency

An end to all commercial afforestation - we already have more than enough

The blanket planting of conifer tree is to the detriment of food production and has little benefit in terms of climate change.

A transition from commercial conifer forestry to a more mixed planting policy

Limits on sale of productive farmland to commercial forestry. Increase in percentage of mixed tree planting in any commercial plantation. More natural environments and less forestry

Management of impact of commercial monoculture forestry

More native woodland

Woodland Creation

More deciduous forest

More riparian, wetland habitats with more appropriate grazing regimes in these and in coastal area. More compliance to GBRs and within NVZ.

More woodlands planted of all types-as sheep farming takes down turn. Native woods in river catchments and commercial woods (well designed) in former sheep hills

Reinstatement of large areas of native woodland in the uplands where there is currently sheep (& deer)

I would like to see woodland areas or wooded conservations to have more protection.

A cross region broadleaf connected woodland as a corridor for all.

More, better designed, woodland creation

Native woodland establishment to link habitats across land ownership boundaries.

Increase in forest cover and streamlining of processes involved.

Support for farming and forestry community, not only recreational or politically correct agenda. community

Bio diverse woodlands

Food Production and Farming

Stop planting heavily subsidised trees on food producing land forcing Scotland to import even more food

Food production should take priority on economic grounds and to supply the essential needs of people

Emphasis on food production

Local food production and market development

Acceptance that food production is a legitimate land use

Land freed for community led regenerative food growing

More regenerative FARMING

Growing food for communities

Promoting regenerative agriculture and installing renewable energy generation on farms to enable net zero, biodiversity & soil health.

Combining small farms in southern Scotland ruined rural life. Commercial forestry, windfarms, 50K shooting, Exploited by absent landowners

Reverse the trend to intensive silage grass production - back to more environmentally friendly pasture/grass.

IHT on farms and estates; align incentives with diversity + CO2/Methane reductions

Agriculture protected and Tourism boosted

A better balance between agriculture, forestry and semi-natural ecosystems. Fewer sheep, smaller fields, some rewilding, more edges, local food.

Integrated land use. Mixed land use on farms.

Protection & enhancement of food growing space & protection of uplands from mass tree planting

Single farm payments linked to wildlife corridors to address loss of biodiversity

I want no trees on grass fields that should be for sheep as we will be unable to be self-sufficient on producing lamb and beef!

Less subsidised hill farming. More rewilding.

Change in farming methods

Explore more leisure usage and sustainable farming

Leisure and Access

Coordination of leisure access/trails/paths with planting of broad leaf, funded by local businesses and developments (property and renewables)

Better public access to the large areas of land owned by farmers and large landowners.

Investment in recreation access, signage, parking, path/track establishment/maintenance, tourism publicity. Native woodland creation over Sitka

Improved footpath network

How recreation and tourism can be developed without having a detrimental effect on the wildlife and landscape/management.

Modification of draconian powers of local authorities regarding access rights and fail to supply any support when maintenance issues arise

More multi-use / accessible trails / routes for active travel

National Parks

No National Park. As farmers, we are stewards of the land for all generations. Please let us get on with that.

A Galloway national park

Berwickshire National Park!

Communities

Community empowerment over land use and management of land by communities

More planned and integrated place-making to allow communities and industry of all sorts to thrive

More local consultation at an early stage

Community ownership of forests to be run for mountain bike tourism, starting in Caberston forest, Innerleithen

Greater multiuse of land, through community ownership

More community ownership, and meaningful community involvement in decision-making about land use, including within the SOSRLUP.

Stronger voice for communities

That local people have a say and that there is a balanced approach to development

The local community and existing rural businesses benefiting from the land use changes

Proper engagement with local community

Forestry & Land Scotland need to improve how they interact with communities and community groups

Land Management, Use, Value and Ownership

Land management that truly makes a positive contribution to addressing climate change and restorative to nature. Farming that nurtures, values soil.

Varied land ownership; market forces not being left untrammelled; higher minimum standards of management in return for public subsidy.

More land managed with biodiversity as the principal objective. Presently we are lurching from intensive sheep farming to Sitka spruce forestry.

Make planning easier for economic benefits

The valuation of land by its ability to contribute to climate change amelioration.

Reduction in landscape scale control of land use, e.g. by hedge funds, beyond local accountability.

Smaller scale integration of all land uses and more localised economies

Top-down direction on clusters based on best land use for efficiency

Greater integration of agriculture, climate mitigation and biodiversity. Less intensive farming and forestry. Less concentrated wind turbines.

Not keen to see any major land use change in South Scotland until in person and on sight evidence is given.

A mosaic of land use with diverse habitats, with diverse ownership and biodiversity at the heart of all decision making

Integrated use based on evidence not SNP ideology

Whatever is of mutual benefit to the people and the environment without government manipulation of the options.

Better integration of land uses, retaining key features and diverse character of existing landscapes

For there to be a realisable balanced plan in place

Protecting it from development. It is not ours to destroy, but belongs to wildlife.

Sustainable ecosystem not carbon reduction which is a blunt tool that doesn't consider the wider environment.

Housing and Development

More emphasis on rural housing

Amelioration of loss of rights for rural dwellers as a result of recent Scottish legislative changes such as short-term lettings legislation

Less human development, especially by external commercial interests.

Windfarms

Stop wind turbine expansion; it is destructive and negatively impacts biodiversity in so many ways..

A prohibition on developing wind farms on ridges of hills and mountains, and a prohibition on extending above the ridge line, to protect views.

Rewilding

Increase in rewilding

Rewilding

Less subsidised hill farming. More rewilding.

Protection and Restoration

Protection of landscape

Wildflower meadows need to be restored at scale to address the catastrophic decline in insect populations - Between 75 and 82% since the 1980s.

Other

In the first place, nature should take precedence over humans.

United Kingdom

Creation of diverse landscapes - especially in Merse

I think it is fine at the moment

Recognition of change in rainfall which can cause serious flooding.

new focus on SOIL BIOLOGICAL FUNCTION to move carbon from atmosphere to all/any other parts of the C cycle

Viability which encompasses all

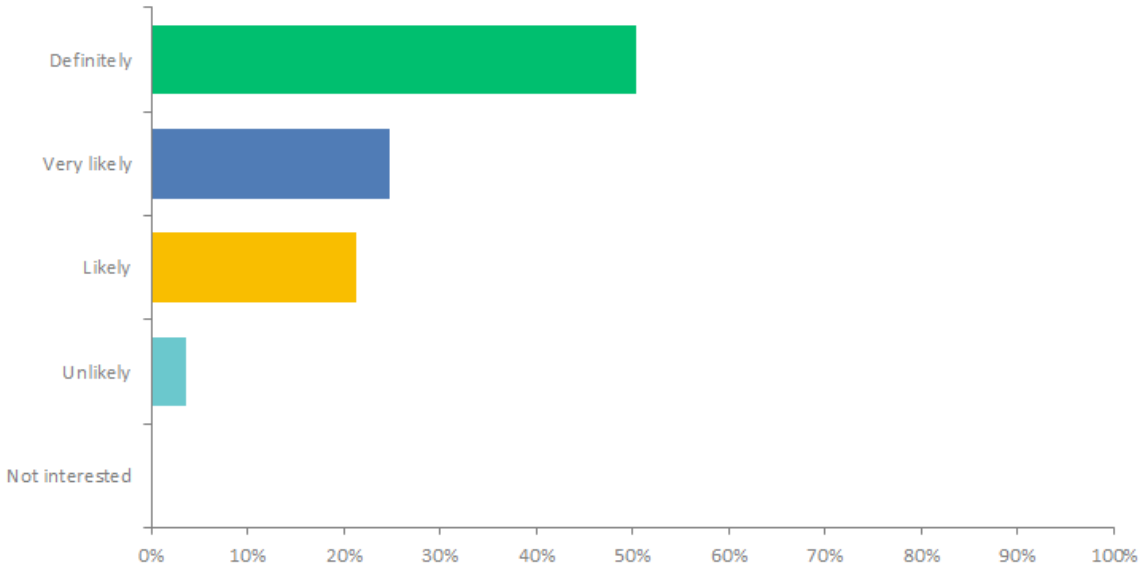
End to muirburn

More chance for girls/women

Question 5

The report on the consultation will be published on-line in April. How likely are you to read it? Sample size 113/99.1%

Figure 17: Consultation Report



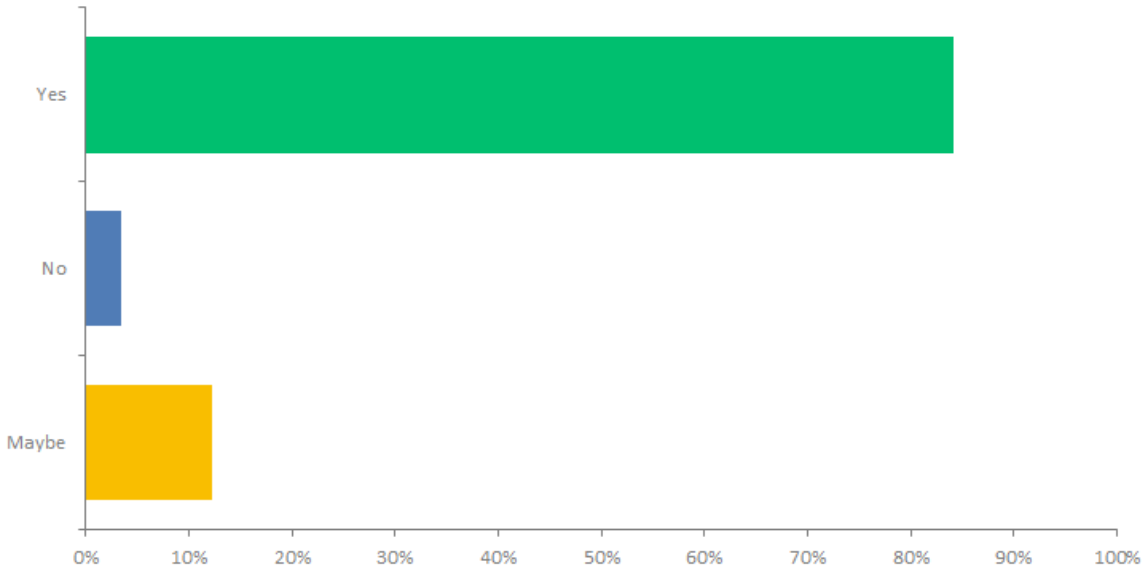
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Definitely	50.44%	57
Very likely	24.78%	28

Likely	21.24%	24
Unlikely	3.54%	4
Not interested	0%	0
TOTAL		113

Question 6

There will be further consultation on the Regional Land Use Framework later in 2023. Would you be interested in being consulted on this? Sample size 114/100%

Figure 18: Future Consultation Interest

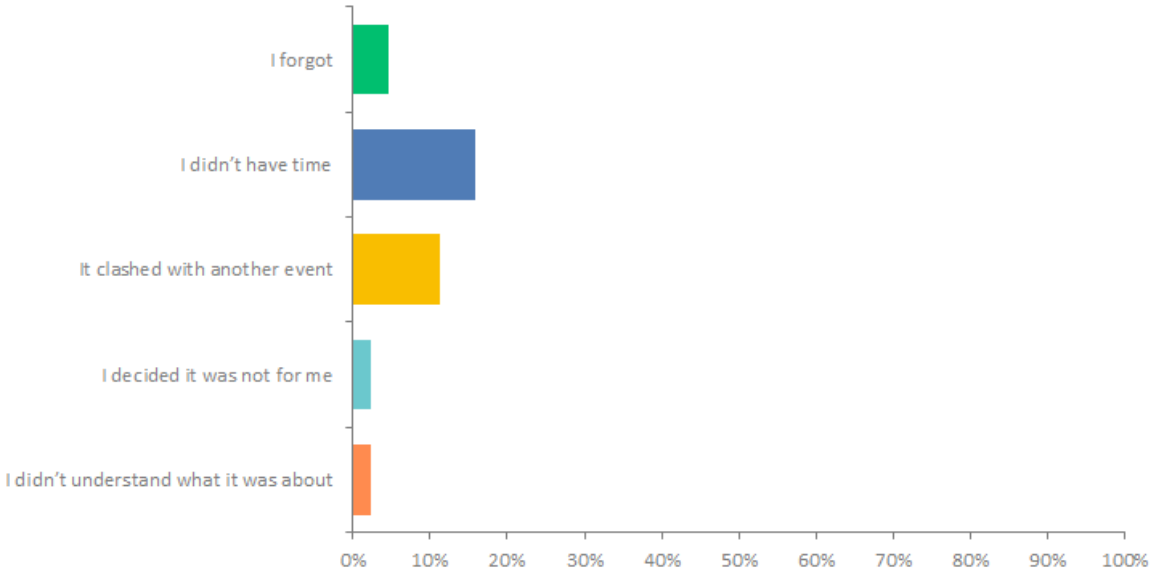


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	84.21%	96
No	3.51%	4
Maybe	12.28%	14
TOTAL		114

Question 7

If you previously booked a ticket but then did not attend a consultation event, can you tell us why? Sample size 16/14%

Figure 19: Reasons for Not Attending



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I forgot	4.55%	2
I didn't have time	15.91%	7
It clashed with another event	11.36%	5
I decided it was not for me	2.27%	1
I didn't understand what it was about	2.27%	1
TOTAL		16

Question 8

If you would like to tell us how we might improve the events please include your suggestions here. Sample size 70/61.4%

Responses have been grouped for ease of reading:

Events - General

More maps

Organisation appeared satisfactory

Why not try an on-site meeting showing how all can benefit from land

Have one in Dumfries?

Hold them in local secondary schools during term time and invite the pupils as well as everyone else

Lack of date choices in each area

Email event reminders 48 hours before.

A slightly later start in the evening might facilitate attendance for those in employment

Timeless notification of the proposed meeting date. Langholm date coincided with one of the largest most important sheep sales in southern Scotland

Facilitators

Very good facilitators

Increased facilitator training for understanding of concepts of environmental value

Have group facilitators to ensure capture of discussion

Groups

Interest groups stuck together rather than engaging with other stakeholders. Consider future event where people are randomly allocated seats.

Access to www to fact check when opinions made

I found the event fairly mentally taxing for an evening! A break would have been appreciated

No-one is supposed to overpower the discussions, but they do

Include a plenary session to capture ideas we had on other table discussion topics

Online and Live

The policy and process zoom events were really great. In person events less so.

I'm more likely to attend in-person events. Online events are too easy to overlook.

Host more on line sessions

Sound and Vision

Make sure that words on PowerPoint presentations can be read!

Please check sound systems and microphones before event with those speaking

The sound quality was often poor. The exercises were okay but could have been fine tuned to get a better quality of response.

Depending on venue think acoustic and warmth

Notice further in advance and better acoustics in venues (might require mics)

Ensure sound system is adequate. Provide greater explanation of terminology utilised in land management.

The audio was very poor and my video was blocked so I was only a voice!

Zoom meetings require presenters to be in quiet rooms without the noise of colleagues talking in the background

Survey

Have a realistic character limit on the "tell us how me might improve" survey question.

Re question 3 I've ticked 'somewhat agree' because I want to be positive, but the reality is that I have no idea whether my attendance was worthwhile

It would help if I felt there was a genuine interest in the feedback

Prioritise Nature

Human needs always come first, which in my opinion is wrong. To save our planet and nature, we must reverse this order finally.

Preservation of nature, yet at the same time supporting rural businesses

Don't have speciesists involved. Animal farmers, hunters etc.

Workshop Topics, Tasks and Time

I felt the process we were asked to use was a bit challenging to use on the night. Too much to read in a short time in the groups

The time available for discussion was limited and could have been a little more focused

We could only concentrate on the table subject we chose and did not have enough time to look at other subjects. (we chose "energy")

More time to discuss the issues

More time

More explanation even before event of what's required so event can be productive

Clearer statement of the required output, shorter meeting

There were several topics I was interested in but had to choose just one

Perhaps focus on broad principles, what LM issues are important to you? Some Stage2 questions were difficult answer with limited detailed knowledge.

I would have liked a more wide-ranging discussion instead of being confined to one aspect.

A bit more clarity about the areas being discussed. In the 2nd workshop at Selkirk we discussed the Ettrick & Yarrow Valleys, not Selkirkshire..

Keep activity on the night simpler; convince potential audiences that their opinions count

The questions/ process did not seem to utilise the expertise and experience of the people attending. it was too directive

More focussed and directed, too much about the managing group, not enough about the tasks

Wider Engagement

There should be a more prominent official role for community councils - probably a separate written consultation.

Try to engage better with the business sector

Need more involvement from farmers & landowners

Have more actual farmers and land owners there to hear their perspective

Widen the field and take in recreation such as golfing and walking

Pity so few people were at the event, and only a few from the previous event held at the start of the consultation. No really big landlords present

More public awareness

Broader public inclusion

Advertisement

Advertise them better, perhaps using more social media, signs in towns and villages

Need to reach out to the majority of the people who live in the region so their views are represented Reach a wider audience e.g. Age range

RLUP, RLUF, Policy and Process

For consultation to result in changes to government policy!.

Well organized events, but there was no clear route as to how the feedback would be incorporated in the RLUF and how that RLUF would be adopted.

More clarity on the value and process in relation to other related processes.

When will there be directions and actions. How much is this consultation costing?

I would like an opportunity to input on the governance of SOSRLUP itself, not just its land use/management plans.

More explanation on ultimately how the outcomes will be utilised and make a difference in changing individuals land management decisions

Approach very top down and doesn't engage the quiet voices of community

Question 9

If you would like to be kept informed of future SoSRLUP events and opportunities please include your email address below.

83/72.8% left an email address.