



The remote township of Airor on the Knoydart peninsular wanted to make more out of their common grazing as a shared community asset. Faced with very challenging land, with 50% of very poor quality, the grazing committee consulted with the wider community and came up with creative ways to use the land so that all could benefit.

The result was to utilise the poorer quality land for woodland, with livestock on the better quality land and a fencing programme to address issues of both straying stock and deer management. The Crofter Woodland Scheme secured funding from SRDP. The feedback from the wider community and visitors who have benefited from the improved coastal paths and cattle grids, has been positive.

*// This is a once in a generation opportunity for us and it is fantastic to see landowners and crofters, agencies and individuals and tree people and livestock people all cooperating to one end. //*

Toby Robinson

Crofting Commission  
Great Glen House  
Leachkin Road  
Inverness  
IV3 8NW

01463 663 439  
[info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)  
[www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)



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This factsheet is intended for general guidance only and is not intended to constitute legal advice



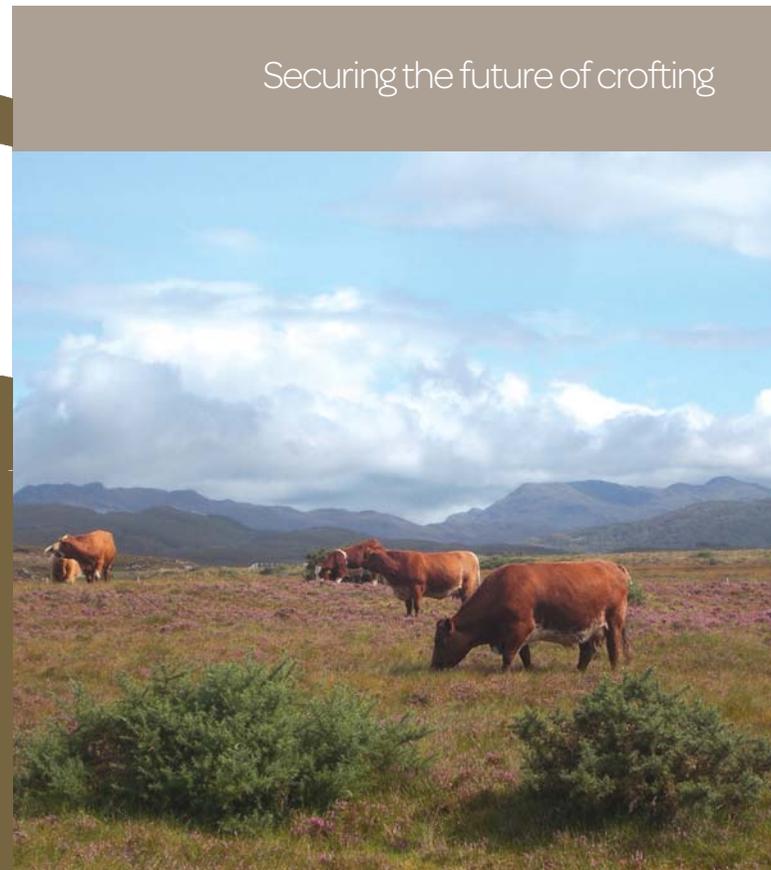
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# COMMON GRAZING

Securing the future of crofting



Common grazings is land shared, mainly by crofters, that is traditionally used for grazing and peat cutting. More recently the land is also being used for renewable energy, forestry and agri-environment schemes.

There are 1050 common grazings covering over 500,000 hectares across Scotland. The Crofting Commission encourages good shared management of common grazings to help foster stronger communities, deliver economic benefits and to reduce the likelihood of these areas being abandoned or overgrown.



### Who manages common grazings?

A common grazing is managed and maintained by a committee elected by the crofters who use the land and recorded with the Crofting Commission. Properly constituted grazings committees are the most effective way to safeguard the future of common grazing land and they can hold a valuable source of knowledge about crofting in the area. Grazings committees have the power to make sure that shareholders of the common grazing are complying with the grazing's regulations.

Grazings committees can also contribute to increasing the confidence in communal working and management of community assets.

A Chairperson and committee roles are elected to co-ordinate the functions of the grazings committee. The Committee will then appoint a Grazings Clerk.

For a full list of grazings committees in office visit [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)



### Does a common grazings need to be registered on the Crofting Register?

The Crofting Register provides a clear record of the 750,000 hectares of land within crofting tenure in Scotland. The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 requires crofts and common grazings to be registered on the Crofting Register held by the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland (RoS).

The Crofting Commission is working with grazings committees and RoS to ensure all common grazings are registered.

Registration of common grazings on the Crofting Register will hold a legally recognised boundary and list of shareholders. This will provide certainty for future generations and support current crofters in their usage and diversification activities of common grazings.

For more information visit [www.ros.gov.uk](http://www.ros.gov.uk).