

Homes at the Heart of Rural Communities

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Keynote Speakers



Sarah-Jane Laing, Chief Executive, Scottish Land & Estates

Sarah-Jane was appointed as Chief Executive of Scottish Land & Estates (SLE) in December 2019, the first woman to hold this role in the organisation's 110-year history. Her role involves overseeing the policy work of the organisation, directing all external and internal communications and leading on lobbying and representational work alongside senior management responsibilities relating to the organisation. Sarah-Jane represents SLE on a large number of external stakeholder groups, she is a member of the Scottish Government's Women in Agriculture Taskforce and the Climate Change Emergency Response Group as well as a recipient of the Farmers Club Windsor Leadership bursary.



Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

Shona Robison was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government in May 2021. Shona has served as MSP for Dundee City East since 2003. Educated at Alva Academy, she went on to graduate from Glasgow University with a Social Sciences MA and Jordanhill College with a Postgraduate Certificate in Community Education. Previously she worked for Glasgow City Council's Social Work Department.



Dr Moses Jenkins, Senior Technical Officer, Historic Environment Scotland

Dr Moses Jenkins has worked for Historic Environment Scotland for 17 years where he is Senior Technical Officer. He has written various guidance notes over this time most notably on the subjects of brick and energy efficiency. In 2009 he edited the book *Building Scotland* and in 2018 authored the book *The Scottish Brick Industry*. He gained his PhD through the study of Scottish traditional brickwork in 2017 and is a conservation accredited member of the CIOB. At present he is engaged in the development of standards and qualifications to improve knowledge of retrofit measures for traditionally constructed buildings.

SLE Chairman



Mark Tennant, Chairman, Scottish Land & Estates

Mark has been SLE's Chairman since April 2020. His career has ranged from tending refugees to investment banking. Until 2017 Mark ran Innes Estates, a 4500-acre low ground estate in Morayshire, the centre of which is Innes House, a 17th century Scottish Renaissance house where the family has run weddings and corporate events for over 20 years. He has now handed it over to his son. Mark became SLE's Vice-Chairman Policy in 2018. His main focus over the past year has been developing its work on a post-Brexit integrated land management approach which delivers increased productivity as well as helping meet climate change targets.

Conference Host



David Lee, David Lee Media & Events Ltd, Conference Host & Chair

David Lee has hosted around 350 events, from large policy conferences to intimate round-table discussions - including 100+ online events since the pandemic hit. These included Scottish Land & Estates' online conferences in 2020 and 2021. He worked for daily newspapers for 20 years, latterly as The Scotsman's Senior Assistant Editor, before establishing his own business in 2009. As Director of David Lee Media & Events Ltd, he is focused mainly on event hosting, podcasting and media training but also writes, edits and offers PR and policy advice. David has a specific interest in rural affairs (forestry in particular) as well as data, fintech, legal affairs and life sciences. Away from work, he has four children and two border collies and loves coastal rowing and football.

Expert Speakers: The climate change challenge in delivering housing



Robert Scott-Dempster - Partner, Head of Land and Rural Business

Robert heads the market leading Land & Rural Business team at Gillespie Macandrew and is accredited by the Law Society of Scotland as a specialist in agricultural law. His expertise includes agriculture and landed estates, rural businesses, ownership structures, capital taxation and succession. Robert has acted in some of Scotland's most high profile transactions and has first-hand experience of dealing with community and crofting community purchases, acting for both private individuals and communities. Robert is Chairman of the Scottish Land & Estates Legal Committee.



Joanne McClelland, Conservation Accredited Architect, Founder EALA Impacts

Jo is a conservation accredited Architect. Jo specialises in the provision of strategic early-stage advice, combining creativity with holistic practice across finance, community, and environment. This has led to conservation management plans, master planning work to help rural estates diversify, feasibility advice for charities, sustainable design for rural businesses and routes to net zero for higher education estate portfolios, amongst others. Jo is the president of the Edinburgh Architectural Association (EAA), a Trustee of the Royal Institute of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), a member of the RIAS Sustainability Working Group and Conservation Committee, and a part time tutor at Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA). Jo is also on the steering group the Space for Architecture Carbon and Environment (SpACE).



Richard Heggie, Director Urban Animation, in Association with Galbraith

Richard Heggie is Director of Urban Animation: an Edinburgh-based planning and development consultancy. He works throughout rural Scotland with land owners, communities and individuals, delivering innovative, sustainable projects. Place quality, partnership and engagement lie at the heart of Richard's work. He was an advisor to the Scottish Government's Land Reform Review Group, which laid the groundwork for the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016. He is currently an advisor to Reforesting Scotland's 1000 Huts Campaign and a Board Member with Rural Housing Scotland. He is Scotland's only recipient of the RTPI's UK Planning Consultant of the Year award.



Donryn Dewar, Housing Manager, Owner, Dupplin Estate

Donryn began her career with Unilever before moving to management consultancy with Spearhead Logistics in South Africa. After a move back to the UK, she worked as a Project Manager then Head of Consulting for Plaut Consulting. She went on to set up The Birchman Group with some partners from Plaut, following which she moved to Dupplin Estate with her husband where she started to look after the housing (with no background in housing). Donryn has managed over 140 properties for the last 15 years where her focus has been on bringing abandoned property back into use and renovating existing housing stock to increase the quality of what Dupplin has to offer to market.

Case Study Speakers:



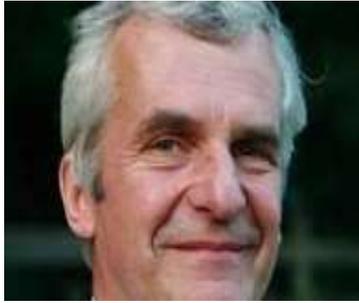
Ronnie MacRae, Chief Executive Officer, Communities Housing Trust,

In addition to its core project delivery and community activities, CHT has piloted a number of initiatives over recent years in response to ever changing challenges and is constantly looking at how communities can be strengthened by creating new opportunities. Ronnie has over 35 years' experience of the housing sector being a partner in his family construction business, promoting private sector improvements for Highland Council before joining CHT in 2005. Ronnie is originally from Durness in North West Sutherland and is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Building and a Chartered Environmentalist.



Lucy Laidlaw MCIM, Director, Lucy Laidlaw Communication

With fifteen years' marketing, communications and community engagement experience working with brands including Air France, KLM, O2, the Scottish Government and latterly in her role as Head of Communications and Marketing at Buccleuch Estates, Lucy has developed a passion for creating and implementing positive communication strategies with measurable returns. As a Board Member of Scottish Land and Estates and having worked in the rural sector for the past nine years, she has a keen interest in the way rural Scotland is evolving.



Hughie Campbell Adamson, Owner, Stracathro Estates

Hughie has run Stracathro Estates, in North Angus, for 30 years and developed it from a predominantly agricultural concern into a more diversified business, encompassing renewables, residential and commercial lets and sporting. He has, at various times, held several voluntary positions, including Chairman of Inveresk Community Council, Chairman of the Association of Salmon Fisheries Boards, Chairman of Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland, Chairman of Scottish Rural Commission and Chairman of Brechin City Football Club. Hughie has also been a Director of Angus Marts, of Scottish Football Association, and currently sits on the Local Assessors Group for Angus Leader.



Rebecca Russell, Owner, Pitgaveny Estate

In a former life Rebecca was a horticulturist before becoming a horticultural journalist. She moved to Elgin in 2005 and since then has worked at Pitgaveny which her father inherited from a distant cousin in the late 1960s. Until recently Rebecca operated a farm and estate with her brother but since October 2021, after a lengthy process, they have been running their own separate farms which will help to shape the future for the next generation. During her time at Pitgaveny Rebecca has been heavily involved in Open Day and Schools Day events on the farm. She has also been part of the evolving community engagement process for the 1500-unit Findrassie masterplan area to the north of Elgin. The first phase is currently being developed by Barratt Homes.



Jamie Hudson, Managing Partner, Hudson Hirsell LLP

For the past 12 years Jamie Hudson has been managing Douglas & Angus Estates' new build housing enterprises through their subsidiary Hudson Hirsell. Jamie originally trained as a Quantity Surveyor but diversified into Project Management early in his career. After a period of time working in the United States, he returned to Scotland where he became a partner with a firm of Edinburgh Chartered Surveyors before establishing a development company in 2002 which in turn led to the creation of Hudson Hirsell in 2009. In the last 12 years Hudson Hirsell has built over 100 new homes on multiple sites and, in addition, also now advise and manage a new build development for Ladykirk Estates in Berwickshire.

Panel Debate Speakers: How do we build more homes?



Hamish Trench, Chief Executive, Scottish Land Commission

Hamish Trench is Chief Executive of the Scottish Land Commission. He leads the Commission in its work advising on reforms to land ownership and land use and supporting good practice in implementing Scotland's land rights and responsibilities principles. He is a former Chartered Surveyor with over 20 years' experience of land policy, management and research in the public and private sectors.



Mairi MacLeod Coleman, Business Development Manager, MacLeod Construction Limited

Mairi has 15 years' experience in the banking industry, working in international strategy and human resources. She is Business Development Manager in her family's business, MacLeod Construction and Achnaba Estate and is based full time in Lochgilphead, Argyll. She is also the Vice Chair of Live Argyll and the Chair of Young Enterprise Scotland in Argyll and was appointed Chair of Scottish Land & Estates' Highland region in 2021.



Calum Innes, Partner, Galbraith

Calum is a longstanding partner at Galbraith whose expertise includes planning and development. From a rural housing perspective, he has been involved in a number of projects aimed at delivering new affordable housing in challenging locations. In terms of improving existing housing stock, he worked with Historic Environment Scotland in the restoration of a Category A listed croft house which was used as a case study to examine achievable thermal efficiency improvements using traditional building materials and incorporation of renewable heating technologies.



Andrew Howard, Managing Director, Moray Estates

Andrew is Managing Director of the Moray Estates group of companies which are owned by the Earl of Moray and his family. The estate's activities extend to commercial and residential property, agriculture, forestry, renewable energy (wind, hydro and anaerobic digestion), leisure and property development. The estate is developing a new town near Inverness of 5,000 homes to be built over the next 50 years. Andrew is also a Director of the Moray family's joint venture caravan park business in the North East of England and is a Director of Ascot Racecourse's two property companies.



Derek Logie, Chief Executive, Rural Housing Scotland

Derek is Chief Executive of Rural Housing Scotland, the national charity that works to deliver affordable housing in rural Scotland; promoting community led housing and campaigning to highlight the extent and nature of the rural housing crisis. Derek has supported communities across Scotland to secure affordable housing, enabling development in Gigha, Iona, Ulva Ferry, Laggan, Tarbrax and Whitsome amongst others. He is currently working to develop Smart Clachan, a live/work repopulation initiative in Uist, Tiree and Perthshire. Derek is a Committee Member of Scottish Rural Action and was previously a member of the Scottish Government's Rural Development Council and the Scottish Land Fund. Derek grew up in Perthshire but has lived for the past 20 years in rural East Lothian.