



# Productive, Green Uses for Vacant and Derelict Land

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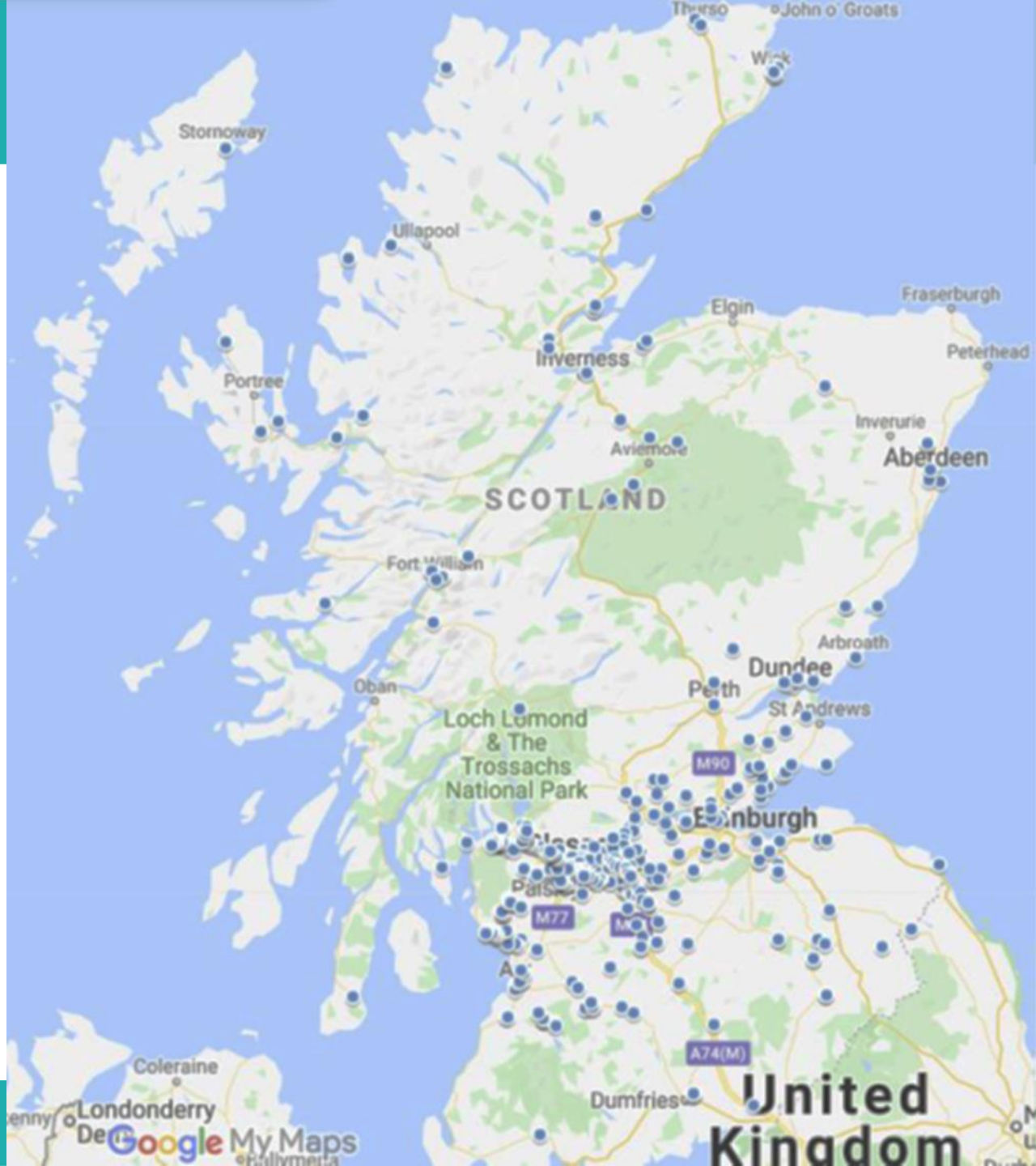


# The Green Action Trust

Scotland's Environmental Regeneration Charity

- delivering social, economic, health and environmental outcomes through environmental action
- targeted on the most challenged and disadvantaged areas and communities
- leading the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network - the largest Blue-Green Infrastructure initiative of its kind in Europe  
[VDL is a CSGN priority]

We operate at all scales from single site to landscape scale



## SUPPORTING DELIVERY THROUGH FUNDING



Increase funding to local authorities to bring vacant and derelict land back into use and review the allocation of the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund.



8.

Develop new ways of funding improvements to vacant and derelict land, including: compensate loss of biodiversity by balancing it with improving derelict sites; a publicly-owned development bank of land; and communities developing local derelict sites.





## TACKLING THE LEGACY

#notsoprettyvacant



12.

A national programme investing in green infrastructure, to bring derelict land and buildings back into use in ways that will help tackle climate change.

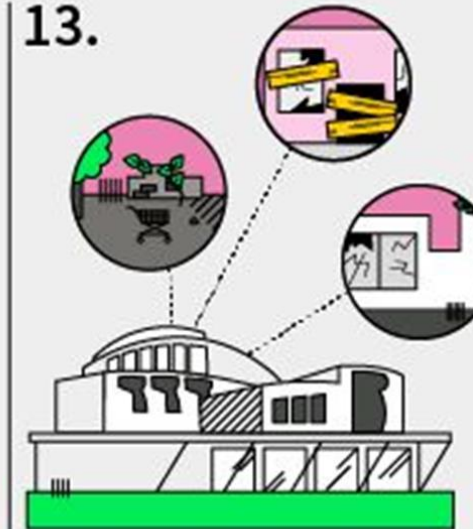


This should support jobs and skills development and help rebuild community resilience.



The programme should focus on urban green spaces, community-led regeneration, renewable energy and low carbon housing and attract investment. Local authorities should take responsibility for coordinating this and prioritise reusing sites that meet the needs of the community.

13.



Scottish Government should make a commitment to eradicating urban dereliction, keeping track of this goal and appointing a national coordinator to help achieve this.

# Blue-Green Infrastructure and VDL – key outcomes

Climate Change mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity enhancement

Greenspace provision

Placemaking

- again, at local through to landscape scales





## Mitigation:

Woodland creation (and conservation)

Renewables (including GSH)

Cooling and shading of buildings and spaces

Location for net zero development

Creating local facilities

## Adaptation:

Surface water management

Cooling and shading of neighbouring buildings and spaces

Creation of outdoor spaces for recreational activity

Minimising storm damage to buildings etc.

Note: pre-installing BGI can unlock development of otherwise stalled sites



Giving people more access to nature and natural settings

Connecting up habitat networks

Expanding neighbouring wildlife sites

Enhancing local biodiversity

'Offsetting' and Biodiversity Net Gain for developments elsewhere

Biggest wins often involve recognising sites that already have biodiversity value and enhancing them

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## Creating community greenspace where it is lacking

- gardens and contemplative spaces
- community growing spaces
- recreational spaces
- green access routes and active travel links

## VDL sites are often informal community spaces already

- make safe and welcoming
- 'formalise' use

Meanwhile or permanent





VDL is a major blight on many communities

VDL is a missed opportunity

Finding positive and productive use for VDL – and stopping the flow of future sites – is an essential part of placemaking in many urban, peri-urban and post-industrial areas



## Why Vacant & Derelict Land?

**Harm** – vacant and derelict sites can blight communities and damage well being

**Missed opportunity** – tackling land dereliction can help address some of society's biggest challenges

*COVID19 recovery, climate action, health inequalities*



Scottish National Performance Framework

# Note of caution

This is not a silver bullet ...

Green end uses are not the best solution for every site

Not every site is suited (or located) for green end uses

We need to use a place based approach to choose the right solution for every situation

