

Land reform review group

Submission by Nourish Scotland

1 Introduction

Nourish Scotland CIC is a non-profit organisation set up to develop and promote a fairer and more sustainable food system in Scotland. We have around 900 people from across Scotland are registered on the Nourish website - a mix of concerned citizens, community groups concerned with food, the environment and climate change; and small food businesses including producers, processors, retailers and caterers. Nourish campaigns for and supports greater access to local food that is produced sustainably, in all parts of Scotland.

Nourish is committed to the principles of food sovereignty as outlined in the Nyeleni declaration and endorsed by a growing range of European, UK and Scottish food and farming organisations. These principles are set out in the Appendix 1 to this submission. In summary, food sovereignty means putting people's nutrition and health at the heart of the food system rather than treating food as simply a commodity to be traded. It brings citizens and producers closer together; values diversity and supports agro-ecological production methods; and sees the contribution of small-scale farmers, growers and fishers as key to a secure future.

Nourish welcomes the establishment of the Land Reform Review Group: the ownership and management of Scotland's land is one of the key factors that shape our food system. We welcome the Review Group's willingness to look afresh at the relationship between land and people in Scotland - an important relationship that needs to be redefined if we are to meet current and future challenges together.

Surely there is something wrong when, with so little public accountability and so much public money, so much of our land is owned by and managed for the benefit of so few while, at the same time and often only a few miles away, an increasing number of our citizens are coming to depend on food banks to feed their families. In a shrinking world, if our land is not for feeding our people sustainably into the future, then what is it for?

Our suggestions for consideration by the Land Reform Review Group are in four parts:

- Redefining the rights and responsibilities of public benefit from all land – through creating a right of public benefit from all land in Scotland
- Greatly increasing access to land for local food production – through two measures:
 - in rural areas, extending crofting tenure and availability of crofts to all parts of Scotland, to match the availability of crofts in Highland Scotland, with a target of 10,000 new crofts in lowland Scotland
 - in urban areas, creating allotments sufficient to meet the needs of all residents, at a ratio of 1 allotment per 1000 residents, or about 50,000 new allotments.
- Policy measures and levers that could be used to achieve these changes
- What Nourish Scotland can offer to help the review group look at these proposals.

In developing this paper, Nourish circulated its draft submission to its 900 subscribers, and around 20 members have contributed directly to the paper and its content.

2 Redefining the rights and responsibilities of public benefit from all land

Land and its inherent capacities are natural capital – we borrow it from nature. It is different from other things people own in that it is immovable, a fixed quantity, indestructible (though easily spoiled). My ownership of land excludes other people's ownership of land in a way which my ownership of a pair of shoes does not.

Our traditional understanding of land ownership is that landowners have the right to exclusive use of the land's capacities in any way they think fit. This right is all-encompassing: from exploiting mineral resources under the ground; to removing wildlife or cultivating any crop on the ground; or using the water or even the wind above the ground. There are some minor legal restrictions to this exclusive right - mostly around how land use may impact the enjoyment of the exclusive land rights of neighbours – but there remains a general presumption of private enjoyment and exclusive use, associated with land ownership in Scotland.

Nourish wants to see a fundamental change from this outdated understanding of land ownership, so that those who manage land in Scotland do so on behalf of the Scottish people as a whole, including future generations.

In order to make this change we need to move from talking about the rights of landowners to the right of public benefit from land. And with this new public right there needs to be a responsibility on all land owners and managers – be they public, private or community – to deliver public goods that the community around them reasonably needs, and to safeguard the capacity of their land to continue delivering public benefit into the future.

The right of public benefit from all land should be bought into law in Scotland. Along with a responsibility on all landowners and users for delivering, through their actions, an appropriate supply of public goods – which include biodiversity, ecosystem services, access and recreation, employment and sustainably produced food.

A precedent already exists for the introduction of such a right, by the Scottish Parliament. In the Land Reform Act 2003, section 7, the 'right to roam' over all land in Scotland was enacted; along with the responsibility on users to take access with due consideration for land use and other access users. This legal right enshrined in law the *de facto* right to roam widely enjoyed in Scotland, based on the Scandinavian concept of 'Allemannsretten', or 'every man's right' to walk over all land. The act was a fundamental redistribution of the rights of land ownership, giving public access for everyone in Scotland to everywhere in Scotland – a move justified on the need for more outdoor recreation for a healthier society.

Since 2003 there has been a quiet revolution in outdoor access in Scotland – with increasing enjoyment, health and small-scale economic activity, plus other public benefits, triggered by the new access right. And there has been no widespread negative reaction from landowners and managers, or significant reduction in land values.

Ten years on, and there is now a pressing need to widen this right from just public access to land, to all public benefits from land. The 'every man's right' to roam needs to be extended to 'every community's right' to enjoy all the public goods derived from land - 'Allekommunsretten'. And one of the justifications for such a move is the need for healthier diet and a more secure food system with which to feed Scotland in the future.

Clearly, the right of public benefit from all land would have to reflect the fact that different parcels of land have different capabilities – whilst some land has a higher capability in terms of access and recreation; other land has a higher capability for supporting biodiversity, generating employment or producing local food.

A baseline would need to be drawn identifying the potential public benefits of different land parcels, and the communities that will benefit from them.

Like most legal compliance systems, this would require clear requirements backed up by both incentives and sanctions where needed. Mapping of potential public benefit from land will be needed – along the lines of the Macaulay Land Use Classification system or similar. And there would be the legal requirement to produce these benefits or allow others to access them. Incentives and rewards would be available for those who deliver significantly above the baseline, through public support from CAP and SRDP. And enforcement on land managers who delivered less than the baseline public goods would have to either compensate society for the misuse or loss of natural capital – or in extreme cases would forfeit the right to manage land. The bottom line would be forfeiture of the land if public goods and land quality are squandered.

Equivalent measures to all these were introduced and have followed from the 2003 Land Reform Act, for public access. Similar levers over all public goods now need to be established and exercised. A system of accountability needs to be introduced for the use of all land, so that the public benefits can be maximised and shared.

There will be significant objections from those whose exclusive rights are being rebalanced. But this needs to be weighted against the increase in public benefits and likely to arise from the democratization and new accountability associated for the first time with land ownership in Scotland.

3 Greatly increasing access to land for local food production

Nourish exists to promote a fairer and more sustainable food system, so our particular focus is on developing thriving local food economies with short supply chains to supply a healthier diet to their local area.

We wholeheartedly support Scottish Crofting Federation's call for 10,000 new farms and crofts in lowland Scotland, and have been working with them to explore how crofting can be extended to all parts of Scotland.

Demand for affordable local food in Scotland far exceeds current supply, and there are significant economic as well as social and environmental gains to be made from developing this market. Other things being equal, small farms are more productive per hectare and create more employment per hectare than larger holdings. Short supply chains underpinned by co-operative marketing and distribution offer gains in terms of freshness, waste reduction, and less processing, packaging, chilling and transport. They also have a larger local economic multiplier, with more money being recycled locally.

Access to suitable land is one of the most significant barriers to developing vibrant local food economies in most parts of Scotland. Nourish therefore wants to see new parcels of land made available for food production, at two different scales:

- in rural areas, extending crofting tenure and availability of crofts to all parts of Scotland, to match the availability of crofts in Highland Scotland. With a target of 10,000 new crofts in lowland Scotland
- in urban areas, creating allotments sufficient to meet the needs of all residents, at a ratio of 1 allotment per 1000 residents, or about 50,000 new allotments.

3.1 Extending crofting tenure and availability of crofts to all parts of Scotland

There has traditionally been a tendency in the UK to dismiss small scale and part-time farming as 'hobby' or 'lifestyle' farming. By contrast, Nourish welcomes wider public participation in food growing, recognises the investments of time money and skill made by small farmers, and wants to see a growth in highly productive, diverse and sustainable small farms serving local supply chains.

Small farms are important in building social and economic connections between people and land in rural and semi-rural areas. People living in rural communities characterised by large farms are often surrounded by rolling farmland, but still have urban style food choices as part of a cultural gap between those who live from the land and those who live near it. Much of rural Scotland remains chronically underpopulated – a trend which in the south of Scotland began with the clearances and enclosures in the late 18th century.

In common with many European countries and the USA, Scotland is seeing a growing interest in horticulture and agriculture from people – especially women – from non-farming backgrounds. This group includes both first-career and second-career aspiring farmers and growers. For example, there has been a 30% increase since 2002 in the number of women farmers in the USA, with women now running one farm in 7.

In Scotland, this group faces barriers to entry, of which access to land and capital (including working capital) are the most immediate. While it is difficult to estimate the number of potential new farmers, Nourish proposes a target of 10,000 new farmers and growers by 2025.

The potential benefits of extending crofting to all of Scotland that we can see are:

1. It's less than 5% of all land - achieving Nourish's target would see a modest 3-5% of our agricultural land being made available over the next decade for new food producers – a similar land area to the just the three largest land estates in Scotland at present.
2. Demand for small productive land units - at each of the Nourish Scotland annual conferences for the past 4 years, there have been workshops on access to land for smaller scale food production, and these have had up to 50 attendees on each occasion. Scottish Crofting Federation holds a 'waiting list' for crofts in existing crofting areas, with over 150 registering an interest.
3. Increased land number of land users - there are currently 27,000 holdings of under 10ha in Scotland which collectively cover 90,000 hectares or 1.6% of the agricultural land – 10,000 of which are Highland crofts . The large average size of Scottish farms

- at an average of 101 Ha (250 acres), the average Scottish farm is large by both UK and EU standards. In contrast, the average area of the 17,000 crofts in Scotland (excluding rough grazing land) is 5ha (12 ac). The land area of one average farm could provide 20 average crofts.

4. Food security – over the past 50 years most larger farms in Scotland have specialised to produce just one or two crops, which they sell wholesale to processors and traders. The dominance of barley, beef, lamb and in some areas potatoes has reduced Scotland's ability to feed itself with a diverse and balanced diet. The farmers are also very vulnerable to changes in global commodity prices. If Scotland is to achieve the aim of having a more balanced diet, and being more food-secure, then it needs a greater diversity of primary food production, and smaller land units can help delivery this.
5. Meeting unfilled demand for food – research by Nourish and SRUC shows that 'Local food' represents around 2% of all food sales in Scotland and has a growth rate of 20-30% a year. The market for 'local food' has approximately doubled in value in the past 4 years, and is likely to do so again in the next 4. Two thirds of existing local food businesses want to expand, and they need access to suitable land to do so. In addition, there are around 50% more businesses would like to enter the local food market and establish a new business.
6. Moderating land values in Scotland which are historically high – partly due to the very exclusive and unfettered rights ownership currently offers. Added to this, land speculation during the current recession has continued to push productive land value upwards. Most new entrants or communities cannot afford to buy land at open market prices. Introducing 10,000 new croft tenancies will both increase the supply of small land parcels, and offer parcels that come with conditions attach that reduce interest from land speculators.
7. Equality – the same right for everyone in Scotland: rural and urban; Highland and Lowland
8. Correct some of the unintended consequences of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 – there has been a significant net reduction in the number of agricultural tenancies since the act. Landowners are concerned that any tenancies will be open to the 'right to buy' contained in the act. Our members and others are unable to get leases for more than 5 years duration because of the fear from landowners giving tenancies that the 'goalposts will be moved', and shorter durations will be included. This was not the intended result of that act and a move toward more crofts would both open up more tenancies, and signal the direction of travel to land owners and advisers.
9. Better use and allocation of land use subsidies - most of smallholders and crofters receive very low levels of farm subsidy per hectare and per farmer. By contrast, the 4,500 large farms which cover 76% of the agricultural land receive the lion's share of the CAP subsidies, with much higher rates of subsidy per hectare and per farmer.
10. Already proven- crofting is already a well established, proven and already legislated route to creating and administering a large number of smaller land units. It may not be

perfect, and it is still evolving and open to improvement. But its development is 130 years ahead of any entirely new land tenure system in Scotland, and it has been proven to be workable and long lasting, and operable over large areas and numerous holdings.

11. Existing crofters support it – as the SCF states “The creation of 10,000 new crofts by 2020, with a longer term objective of increasing the area of land under crofting tenure so that one-quarter of land in Scotland is in crofting tenure by 2030...the development of crofting as the most appropriate model of land tenure for Scotland to achieve a food system that is environmentally sustainable, socially beneficial and a source of healthy, tasty food for the long term.”
12. Enhances and extends a uniquely Scottish form of land tenure – established as a mechanism to protect small tenants from unfair control by large landlords. Over the past 30 years crofting has moved beyond the righting of historical wrongs, and is now seen internationally as a secure system for extending sustainable land use and small-scale food production. A new act to extend crofting to all Scotland would cement this maturing of the crofting tenure system.

3.2 Private gardens, allotments and community gardens

While these tend to operate outside the market economy, they can make a valuable contribution to food security – for example, the DEFRA family food survey estimates that up to 5% of our fresh fruit and vegetables and 5.7% of our eggs came from these sources in 2011 (Source DEFRA family food 2012).

As the Review Group knows, there is a chronic shortage of allotments, especially in Edinburgh and Glasgow but also in many rural areas. At the same time, vacant and derelict land in Scotland extends to around 8,300 hectares – about 10 times the total area of fruit grown commercially in Scotland, or half the total area of land used for vegetables.

One respondent to Nourish’s draft submission noted that local authorities can be justifiably cautious about permission for communities to grow on possibly contaminated brownfield sites and suggested co-ordinated help with risk assessment and awareness of best practice (for example Fairlie community garden).

Nourish supports significant growth in the number of allotments. We commend NHS Lothian for promoting use of hospital land for community gardens and encourage other public bodies to do likewise. We welcome the proposal from City of Edinburgh Council to acquire farmland on the urban periphery to create additional allotments.

Nourish, along with other organisations, has already proposed that a ‘community right to grow’ on unused land should form part of the Community Empowerment and Renewal Act. Our proposal for a land value tax (see below) should make it less attractive for landowners and developers to keep land empty in the expectation of large profits from future development.

These land parcels, though individually small, are collectively an important part of natural capital, with well-managed gardens and allotments providing high levels of biodiversity.

Supporting small land managers to manage well is also important, as this example from Lower Austria shows – and we would encourage Scottish Government to look at a similar approach in

partnership with organisations such as Edinburgh Garden Partners, Gardening Scotland, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society, Federation of City Farms and Gardens, Garden Organic and so on.

Lower Austria decided in 1986 that the region should have its own capital city. Previously the administration was situated in Vienna. It was decided to site the new administrative buildings on riverside land which was used as small private gardens. When the garden soil was analysed, planners discovered that it was so contaminated with pesticides (and mineral fertilizer) they could not use it any more for any purposes and had to burn it. This started officials thinking about how to change the behaviour of people in their gardens. In 1999 the vice-governor of the region founded the initiative of "Nature in the Garden", which now has about 100.000 members. Everyone can apply for a certificate and if they fulfil the criteria they get a sign "Nature in the Garden – keep healthy, what keeps us healthy" (to put on the garden fence or wherever they want).
Courtesy Ron Gilchrist/Leopold Fischer/Alfred Grand

This would build on the initiative taken in new allotment sites in Edinburgh, which are all organically cultivated. Regular plotholder surveys of all sites in the city show a very high proportion of plots are gardened organically

In urban areas: the access to allotments needs to be vastly expanded, to enable the 'grow your own' boom to take root and enable families of all incomes to feed themselves locally and healthily.

Under the Allotments (Scotland) Act 1892 the local Council is obliged to meet demand :

"Whether through enquiry following on such representations or through other means the Council concludes there is a demand for allotments it is obliged to acquire any suitable land which may be available- to be let as allotments to local residents. Such land may be within or outwith the City."

As far back as the Second World War, the need for allotments in Scotland was estimated to be 90,000 full size plots. 70 years later and we are not yet 10% of the way there! The local authority route to allotment provision has not worked in practice, and needs to be changed.

There are currently just over 3000 allotment plots in Scotland's urban centres: around 1 allotment for every 1000 residents. In Edinburgh, it takes around 8 years waiting to get access to the top of the allotment list, and even then vacant allotments are being split in two for rental to new allotment holders in order to help meet demand. If full sized allotments were to be made available it would be over 20 years waiting!

In 2008, the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) set out targets for creating allotments in Scotland, and these were backed by SNP speakers in debate on allotments in Holyrood in 2009. The targets are:

- 2008: One plot per 1,000 people = 5000 allotments
- 2018: One plot per 300 people = 17,000 allotments
- 2030: One plot per 100 people = 50,000 allotments.

Nourish advocates these target to the review group.

4 Policy measures and levers that could be used

A mix of new powers and better use of existing levers is needed if land reform is to increase the supply of suitable farms and land parcels. Here are some levers that could be used:

3.1 Adapting urban and periurban planning legislation and practice.

Nourish has already made a submission to the review of Scottish Planning Policy proposing a greater emphasis on planning for food and has suggested that 'city foodsheds' should be designated as a national planning development. If local authorities were able to zone land for 'food production' this would not only safeguard those areas into the future but also would reduce the price of land in periurban and 'hope' areas to affordable levels for new entrants.

In the response from Nourish members to the draft of this submission, there was a call for compulsory purchase of arable land near communities. Changes to planning practice could probably achieve some of the same objectives more quickly and smoothly. Similarly, development gain (in advance of a land value tax) could be used to buy land for allotments in both urban and rural areas.

3.2 Using farm subsidy better

Shifting as much Common Agricultural Policy money as possible away from historic channels which benefit larger, wealthier farms and towards rural development, encouraging rural enterprise and repopulation and effective support for genuine new entrants.

Rural Development funds could also be used as in Denmark to stimulate demand for public procurement of organic and local food, underpinning the viability and growth of right size farming and growing businesses.

3.3 Encouraging better use of large farms and estates

Encouraging through suitable tax policy and other incentives the unbundling of estates and large farms into 'Schumacher centres', with a network of interlocking small enterprises generating greater social and financial results (see Appendix 2)

3.4 Using public land to create private and community land holdings

More creative use of Crown and other public (MoD, Forestry Commission, Scottish Water) and third sector land: the recent creation of new holdings by the Forestry Commission is a good example of this in practice

The Intervale in Burlington Vermont (which has been visited by Nourish members) is a shining example of what could be achieved with Scottish Water land holdings, as well as other publicly owned land in Scotland. Founded in 1990 the Intervale is a lease of public water supply catchment to a community land owner, intended to reduce the pollution of drinking water and grow fresh produce. The Farms Program leases land, equipment, greenhouses, irrigation and storage facilities to small independent farms. Each year, these farms produce fresh produce on 135 acres of land and contribute 60 full-time, part-time and seasonal jobs to the Burlington economy. The Farms Program removes start-up barriers that typically challenge new farmers:

- Access to training, land, capital and markets;
- Knowledge of equipment operation and maintenance;
- Isolation

Each year, between one and three new farm businesses join the program as incubators, receiving subsidized rental rates, business planning support and mentorship from established.

3.5 A Scottish land portfolio

Augmenting a reinvigorated Scottish Land Fund - using a variety of investments from Scotland's cities (E.g. through Public Works loan finance), from charity and housing association reserves, from sustainable food bonds issued by suitable financial intermediaries and from other private ethical investments - to create a substantial public portfolio of farms and smallholdings to be let or offered on a shared equity basis to new entrants.

3.6 Land value taxation

Introducing a Land Value Tax which would encourage better use of periurban land for growing. The recent Mirrilees review concludes:

"A recent review of US evidence suggests that successfully implementing and administering a land value tax is feasible. We are not in a position to make such a judgement for the UK, but we propose that government should study the feasibility of such a tax. As we will see below, there is a much stronger case for having a separate land value tax in the case of land used for non-domestic purposes, so the feasibility needs first to be studied for commercial and agricultural land rather than for land on which housing sits."

A land value tax charges land owners relative to the value of what they own- and was first proposed by Henry George. It has been introduced in parts of Australia, Taiwan and also Hong Kong. In these areas it has resulted directly in reduced land values, and also led to owners selling land to their tenants. It has also halted land speculation and a return to productive land uses determining land value.

More recently, land value taxes have been proposed to be combined with land *use* taxes. This varies the amount of tax levied for different types of land use with those producing desirable environmental and social benefits being taxed lower than those creating adverse impacts and resource depletion. Such a tax would be a very potent tool to guide land ownership and use change.

Since devolution in Scotland there has been active interest in a land value tax by the Scottish Parliament. A resolution advocating a land value tax for Scotland, signed by Green, Labour and Nationalist MSPs was passed in 2003. This led in 2006 to the appointment of the Burt review on Scottish Local Government Finance. The Review's 2007 Report concludes that:

"although land value taxation meets a number of our criteria, we question whether the public would accept the upheaval involved in radical reform of this nature, unless they could clearly understand the nature of the change and the benefits involved.... We considered at length the many positive features of a land value tax which are consistent with our recommended local property tax [LPT], particularly its progressive nature."

3.7 More and better affordable rural housing

Land reform should make it easier for new farmers and growers to build a suitable home on their holding. The Welsh Government's Technical Advice Notice 6 encourages this form of sustainable rural development, and specifically supports 'one planet development'

4.15.1 The Sustainable Development Scheme, "One Wales: One Planet" includes an objective that within the lifetime of a generation, Wales should use only its fair share of the earth's resources, and our ecological footprint be reduced to the global average availability of resources - 1.88 global hectares per person in 2003. One Planet Developments take forward Low Impact Development (LID) principles in the Welsh context. One Planet Development is development that through its low impact either enhances or does not significantly diminish environmental quality. One Planet Development is potentially an exemplar type of sustainable development. One Planet Developments should initially achieve an ecological footprint of 2.4 global hectares per person or less in terms of consumption and demonstrate clear potential to move towards 1.88 global hectare target over time. They should also be zero carbon in both construction and use.

4.15.2 One Planet Developments may take a number of forms. They can either be single homes, co-operative communities or larger settlements. They may be located within or adjacent to existing settlements, or be situated in the open countryside. Where One Planet Developments involve members of more than one family, the proposal should be managed and controlled by a trust, co-operative or other similar mechanism in which the occupiers have an interest. Land based One Planet Developments located in the open countryside should, over a reasonable length of time (no more than 5 years), provide for the minimum needs of the inhabitants' in terms of income, food, energy and waste assimilation. Where this cannot be demonstrated, they should be considered against policies which seek to control development in the open countryside.

4 What Nourish Scotland can offer to help the review group look at these proposals.

In summary, Nourish Scotland advocates the introduction of a new right of public benefit for all land in Scotland based on a new system for ensuring that all significant holdings – whether publicly or privately owned – deliver a proportionate level of public goods.

Nourish wants to see a significant expansion in the production of healthy, local and sustainable food from private gardens, allotments, crofts and small farms, increasing the resilience of the Scottish food system, strengthening local food economies and enhancing biodiversity. We need 50,000 more allotments and 10,000 lowland crofts to achieve this.

Taken together, the new right of public benefit from all land; the creation of 10,000 crofts, and 50,000 new allotments across all parts of Scotland, would be a transformational change in land ownership and local food production. It would set the stage for a new and stronger relationship between land and people in our country.

Nourish is a wide reaching voluntary network with very small resources. We have a large membership and strong partnerships with other groups, including SCF and SAGS. Access to land to grow food is a priority for us, and we can offer four ways to help the review group develop their thinking in this area:

- Give verbal evidence to the committee and answer questions on our proposals and on local food generally
- Offer an adviser to join the review group, with a specialism in local food production, crofting legislation and public policy – complementary to those already on the advisory panel
- Create and service a register of interest in lowland crofts – helping to gather and scope the demand for crofting in lowland area – this will be complementary to the register of interest held for Highland crofts by Scottish Crofting Federation.
- Time from our new Policy Manager, to help with detailed drafting of proposals.

Appendix 1:

6 Food Sovereignty principles as agreed in Mali 2007.

1. Focuses on Food for People:

Food sovereignty stresses the right to sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food for all individuals, peoples and communities, including those who are hungry or living under occupation, in conflict zones and marginalized.

Food sovereignty rejects the proposition that food is just another commodity for international agribusiness.

2. Values Food Providers: Food sovereignty values and supports the contributions, and respects the rights, of women and men, peasants and small scale family farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fishers, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples and agricultural and fisheries workers, including migrants, who cultivate, grow, harvest and process food; and rejects those policies, actions and programs that undervalue them, threaten their livelihoods and eliminate them.

3. Localizes Food Systems: Food sovereignty brings food providers and consumers together in common cause; puts providers and consumers at the center of decision-making on food issues; protects food providers from the dumping of food and food aid in local markets; protects consumers from poor quality and unhealthy food, inappropriate food aid and food tainted with genetically modified organisms; and resists governance structures, agreements and practices that depend on and promote unsustainable and inequitable international trade and give power to remote and unaccountable corporations.

4. Makes Decisions Locally: Food sovereignty seeks control over and access to territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock and fish populations for local food providers. These resources ought to be used and shared in socially and environmentally sustainable ways which conserve diversity. Food sovereignty recognizes that local territories often cross geopolitical borders and advances the right of local communities to inhabit and use their territories; it promotes positive interaction between food providers in different regions and territories and from different sectors to resolve internal conflicts or conflicts with local and national authorities; and rejects the privatization of natural resources through Laws, commercial contracts and intellectual property rights regimes.

5. Builds Knowledge and Skills: Food sovereignty builds on the skills and local knowledge of food providers and their local organizations that conserve, develop and manage localized food production and harvesting systems, developing appropriate research systems to support this and passing on this wisdom to future generations. Food sovereignty rejects technologies that undermine, threaten or contaminate these, e.g. genetic engineering.

6. Works with Nature: Food sovereignty uses the contributions of nature in diverse, low external input agroecological production and harvesting methods that maximize the contribution of ecosystems and improve resilience and adaptation, especially in the face of climate change. Food sovereignty seeks to heal the planet so that the planet may heal us; and, rejects methods that harm beneficial ecosystem functions, that depend on energy intensive monocultures and livestock factories, destructive fishing practices and other industrialized production methods, which damage the environment and contribute to global warming.

<http://foodsovereignty.org.uk>

Appendix 2

Schumacher Centres

Taking their name from Schumacher's influential book 'Small is Beautiful', Schumacher centres would demonstrate the economic, environmental and social advantages of unbundling the large, relatively simple, farming systems which characterise larger farms into a cluster of linked farming and growing businesses. While these are economically attractive propositions, as far as Nourish is aware, there are as yet no working examples in Scotland.

This 'for example' illustrates the idea in relation to a typical Scottish farm with 500 acres of inbye land and 1,000 acres of permanent pasture and rough grazing.

"The inbye land is subdivided into 20 holdings of various sizes in response to proposals from people wanting to run sustainable, right size land-based organic businesses. Residual acres are used by the beef, sheep and cereal enterprises on a 'meanwhile' basis. These businesses currently include:

Microdairy (12 Jersey cows)

Beef finisher

Artisan cheesemaker

Forest pig enterprise

Tree nursery and forest garden

Orchard

Apple juice and jam maker

Soft fruit

Cereals production and hydro-powered mill

Bakery

Organic flowers and plants

Woodland and tunnel mushrooms

3 vegetable producers, including one heritage specialist and one salad specialist

Organic table birds (chickens, ducks, turkeys)

Organic eggs

Sheep and wool spinning

Honey

Organic trout

Three other service businesses have evolved:

Small is complicated – an admin and book-keeping service

Vanishing Point – the invisible camp site

This little piggy – running market stalls at different events on behalf of several producers

While each of the businesses at Schumacher is independent, all are subject to strict leases which require them to maintain organic standards, to use common services and to support educational activities at the centre.

Each business pays a variable rent, depending on the land and facilities it requires. In addition, each business pays a service charge of around 5% of turnover for marketing, mentoring and maintenance services.

Each operating business is also required to invest an equity stake in the Centre, which is repayable with interest when a business moves on or closes down. The minimum equity stake is £25,000, which can be raised as an interest-free loan from a charitable trust working in partnership with the Schumacher centre.

The current combined turnover of the 23 enterprises is over £1m. The farm previously had a turnover of £125,000 and employed 2 people.”