

The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Carbon

Press release: 26 May 2023

Community Land Scotland today publish 'The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Carbon'. The paper by renowned academic, writer and land reformer Alastair McIntosh gives a fascinating perspective on natural and private capital and is a welcome contribution to an important contemporary debate.

The 'green finance' issue has emerged quickly and is raising many questions. The issues the paper raises are far-reaching in how Scotland adjusts to a rapidly changing world with major climate challenges.

Chair of Community Land Scotland, Ailsa Raeburn says "The issues are long-term and will span the administrations of many future governments. Given the impact they are having and will have on future generations, Community Land Scotland would welcome a big and open conversation between communities, government and its agencies, opposition parties and others who have a part to play to explore the most inclusive ways forward. There is scope to build from the positive suggestions Alastair McIntosh offers in his paper and the conversations with Nature Scot we are already engaged in."

Opportunities should be explored to consider how the public and third sector can work together to address some of the inherent challenges Alastair raises in the current finance led 'natural capital' approach. There may be significant opportunity to ensure:

- Models of ownership and benefit sharing can emerge which help address a range of policy objectives for Scottish Government and NatureScot including addressing the biodiversity and climate crises; community wealth building; a Just Transition to Net Zero and a more diversified pattern of land ownership.
- The many significant levers that the Scottish Government already has within its powers, can be used to give effect to these policy objectives and to ensure there is greater investment and trust put in communities.

Ailsa Raeburn, again 'However, the time to do this is short, and significant focus needs to be given now to designing interventions and subsidies that achieve policy convergence. We look forward to working with others to take the conversation forward in a way that we hope can address concerns and build consensus.'

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Editor's Notes:

The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Carbon is a paper by renowned academic, writer and land reformer Alastair McIntosh published today 26th May 2023 [on the Community Land Scotland website as part of an ongoing series of papers by independent writers, academics and commentators to promote understanding and stimulate debate on issues relevant to the land



debate in Scotland.]

The paper and its research, content and views are those of the author and are independent of Community Land Scotland which will publish its own policy position on the issues shortly.

If any quotes from Community Land Scotland are required the media release and the introduction to *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Carbon* by Ailsa Raeburn can be used.

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