



Community Land
Advisory Service



Community Land Advisory Service

An impartial, collaborative service
aiming to increase community access
to land across the UK.

www.communitylandadvice.org.uk

What CLAS does

- **CLAS helps community groups, landowners and land managers** gain satisfactory agreements on access to land by providing impartial technical guidance on lease agreements and related issues.
- **CLAS combats the lack of available land** for community gardening and associated green space activities through its work.
- **CLAS offers hands-on advice and online information resources** to both landowners and community organisations.



How CLAS delivers

CLAS helps people and organisations:

- 1 Strategically** – through collaboration with stakeholder organisations and by influencing policy and legislation on a local and UK level.
- 2 Practically** – by delivering information resources via the website and through detailed technical help and advice given by advisors in specific cases.

“CLAS was able to offer impartial, technical advice which has contributed to an action plan to establish secure longer-term use of the land. This will facilitate funding applications and further community development and expansion of the site.”

Lucie Taylor, Lambhill Stables, Glasgow





Who CLAS helps

CLAS supports those aiming to create community growing spaces, including:

- **New and fledgling community groups** wanting to find land.
- **Established community groups** having issues with an existing site or keen to develop other sites.
- **Local authorities** offering land for community use or turning over a current land asset.
- **Private landowners** wanting to make land available for community use on a permanent or temporary basis.
- **Large organisations** with land which could be made available for community use, such as the NHS, universities, public companies and housing associations.

Individuals looking for land, people wanting buildings advice or organisations without a clear community link may find some CLAS information useful, but are not a priority for our services.

Benefits of CLAS

- Provides detailed, technical advice.
- Showcases good practice.
- Creates useful information resources (e.g. template leases, planning and technical advice).
- Collaborates with other stakeholder organisations to complement existing support on a UK and local level.
- Promotes mixed use – such as local food growing, play, wildlife and community land use in social housing areas.
- Raises the profile of community land use among landowners, community sector organisations, funders and policy-makers.

“CLAS has given us impartial technical advice and support which has allowed us to progress with issues concerning access to land.”

Ewan Young, Community Development Officer, Ullapool Development Trust



Background to CLAS

Demand for land from the community sector, primarily for food growing and horticultural activities, has outstripped traditional sources of supply in recent years, leading to a range of new ideas and initiatives around securing land for community use.

“We needed a fresh pair of eyes, confidence and experience. CLAS gave a fast, helpful response.”

Northaw Community Orchard, Herts

While supporting this explosion of activity, the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) were concerned about a lack of ground rules for access to land, leading to extra costs, delay and frustration.

Extensive research by FCFCG (funded by DCLG and DEFRA in England, and by the Central Scotland Green Network in Scotland) found that, despite some reservations or lack of knowledge, there was widespread goodwill from landowners to turn unused land over for cultivation. Equally there was plenty of enthusiasm from local communities to find land, not just for food growing, but also for positive purposes such as therapy, education and creating havens for wildlife.

After further consultation, there was a consensus that a Community Land Advisory Service would fulfil a useful function and funding was secured to launch it in 2011 as a realistic response to the intense demand for community growing spaces.

CLAS is project-managed by the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, a registered charity in England and Scotland. Find more details about FCFCG at www.farmgarden.org.uk.



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