

ScotLAND

Permaculture Demonstration Network



The
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The ScotLAND Guide

All you need to know to help your project apply to become a ScotLAND Centre, Permaculture Scotland's network of sites of demonstration and learning!

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1. Welcome

ScotLAND aims to be a showcase of “**L**earning **A**nd **N**etwork **D**emonstration” permaculture sites in Scotland. This handbook has been compiled to help you:

- ◆ decide whether or not to apply to become a ScotLAND Learner or Centre;
- ◆ understand what support you can access if you become a Learner or Centre;
- ◆ understand the other opportunities the ScotLAND Project offers.

Phase 1 was the initial stage of ScotLAND, and had established 12 Learners and Centres by the end of 2013.

Phase 2 began in 2016 with funding from Robertson Trust, Awards For All and Seedbed Trust to promote and develop the ScotLAND Project by expanding the network, providing tutorial support and organising the Group Visit Scheme.

On receiving this Guide, we encourage you to take part in the Action Learning Cycle as you:

1. **Observe** - read this handbook
2. **Think/Reflect** - digest what ScotLAND is all about
3. **Design / Strategy** - consider how your project fits with ScotLAND Centre Criteria
4. **Implement** - apply to ScotLAND to become a Centre online.

Then return to:

1. **Observe** - notice what you have learned about your project during the process.

If in the process of reading this handbook you have any queries that aren't answered, please email scotlandworker@permaculture.org.uk.

A big thank you to all the many contributors who helped make this document and the Centre Application process flow and happen:

Luci Ransome, Lusi Alderslowe, Rachel Bailey, Graham Bell, Ruby Alba, Andy Goldring, Karen Atkinson, Jay Ashton, Beth Ramsay.

All the best with your application!

ScotLAND Outreach Worker
Finn Weddle, September 2017

2. What is ScotLAND?

ScotLAND is an exciting and inspiring project to establish exemplary permaculture **L**earning **A**nd **N**etwork **D**emonstration sites throughout Scotland. We want to tell lots of people about these great projects so they can visit and learn about permaculture as well as increase networking opportunities between groups and individuals.

If a picture says a thousand words, then visiting a permaculture demonstration site will say a million or more; that's why ScotLAND was created - to give more people the chance to see how permaculture really work, with their own eyes. With your help, we can do it!

a] Aims & Objectives for ScotLAND - the things we plan to achieve

The aim of ScotLAND is to set up and support a network of practical examples of land-based permaculture design in various places, micro-climates, and cultures throughout Scotland. As well being a badge of recognition for your remarkable work so far, ScotLAND Centres are those examples of permaculture which are generally open to the public for visits, demonstrations and educational events. These examples can include **any** physical space, and we currently consist of a mix of urban and rural home gardens, community gardens, public spaces, allotments, smallholdings, woodlands and farms. If it's *designed using permaculture principles* and is a *physically demonstrable project*, **you are eligible to join.**

To achieve our aim, ScotLAND will:

- ◆ *establish* a network of sites that meet the criteria to become ScotLAND Learners and Centres;
- ◆ *support* these ScotLAND Learners and Centres as well as projects wishing to become Learners and Centres;
- ◆ *link* projects through one-to-one support, regional training and skill-sharing events;
- ◆ *raise awareness* nationally of permaculture and the change-making work of each ScotLAND Site;
- ◆ *enable* practitioners to engage a local and global community in land-based permaculture;
- ◆ *empower* people who are new to permaculture to visit established ScotLAND Centres;
- ◆ *demonstrate* to people across Scotland how the permaculture ethics and principles can be applied in action in our climate.

b] Outcomes for ScotLAND

The differences we want ScotLAND to make are:

1. **NETWORK:** ScotLAND will have created the first network of permaculture practitioners working on land-based projects in Scotland.
2. **LEARN:** Learners and Centres will excel in their permaculture design skills, and will be better equipped to teach others the possibilities of permaculture design.
3. **OUTREACH:** ScotLAND Centres will be better resourced to deliver courses and local presentations, and seen as a hub for permaculture in their local community.
4. **VOLUNTEER:** ScotLAND Learners and Centres will be better prepared to provide volunteer opportunities for local people and itinerant learners.
5. **VISIT:** Potential visiting groups will be aware of the opportunities to actively visit ScotLAND Learners and Centres.

c] ScotLAND achievements so far

1. Nine ScotLAND Learners
2. Nine ScotLAND Centres
3. 250+ people from twenty groups from hard-to-reach communities funded to visit ScotLAND Centres;
4. Eleven supporting tutorials arranged for Learners.
5. Accommodated over 8,000 people visiting, volunteering with or attending a course at a ScotLAND Learner or Centre.

3. Why join ScotLAND?

If the benefits weren't obvious to you already, here are some the great perks of being a part of the ScotLAND Project:

- ◆ connecting with other inspiring permaculture projects in Scotland;
- ◆ advertising your work on the Permaculture Association website;
- ◆ gaining access to the training and support that you need to continue on this journey;
- ◆ increasing the visibility and accessibility of your project to others for permaculture-related courses and events;
- ◆ receiving more volunteers and visitors at your project;
- ◆ being invited to ScotLAND events, including skill-shares;
- ◆ being able to apply for funding through the Permaculture Association for charitable work you would like to do on your site.
- ◆ gaining recognition for all the great work you do;
- ◆ and much more besides!

Testimonials

Ed Tyler, Kintyre Bioregional ScotLAND Centre:

As an active designer, teacher and tutor it is great to have folk over to our site to look round and give me a chance to explain what me and Carina have been doing here for the past ten years and to show them my plans for the site as it has evolved.

It's also a great way for me to connect with other permaculture projects happening in different parts of Scotland. It can feel a little isolated out here in the wild west, where the word "permaculture" is rarely spoken.

I think it's a great way for people to learn the permaculture design process in a practical, hands-on way, working on their own piece of land which they see and interact with every day.

4. Applying to ScotLAND

There is one [application form](#) which will decide whether you become a Member or a Learner; we do not expect anyone to meet all of the criteria to be a Centre immediately, so there is no separate form for this. Once you've made your application, the ScotLAND team will give every support possible to enable your journey to becoming a Centre.

For details, please see ScotLAND Application [Flowchart](#) for more information about how the process works.

a] Who can apply?

Any individual or group can join if you have a permaculture-minded physical project, and are a member of Permaculture Scotland. [Note: If you are a member of the Permaculture Association and live in Scotland, you are automatically a member of Permaculture Scotland.]

To define 'physical' or 'physically demonstrable' project, we mean any site that could be visited by the public and be seen to apply permaculture principles. We want to encourage all applications of design, whether land-based or not, but social permaculture designs are often less tangible and harder to 'visit'. For this reason we have to exclude all non-visitable projects from ScotLAND.

b] Why are there different categories?

There are loads of fantastic projects throughout Scotland which are great examples of permaculture in action, and they are at different stages in their permaculture learning and implementation journey. Our process helps ScotLAND to give appropriate support to the different stages of learning, based on each project's achievements and learning needs.

The different criteria for the three categories are listed in full detail on the following pages. We suggest you read these criteria carefully before applying so that you have a good grasp of what you can expect from the project.

c] Criteria & Support

i] Members

To become a **ScotLAND Member**, your project needs to:

- ✓ be a member of the Permaculture Association;
- ✓ have (or be part of) a land-based project or eco-structure in Scotland;
- ✓ have support from your project's organisation.

The **Member** category exists in order to catalogue the many applicants with worthwhile projects who simply don't meet the **Learner** criteria, as listed below. We will support you by offering the best advice we can on how to pursue **Learner** status.

ii] Learners

To become a **ScotLAND Learner**, your project needs to:

- ✓ meet the **Member** criteria as listed above;
- ✓ aspire to fulfil, and be actively working towards, the **Centre** criteria as listed below;
- ✓ be committed to the process for two years minimum;
- ✓ agree to the terms of mutual support, as described in the *ScotLAND Agreement*
- ✓ organise at least one occasion per year to receive volunteers and/or visitors;
- ✓ have at least one key member of your project with a Permaculture Design Certificate [72-hour Course] or other suitable level of permaculture knowledge or education.*

*We value non-formal education, so if you do not have a key project member with a PDC but believe there is sufficient knowledge within your group to create permaculture designs, please get in touch before applying to discuss.

Learners will have access to private tutorship from our team of Scotland-based tutors, either in person or over the phone. For the period June 2016 - June 2019 we foresee being able to fully fund any private tutorials for **Learners**, although we might ask for voluntary contributions on a 'pay it forward' basis. This is to allow funds to reach those who really cannot afford tuition. This said, our budget reflects the likelihood that the majority of people would prefer to be fully funded, so any contributions really are voluntary!

iii] Centres

Please note: make sure that everyone involved in the running and planning of your project has read through the **Essential** and **Desirable** criteria. In this way everyone in your project will have a shared understanding of what a **ScotLAND Centre** demonstration project is.

To become a **ScotLAND Centre**, your project needs to:

- ✓ meet the Essential Criteria below;
- ✓ be working towards the Desirable Criteria below.

Essential Criteria

1. ScotLAND MEMBERSHIP

- **ScotLAND Centres** must meet *all* of the **ScotLAND Learner** criteria (above).

2. PERMACULTURE DESIGN

- Have a design that uses the ethics, principles and methods of permaculture (or have a design in progress).
- Be committed to their project development.
- Other project members have some understanding of permaculture

3. NETWORK

- Be willing to share skills and relevant information with other permaculture projects, volunteers and visitors via the Permaculture Association website.
- Be willing to maintain Permaculture Association membership as individuals and/or project groups.

4. DEMONSTRATING PERMACULTURE

- Demonstrate permaculture in practice on site.

5. WORKING WITH VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS:

- Be willing and able to receive visitors and volunteers
- Be willing to contribute to ScotLAND monitoring and evaluation
- Have appropriate insurance policies, health & safety procedures and risk assessments.

6. ScotLAND IDENTIFICATION

- Be willing to display membership of ScotLAND on project websites

- and on the actual site.
- Be willing to include web links on project websites to the Permaculture Association and ScotLAND

Desirable Criteria

7. ORGANISATION:

- Be willing to have an ongoing presence on the Permaculture Association website.
- Be well organised.

8. RESEARCH:

- Have an active programme of research. This may include, for instance:
 - ongoing record keeping of planting and yields
 - records of inputs and outputs such as those affecting fertility and energy harvesting/usage
 - systematic photographic recording of the site
 - other experimental activities

9. ScotLAND PROMOTION:

- As groups or individuals, be a spokesperson for the ScotLAND project to interested parties and the media.

10. EDUCATION & LEARNING:

- Have educational & training resources available for visitors
- Have a programme of courses and events

11. SKILL SHARING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Be willing to attend regional skill-sharing and training events
- Be willing to host regional skill-sharing and training events

The support available to **ScotLAND Centres** is generally more informal, as by the time you have become a **Centre** you will have been part of the network for some time. Your team will be well acquainted with other members of the ScotLAND network, and you will have a strong say in the future direction of the project. Having benefited from several tutorials, your site will be a highly functioning and beautiful permaculture demonstration site and you will be in a position to guide and support aspiring **Learners**. (Of course, more tutorials will be available upon request but they are less likely to be funded by us.) Your project will be well-known locally, nationwide and perhaps even internationally, and you will even be able to earn a small amount of money by hosting groups through the Group Visit Scheme.

5. Who are the ScotLAND team?

a] Outreach Worker

The Outreach Worker (Finn Weddle) is here to:

- ★ be a first point of contact and support for new applicants and existing Members, Learners and Centres;
- ★ help arrange tutorials on site or by phone;
- ★ support the organisation of groups to visit Centres (via the Group Visit Scheme)
- ★ liaise with the LAND Advisory Group, Permaculture Scotland Working Group (PSWG), the Permaculture Association staff and tutors;
- ★ keep track of project finances;
- ★ seek further funding for the project.

The Outreach Worker is supported by a small team of dedicated volunteers (PSWG) and is the only (very part-time) paid staff to support Scottish permaculture. If you would like to help promote permaculture throughout Scotland in any way, or support the Outreach Worker with any of the tasks listed above (e.g. funding applications), don't hesitate to get in contact:

Worker email: scotlandworker@permaculture.org.uk

Worker phone: 07747731108

Permaculture Scotland email: scotland@permaculture.org.uk

b] The ScotLAND circle

Permaculture Scotland has a Sociocratic structure which means it operates as a collection of semi-autonomous circles or sub-groups, [read more here](#). One of the circles is the ScotLAND circle. This currently consists of:

Lusi Alderslowe (Tutor, Operations Leader of ScotLAND Circle)
 Finn Weddle (Outreach Worker, Representative of ScotLAND Circle)
 Ed Tyler (Tutor, ScotLAND Centre)
 Lorraine Ishak (ScotLAND Centre)

We are looking for a Learner to join this circle, please contact Finn if you are interested.

c] PSWG (Permaculture Scotland Working Group)

The PSWG general circle are:

- ◆ *Lusi Alderslowe*
- ◆ *Graham Bell*
- ◆ *Lesley Anderson*
- ◆ *Lorraine Ishak*
- ◆ *Finn Weddle*
- ◆ *Ed Tyler*
- ◆ *Geri Sinclair*
- ◆ *Judy Martin*

You can contact them by emailing:

info@scotland.permaculture.org.uk

d] Other Relevant Permaculture Association Staff

Membership and Website (for technical issues):

Nicola Bell

membership@permaculture.org.uk

Chief Executive, Project Advisor:

Andy Goldring

andyg@permaculture.org.uk

e] ScotLAND Tutors

The ScotLAND Tutors are all experienced permaculture designers who have each completed a full Permaculture Design Course and a Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design. They all have experience and training in teaching/tutoring permaculture.

- ◆ *Lusi Alderslowe (Dumfries & Galloway)*
- ◆ *Graham Bell (Scottish Borders)*
- ◆ *James Chapman (Midlothian)*
- ◆ *Ed Tyler (Argyll & Bute)*
- ◆ *Lesley Anderson (Fife)*

As you can see, our team of tutors are hard pressed to reach the Highlands and Islands. This is an obvious flaw if we are to promote Scotland nationwide! If you could see yourself as a permaculture tutor one day and could help us spread more evenly across the country, get in touch.

f] The LAND Advisory Group

This group of experienced permaculture designers and tutors makes final recommendations for projects to gain **ScotLAND Centre** status. We aim for there to be a Scottish representative on this group (please get in touch if you think you may be able to do this). For more info [please click here](#).

g] How you can help

The resource limits we currently face are that of money and time. Anyone who has the time and the passion to support us to permaculture Scotland is invited to do so! Either by writing funding applications, deciding policy, joining a working group, speaking to the public at events or anything, every hour volunteered helps.

Appendix - History of ScotLAND

a] The Permaculture Association (Britain)

Founded in 1983, the Permaculture Association (Britain) has been working consistently at widening the reach of permaculture and permaculture education. To find out more please visit www.permaculture.org.uk

b] The LAND Project in England

In 2009 the Permaculture Association launched the LAND network. This four year project was funded by the Local Food Scheme (a part of the Big Lottery Fund) and Esmee Fairbairn. The funders' criteria restricted the LAND project to England-only. The LAND project in England now has 60 LAND Centres and has attracted 14,685 visitors and 10,425 volunteers over 3 years. This approximates to 100 volunteers/visitors to each LAND Centre per year. The LAND coordinator found that many more projects than initially estimated would like to become LAND Centres, but that they didn't always meet the criteria. In light of this, a new status was created. The 'LAND Learner' was an opportunity for projects to be supported towards becoming a LAND Centre. For more info visit www.permaculture.org.uk/land

c] Permaculture Scotland and the ScotLAND project

In 2010 an event was held in Dunblane to find out what permaculture people in Scotland wanted. From this, a Task and Finish group was formed. The task - to design Permaculture Scotland - was completed within the year and in 2011 "Permaculture Scotland - A Design for a Working Group of the Permaculture Association (Britain)" was launched. In 2011-12 we wrote a questionnaire to research the level of interest in Scotland for a ScotLAND project. The survey results by March 2012 were:

- ◆ 145 respondents;
- ◆ 93 had a land-based project;
- ◆ 14 felt ready to be a ScotLAND Centre;
- ◆ 41 wanted to become a ScotLAND Learner.

We completed the Awards for All funding application in March 2012 based on these figures. By January 2013, we had a total of 211 respondents, 121 (59%) with land-based projects. 15 felt ready to be ScotLAND Centres and 59 wanted to be ScotLAND Learners.

In January 2013, as part of the Assessor Training, we held a session with the LAND Network Coordinator, the CEO of the Permaculture Association, the

ScotLAND coordinators, the ScotLAND Assessors and the ScotLAND Apprentice Assessors, using consensus working to agree the major aspects of the ScotLAND project, including the application process, criteria, and training required for assessors.

i] Phase 1: 2012/13 - Establishing the Project

We received £10,000 from Awards for All for 2012-13. This went towards:

- Communications and promotion of the ScotLAND network
- Training for prospective ScotLAND Learners
- Assessor visits to new ScotLAND Learners
- Training for ScotLAND assessors/tutors
- Networking events

ii] Interim: 2014-16 - Autonomous progress

Growing the ScotLAND Network through:

1. Enabling the progression from Membership to Learner sites, and from Learner sites to Centre sites;
2. Strengthening the network with training, tutorials, guidance and peer support; and
3. Funding permitting, a host of events, supported visits for new groups to LAND Centres, and more, depending on the needs of the ScotLAND network.

iii] Phase 2: 2016-2019 - Engaging 'hard to reach' communities

We received funding from the Robertson Trust (£5,500 x 3 years - depending on match funding). The first two years were match funded with grants from Awards For All (£6,500) and The Seedbed Trust (£5,000); Year Three funding is still being looked for.

This meant we could employ an Outreach Worker for ~7hrs/wk to:

- oversee and support our ScotLAND Tutors;
- coordinate skill-sharing events, support the network of new and existing ScotLAND Learners/Centres;
- coordinate [The Group Visit Scheme](#) by engaging "hard to reach communities;"
- publicise the ScotLAND network in collaboration with the Association's website coordinator and communications officer;
- support Learners to become Centres through face-to-face and phone tutorials.

d] The ScotLAND Criteria - A Potted History

The ScotLAND (and LAND) criteria were created to allow the Permaculture Association to proactively promote projects to the general public with the knowledge that these projects are well-run and demonstrate permaculture ethics and principles.

The initial LAND criteria were a series of statements that the LAND team in England and members of the Permaculture Association put forward to start a debate in the existing permaculture network. To reach the wide variety of projects, a web survey was emailed to all known permaculture projects and groups asking which of the statements they thought should be set as Essential or Desirable criteria.

The responses from the survey were looked at carefully and a new set of criteria were sent out to the projects that showed a desire to be involved in a further debate. After this debate, the criteria were tweaked again to give the final LAND criteria. The development of the criteria in this way means that they have been **set by the network for the network**. The Association set up the need for the criteria, but the criteria are essentially an agreement between all of the projects in the network.

At the meeting in January 2013, the ScotLAND team tweaked the LAND Centre criteria - changing LAND to ScotLAND and removing the need for the project to only be related to food growing. We also explicitly included the criteria for LAND Learners and added a new level to the project - Member. The need for this was identified by analyzing the survey responses. Many of the enthusiastic respondents did not have a Permaculture Design Certificate - an essential criteria if a they would like to follow the ScotLAND Learner pathway.

So, hopefully this is where you are reasonably well up to date with ScotLAND developments and are now able to reflect on whether you wish to consider becoming a ScotLAND Centre!

The Permaculture Association is a company (05908919) and registered charity (1116699 and SC041695.)