



What we do

Community-led, affordable housing and accompanying infrastructure, as well as pioneering a range of housing tenures, financial and technical solutions to create sustainable futures for rural communities.

Affordable homes



Community infrastructure

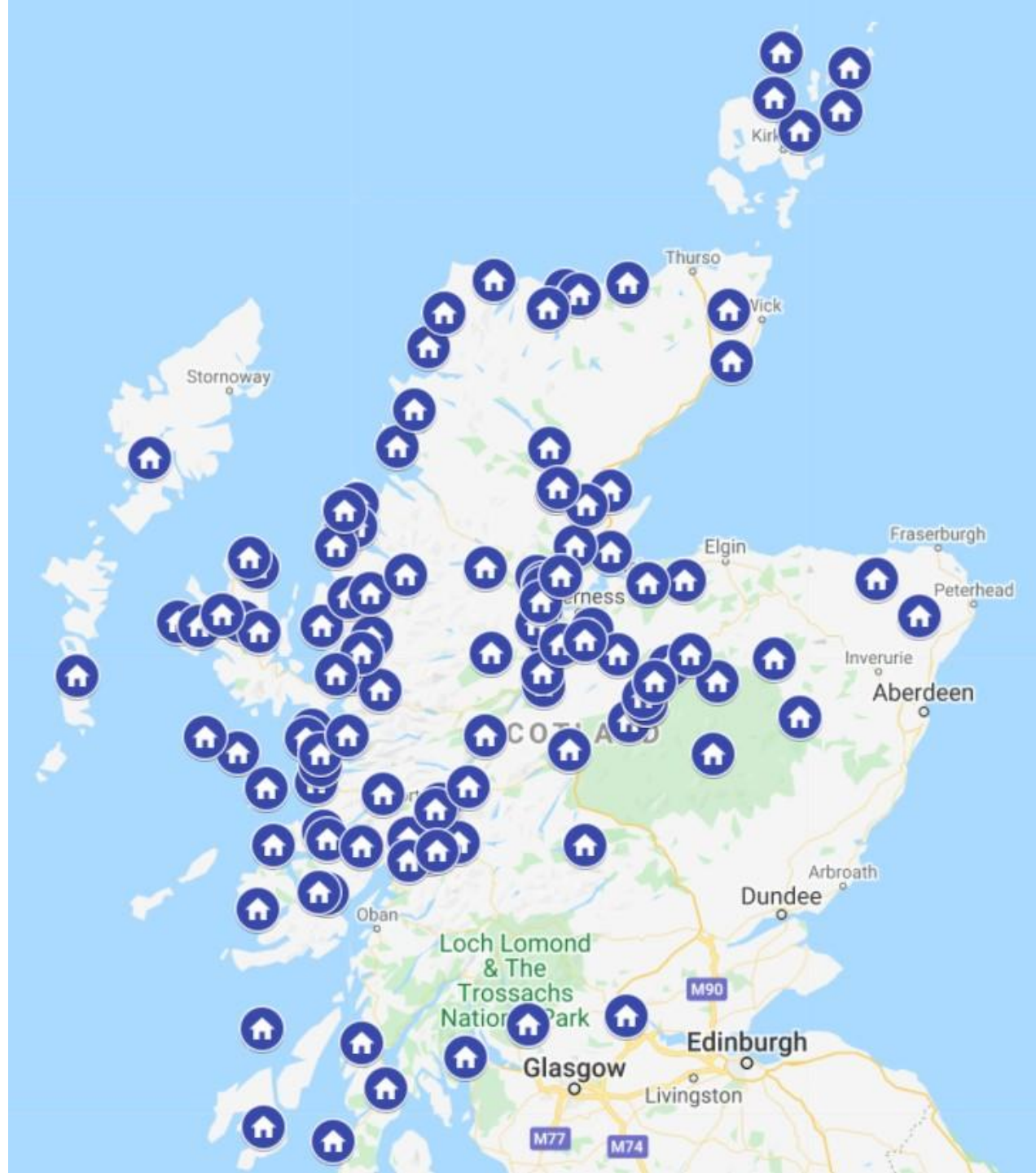


Social & economic infrastructure



Where we work

Some of our community-led projects across northern and central Scotland



Achtercairn, Gairloch



Achtercairn site summary

- **25 affordable homes** (19 social rent and 6 low-cost home ownership) with 3 housing providers providing 5 tenures
- More than 40,000 visitors per year at **GALE Tourist Information Hub** (Scotland's first public Passivhaus building), **community shop & café**
- **University of the Highlands and Islands** learning centre
- **Gairloch Farm Shop**, with vet clinic
- **Air Training Corps** training facility



Shared learning: challenges

- **Planning:** Agreed to position the commercial and tourist facilities prominently, with homes behind
- **Capacity:** Volunteer groups leading to longer timescale for delivery
- **Capacity and momentum:** Having a central coordinator (CHT) to manage all stakeholders.
- **Funding:** Different stakeholders and solutions, over a long time period



Successes: GALE Centre

- Scotland's first public building to be awarded **Passivhaus** status
- More than 40,000 visitors per year at GALE Centre's **Tourist Information Hub**
- **Community shop & café** stocking produce from over 40 local makers and producers
- Has enabled Gairloch & Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE) to **employ 20 local staff year-round**, instead of seasonal work
- **Growing space** at the back provides produce for café, and learning opportunities for local groups
- A **classroom for UHI**, enabling learning for all ages and helping to reduce education inequalities, has now moved out to larger facilities. Space is now multi-use room for hire.



Successes: Gairloch Farm Shop

- Provided an opportunity for a **new local business**
- Stocks a variety of **local produce** from the wider area, creating **many more business opportunities** and supporting the wider economy. Their food and drink is primarily Scottish.
- A bustling destination, creating a **geographic centre** for the local community as well as visitors
- Provide space for ConanVets to hold a weekly **vet clinic**, a key service for the area



Further successes

- **Community engagement:** Formed the Achtercairn Development Group; high responses to needs surveys and open events
- **Partnership working:** At least 10 organisations and many more local groups and businesses involved in designing a **Place Plan**
- **Increased confidence of community:** project inspired Gairloch Museum to relocate and regenerate. They won Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2020.
- **Replicable model:** Collaborative, tailored, community-led approach to tackle a mix of needs/issues is already being adapted elsewhere – e.g. CHT & Staffin Community Trust are providing affordable homes, commercial units and an NHS health centre



Gairloch Museum



Staffin, Isle of Skye



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