

Coigach & Assynt



MAOIN
DUALCHAIS
HERITAGE
FUND

COIGACH & ASSYNT CROFTING QUESTIONNAIRE

The CALLP crofting project has been running for over two years and is due to finish in September 2021.

For the final year, and to look to what the future holds for crofting in this area, it is really important to gather as much information as possible on the **state of crofting in** the Coigach and Assynt areas.

It would be really helpful if you as crofters (for the purposes of this survey a crofter is anyone with a holding) could fill in this survey and return to me. I can collect it or it can be posted (I can provide stamped, addressed envelopes) or an electronic version can be sent to you on request.

Please add in any comments of your own and spell out any omissions on my part.

All information will be treated as highly confidential and the data gathered to inform this report will not be associated with any individual.

Please return by 31st January 2021

Kind regards.

Anne Campbell

Crofting & Rural Projects Coordinator

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coigach & assynt crofting questionnaire

Number/Name of Croft

Postal Address

Post Code

Section 1. About your household

Q1.1 Are you? Please tick ✓ one box only

Man

Woman

Q1.2 What is your age?

Please tick ✓ box

under 25

25 – 40

40 - 65

over 65

Q1.3 How many people live in your household (including yourself)

one

two

three

four or more

Q1.4 How many in your household belong to these gender/age bands? Please state numbers

	16 -24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75-84 years	85 + years
Man								
Woman								

Q1.5 How many children (under 16) do you have living at home and elsewhere?

How many children living in household?

How many children living elsewhere?

Q1.6 How many of your children under 16 years practice crofting or have expressed an interest in crofting?

Number of children currently crofting?

Number of children interested in crofting?

Section 2: About your crofting background

Q2.1 What were the main reasons for becoming a crofter?

I was brought up in a crofting family

To live amongst a small community

A family croft became available

To live with family or friends

To live with spouse/partner

To provide a source of income

Other ✓ and write in below

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Q2.2 For how long have you been crofting? Please tick ✓ one box

Less than one year

10 – 20 years

one to less than 10 years

20 years or more

Q2.3 How many crofts do you currently operate as a tenant and/or as an owner-occupier crofter?

Please write in a number in box

Q2.4 Which of the following crofting activities are performed at your croft and approximately what proportion in % does each account for?

Activity	% approximately
Livestock	
Crops	
Horticulture	
Environmental	
Bed & Breakfast/holiday let	
Aquaculture	
Wood processing	
Renewable energy production	
Leisure	
Other	

Q2.5 How many livestock do you have?

	Nos	Breeds
Sheep		
Cattle		
Other Please state		

Q2.6 do you claim any grants or payments under the Scottish Rural Development Programme?

Please ✓ tick boxes

Yes

No

Please say which schemes you have been involved with and what you have done in the box below

Q2.7 Have you taken part in any Agricultural Environmental Schemes?

Please say which scheme you have been involved with and what you have done below

Q2.8 Grazings shares

Are you a tenant of grazings share?

Yes

No

Are you on the Grazings Committee?

Yes

No

Please specify your role in the Grazings committee (if any), in the box below.

Q2.7 Has your Grazings been involved in any management like woodland, renewable energy or environmental schemes

Please ✓boxes

Yes

No

Section 3: Identity and challenges

Q.3.1 Are you aware of your duties as a crofter as set out by the Crofting Commission? Do you fulfil your duties?

Please ✓boxes

Are you ordinarily resident on, or live within 32 kilometres, of your croft?

Yes

No

Cultivate and maintain the croft (this includes livestock)?

Yes

No

Not to misuse croft?

Yes

No

Q3.2 Do you identify as a crofter first or as of your other occupation(s) ie as postman/nurse first?

Please state your other occupation(s) in the box below

If retired please state your previous occupation(s) in the box below

Q3.3 What do you see as the major challenges to activities on your croft?

Q3.3 Do you sublet your croft to someone else or let others use it on an informal basis?

Please ✓ boxes

Sublet

Informal

Q.3.4 Do you cut peats?

Yes

No

Q3.4 Do you use seaweed as fertiliser on your croft?

Yes

No

Q4 Wider community

Q4.1 A shortage of available and affordable housing has become a problem in the area – would a solution be to give up some common grazing land where suitable to build?

Yes

No

Q4.2 What do you see as the environmental challenges in the future and how will it affect your crofting practises? Please insert in the box below

Q4.3 Would you be interested in being involved in an environmental scheme either as an individual or collectively?

Please ✓ boxes

Yes

No

Individual

Collective

Thankyou for taking the time to fill in this survey. Please add any further comments or send them to in an email.

Crofting Project - Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape Partnership Scheme

CALLP comprises 14 partners, including land managers, private and public landowners, conservation groups, development trusts and heritage organisations.

There are 28 projects one of which is the Crofting Project

<https://coigach-assynt.org/project/crofting-project/>

CALLP is largely funded by NHLF which supports natural, built and cultural heritage. Crofting covers all three themes.

It is agreed by Government and its agencies that crofting is the way to manage land in the fragile communities of the Highlands & Islands as crofting encourages population retention, entrepreneurship and a healthy environment.