

Scottish Greens Manifesto: [Our Common Future](#)

The Scottish Greens want an independence referendum in the next five years, and if independent will re-join the EU. As well as an independence referendum the Scottish Greens will bring forward a Land Reform Act to promote public ownership and review taxes and subsidies related to land ownership. It will force an end to sporting estates and instead focus on a policy of re-wilding and the reintroduction of species such as lynx. The Scottish Greens will target farmers forcing further regulation on their working practices. The Scottish Greens have also recommitted to ban driven grouse shooting and fox hunting. Their Manifesto does however support the Scottish Countryside Alliance policy of introducing mobile abattoirs.

Scottish National Party: [Scotland's Future](#)

The SNP argue that for Scotland to recover from the pandemic it must be independent and a member of the EU. The Manifesto does acknowledge that what works in urban areas may not work in rural areas, thus indicating that policy should, in some way, be rural proofed. If re-elected, the SNP will bring forward a Land Reform Bill, close the 'loop-holes' in hunting legislation, implement the licensing of driven grouse shooting, and amend deer management legislation in such a way that risks deer welfare. All of which will impact rural communities in one way or another.

Scottish Conservative: [Rebuild Scotland](#)

The Scottish Conservatives argue that staying in the UK, focusing on recovery not independence, will get Scotland back on its feet after the pandemic. The Manifesto details plans for rural infrastructure, housing, transport, broadband, education and crime. There are commitments to improve skills, reform business rates and improve apprenticeship opportunities. There is also a commitment to clarify future agricultural schemes. The Scottish Conservatives risk stepping into animal rights territory on some policy areas, and indeed simplifying problems in the countryside to only one sector.

Scottish Liberal Democrats: [Put Recovery First](#)

The Liberal Democrats argue that the recovery from COVID-19 should come before a second independence referendum. The Manifesto focuses on jobs and skills in the rural economy, recognising its contribution to Scotland. It will also focus on areas related to rural health, housing and education. The Manifesto commits to reform the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 following the Lord Bonomy review.

Scottish Labour: [National Recovery Plan](#)

A plan that focuses on jobs, education, climate, community, NHS and Recovery. Scottish Labour will introduce rural proofing all policies. However, not in the recovery plan is an acknowledgment of the importance of hunting with hounds for pest control, the economic contribution of grouse shooting or the welfare of deer. The Manifesto states: 'We will introduce a comprehensive ban on fox hunting' and that Scottish Labour will 'go further than the Werritty report, Scottish Labour will support the comprehensive licensing of grouse moors as soon as possible, with robust criteria to end the unsustainable practices of driven grouse moors ...and we support modernising deer legislation and the implementation of the Deer Working Group recommendations.' All of which will have huge consequences to rural communities, the environment and the rural community as a whole.