



**WOOLFORDS AUCHENGRAY  
& TARBRAX IMPROVEMENT  
FOUNDATION**

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## **Scottish Land Fund spreads festive cheer amongst local communities!**

**A small farm in South Lanarkshire will pass into community hands as communities across Scotland today start their Christmas celebrations early with grants from the Scottish Land Fund.**

Loanhead Farm near Tarbrax is set to be bought by WAT IF? a local community development trust following an award from the Scottish Land Fund. The award is part of a package of grants to 12 groups in Scotland totaling £2,754,897.

Woolfords, Auchengray and Tarbrax Improvement Foundation (WAT IF?) has been awarded £454,400 towards the purchase of Loanhead Farm including the farmhouse, a variety of agricultural buildings and 24 acres of land. This long term project will enable the local community to develop various projects, including a shop and indoor café, a community workshop, paths, allotments, camping pods as well as a community growing project. Further consultation with the local community will develop both these and other opportunities for this exciting multi use community project. Loanhead Farm is located in rural South Lanarkshire between Edinburgh and Glasgow on the edge of the Pentland Hills.

WAT IF? was established as a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) in November 2012 and was formed by a group of local residents to help to improve the villages and surrounding areas and the quality of life for residents. For further information please refer to their website [www.watif.scot](http://www.watif.scot).

**Patricia Mavor, the Development Manager at Woolfords, Auchengray and Tarbrax Improvement Foundation, said:** "We are absolutely delighted that the Scottish Land Fund has offered WAT IF? the financial support to purchase Loanhead. This offers our community the opportunity to develop an exciting multi-use project for generations to come and will help us realise our vision to provide a beautiful, safe and vibrant place with a resilient, well-connected and resourceful community and offering a great quality of life for all local people."

"Loanhead can help us respond to our community's needs by providing land and buildings where we can further develop activities and services to help meet the challenges ahead. We would like to thank the Scottish Land Fund and everyone that has supported us in achieving this amazing award of £454, 400 towards the purchase of Loanhead."

**Minister for Environment and Land Reform, Mairi McAllan, said:** "It's great to see such a diverse range of projects benefit from the support of the Scottish Land Fund. Thanks to this fund, communities all across Scotland are taking ownership of the land and buildings that matter to them."

"These grants are a vote of confidence in the future of communities, and the projects they undertake. They are also a tribute to the hard work and resilience of the many people who have given up their time for the common good. I look forward to seeing these projects flourish."

**Cara Gillespie, Scottish Land Fund Committee Chair** said: "From places where people can come together, space to get outdoors and vital facilities such as shops and land for affordable housing, the Scottish Land Fund is once again giving local groups the resources they need in order to strengthen their own communities."

**Sandra Holmes, Head of Community Assets at HIE,** said: "These diverse projects are all fantastic examples of people taking control of local resources for the long-term benefit of communities."

"Ownership will give communities greater control over important assets that will reap rewards for people now and for generations to come. We wish all the successful groups the very best in their new ventures."