

# DIY Land Spotting: How To

A guide to help you spot disused land in your area and raise it as an issue with your local council and local land owners – the people with the power to bring it back into use.

## WHO can spot land?

Go solo! One person can achieve a lot:

- Decide on the geographical area that you want to spot empty land in
- Decide how long a period you want to spend identifying sites – a week? a month? a year?

OR

Form a spotting group!

- This could be with your friends, family, colleagues, community group
- The more people, the more disused land you will be able to identify. You could even meet up to share what you found out!

## HOW to spot land?

- On your way to work
- Taking your kids to school
- On dedicated land spotting walks in your area

## WHAT to gather information on?

- **The location of the site.** This is the most important piece of information. The best way to record the location of the site is to [place a pin on Google Maps and save it](#). This data can then be used to create a map of disused land across the UK.
- **How long the site has been disused.** This might be something that you know yourself or it might be something you can find out by asking local people or through Google.
- **Who you think might own it.** Again, this might be something you know, or it might be something you can find out by asking the neighbours or through the [Land Registry](#).
- **What it used to be used for.** Again, this might be something that you know yourself or it might be something you can find out by asking local people or through Google.

Then what?

## Ways to challenge and transform your local land economy

- Ask your local authority what's happening on empty sites
- Flood the local self-build register – the more names, the more land the council has to allocate to community-led projects
- Join or set up a neighbourhood planning committee
- Monitor new housing developments to ensure they include affordable homes
- Propose an alternative plan for new homes - look for a community-led housing hub in your area

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Sign up for updates: <http://action.neweconomics.org/page/s/we-can-take-control-of-our-housing>