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## Full Story

### Joint agents sell Loch Ness abbey for more than £1.1m

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Fort Augustus Abbey, the former Benedictine abbey on the banks of Loch Ness, was sold prior to auction for more than £1.1m.

With a pre-auction guide of £1m-plus, the 21.5-acre property was to have been offered by joint auctioneers Strettons and Countrywide Property Auctions at the latter's Glasgow auction last week (13 September, p109).

But the lot was sold prior to developer Raven Group, which was acting for a private client reported to be a former boyfriend of Janet Street-Porter.

"It was sold for more than 10% above the £1m guide price," said Mike Logan Wood, consultant auctioneer at Countrywide. "We were negotiating with 13 buyers, including two family trusts and two religious groups, as well as speculators, developers and community groups."

The sale of the abbey contributed the lion's share of the proceeds of Countrywide's auction on Thursday, which raised a total of £1.55m.

"We sold 100% and in one case achieved 100% more than the last marketed price," said Logan Wood, adding that although there were only nine properties, 72 bidders were registered.

"It was feverish, allowing me to get into the old cattle-auction patter," he added.

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