

'Land use in Scotland: changes challenges and solutions' speakers

Delivering Landscape-scale Afforestation in the UK's largest National park



Dr David Hetherington

An Environmental Geography graduate, David worked first for Highland Birchwoods, where he was part of the team that compiled the Scottish Semi-Natural Woodland Inventory. He then completed a PhD on the feasibility of lynx reintroduction in Scotland, before joining the Cairngorms National Park Authority as Ecology Advisor in 2005. His focus is now on delivering strategic woodland expansion across the national park. In 2018 he published a book, called *The Lynx and Us*, which explores the relationship between humans and Europe's most secretive large carnivore.

Addressing Upland Agricultural and Environmental challenges



Prof Davy McCracken

Davy McCracken joined SRUC 25 years ago and has been Head of SRUC's Hill & Mountain Research Centre, at Kirkton & Auchtertyre farms near Crianlarich, for seven years and Head of SRUC's wider Integrated Land Management Department for two years. Davy studies farming and wildlife interactions and has been working on agricultural and agri-environmental policy at a national and international level for 30 years.

Permanent Preservation for the benefit of the nation: Changing patterns of land use in the National Trust for Scotland



Diarmid Hearns

Diarmid is Head of Public Policy with the National Trust for Scotland, leading on the Trust's contribution to national legislative and policy developments, and helping translate these into the Trust's own strategies and policies. As a charity, the Trust must balance the conservation of many forms of heritage, while providing visitor access, and remaining financially sustainable. Diarmid has previously worked on policy evaluation and strategy development for national governments, public agencies, and local authorities.

Windfarms: Everything but turbines



Peter Robson CEnv MCIEEM

Head of the onshore ecology team at SPR with responsibility for implementing conservation management over 90 square kilometres of land, particularly the restoration of fragile peatland habitats and native woodland creation. I am particularly interested in developing quantitative metrics to assess restoration objectives, experimental design of trials, and developing efficient and unbiased monitoring methods.

Cairngorms Connect: The biggest habitat restoration project in Britain



Jeremy Roberts

Following early roles with the Peak District National Park, FWAG Scotland and SNH, Jeremy joined RSPB Scotland in 1997. He moved from the Advisory section to become *Head of Reserves, Scotland* and, in 2005, moved to the Cairngorms, to manage RSPB's Abernethy nature reserve. In that role he became one of the founding members of the *Cairngorms Connect* partnership and, in February 2019, took up the role of Programme Manager.

Targeting and Delivering Nature Based initiatives in the Tweed catchment



Prof Chris Spray

Chris is a Senior Research Fellow and emeritus Professor of Water Science & Policy at Dundee University, and a Trustee and former chairman of Tweed Forum. A founder member and past President of CIEEM, Chris has 40 years of experience in water and wetland management, environmental regulation, the water industry, policy making, academia and the NGO conservation sector, focusing on wetland ecosystems and natural resource management.



Dr Derek Robeson CEnv MCIEEM

Derek Robeson trained as a geologist, gaining a Ph.D from Trinity College Dublin in 1990. Derek works for Tweed Forum, an environmental charitable trust based in the Scottish Borders. Derek spent 15 years as a Senior Conservation Advisor with Borders Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. He went on to work with Scotland's Rural College, as a Conservation Consultant before joining Tweed Forum. Derek believes that conservation is as much about engaging with people, as it is about managing land.

Regional strategic woodland creation project: exploring opportunities for creating new woodland in the landscape.



Dr Andy Tharme MCIEEM

Andy has been the Ecology Officer at Scottish Borders Council since 2002. He has BSc in Ecology (University of Leeds 1985), a PhD in parasitology (University College of North Wales 1993) and is member of ALGE, BES and CIEEM. He is co-author of the Council's Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy & updated Technical Advice Note, coordinates the Scottish Borders LBAP and was the Council's project manager for the Scottish Government Land Use Strategy pilot project 2013-2015.



Louise Payne

Louise has worked for Scottish Forestry (formerly Forestry Commission Scotland) for almost 19 years. During her time with the organisation she studied forestry at the University of Cumbria and graduated with a FdSc in Forestry in 2011. This allowed her to move into a more technical role, taking a job as a Woodland Officer within South Scotland Conservancy. Following on from this she then moved on to her current role of Forestry Development Officer, which includes work on the Regional Strategic Woodland Creation Pilot.

Avoiding biodiversity losses on linear electricity routes



Dr Francis Williams MCIEEM

Francis is the Environmental Net Gain Manager for SSEN Transmission with responsibility for delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain and investigating at how Environmental Net Gain can be incorporated into projects. He has been involved with the BNG approach to development since 2017 when SSEN first trialled it on substation developments. Prior to his new role he was responsible for the environmental aspects in the consenting and construction of overhead electricity lines and cables and technologies in the north of Scotland.

The leven programme and new rail link: Partnership working for multiple benefits



Dr Joanna Girvan

Jo Girvan has been employed as a freshwater biologist since completing her PhD in 2000 and has worked in the academic, private, public and third sectors since then. She has occupied her current role as senior biologist at the Forth Rivers Trust since 2011, where she heads up a team producing scientifically robust, deliverable and sustainable solutions to mitigate the many issues faced by the rivers draining into the Firth of Forth. She is currently managing development of a green network within a large multi partner project to improve access and biodiversity in a river valley and the surrounding towns and countryside.

A9 Dualling (Northern section): Realising the benefits of environmentally led design



Sarah Kydd CECol MCIEEM

Sarah Kydd is a Principal Ecologist at Atkins, based in their Glasgow office. Sarah has over 16 years' experience working as an ecological consultant on a range of transport infrastructure projects, including work for Network Rail and Transport Scotland. She has spent the last five years working as the lead ecologist on the northern section of the A9 dualling project, which passes through the Cairngorms National Park. In this role she has been responsible for managing the ecological aspects of the Environmental Statement, including survey management, report, mitigation design development and stakeholder consultation.



Stephen Bacon AMJV

Stephen is a Landscape Architect and Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute, with over 20 years' experience in delivering projects from initial feasibility, environmental assessment, through to detail design, contract documentation, and construction of completed schemes on the ground. His experience includes strategic roles on the design and delivery of many of Scotland's largest infrastructure schemes including A9 Dualling, Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and Borders Railway.

Making decisions about the land: Examples across Scotland of different Governance models



Dr Nicole Ponta

Nicole Ponta is a postdoctoral fellow at ETH Zürich (Switzerland) working since May 2020 on the *Landscapes as Carbon Sinks* project led by the University of Edinburgh. Within this project, Nicole has been working closely with the Scottish Land Commission to support their advice to Government on the establishment of Regional Land Use Partnerships. She is particularly interested in the governance of land-use systems and their potential for delivering transformative landscape change to respond to net-zero carbon targets.



Harriet Donald

Harriet Donald is the Regional Land Use Partnerships Project Manager for the Scottish Land Commission. Harriet joined the Land Commission in February 2020 on secondment from Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority to lead on working with stakeholders to develop proposals and inform advice to Government on the establishment of Regional Land Use Partnerships.

Engagement and empowerment for successful solutions in land management.



Lisa Chilton

Lisa is Senior Scottish Associate with Dialogue Matters. Her most recent assignment with Dialogue Matters was facilitating a five-day online workshop that brought together climate change scientists, economists and modellers from five continents to identify how to improve estimates of the economic impacts of climate change. Her background is in marine nature conservation and she has held senior roles with the Wildlife Trusts and JNCC. She is currently Head of Development at the University of Aberdeen and a Trustee of the Scottish Association for Marine Science.

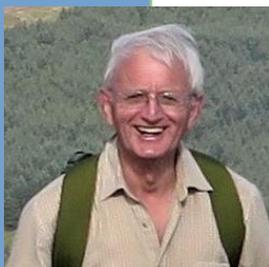
Langholm moor community buyout



Kevin Cumming

Kevin left school at the age of 16 to pursue a career in professional football with Dundee FC, he now holds a BA Hons in Business Administration as well as an MSc in Conservation and Management of Protected Areas. Kevin has gained a wide range of experience through a varied career including display and commercial falconry, rural estate management, eco-tourism development and outdoor education. Since June 2019 Kevin has been the project leader of the Langholm Moor Community Buyout. This is the largest attempted community purchase so far in the south of Scotland.

Summary and close



Prof Roger Crofts FCIEEM

Roger is a geographer by training and inclination. Research on coasts and geomorphological land assessment, was followed by advisory work in Scottish Government on oil and gas impacts, sea fisheries law enforcement, local government finance. A policy career followed on rural development and conservation. He was Founder CEO of SNH. In retirement he specialises on land management, protected areas, geoheritage conservation and Iceland's environment.