

## The Upland Solutions Project Supplementary Report

A report by Scotland's Moorland Forum

Based on workshops and information collected from Study Areas at  
Muirkirk, East Ayrshire and Tomatin, Inverness-shire



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**c/o The Heather Trust, Newtonrigg, Holywood, DUMFRIES DG2 0RA**

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Director: Simon Thorp

Administrator: Anne Stoddart

**UPLAND SOLUTIONS PROJECT**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

**Supplements**

- 1 Five Key Issues for Consideration by Strand Teams
- 2 Membership of Strand Teams
- 3 Summary of Strand Questions
- 4 Example Strand Questionnaire
- 5 Individual Questionnaire
- 6 Project process: Summary Diagram
- 7 Flyer for the Muirkirk Workshop

**FIVE KEY ISSUES BY STRAND**

5 KEY ISSUES	UPLAND BIRDS	CARBON MANAGEMENT	UPLAND ECONOMICS
<b>CONTEXT &amp;TRENDS</b>	<p>Create inventory of the main bird species in the two areas. Identify trends in these populations from credible sources. Identify economic activity associated with these bird populations (refer Upland Economics) e.g. tourism/sport and identify trends in these economic activities. [Prioritisation of economically/ecologically important species may be required]. Identify significant trends in land use [links with Upland economics strand] in the two areas and any information linking such changes to changes in bird population dynamics. Identify existing conflicts / competing agendas between those with an interest in Upland Birds.</p>	<p>In light of greater awareness of carbon climate change, have you changed your management over the years to try to conserve carbon or reduce your carbon output?</p> <p>Do you currently consider carbon when thinking about future management options? Are there any local initiatives, plans etc?</p>	<p>What has happened, what is happening, what might happen to different key elements (land use, employment, wealth, infrastructures.) in and around the study areas? Have there been or may there be key ‘tipping points’ in land use and economics for the areas</p>
<b>DRIVERS</b>	<p>Identify key drivers for land-use changes and bird population changes and linkages between the two [links with Upland Economics]. Identify constraints and accelerators to change – financial, policy, regulatory. Where competing agendas are observed, identify how different drivers either assist or undermine ability to resolve these conflicts</p>	<p>What changes would be required to put carbon management on a par with other management considerations?</p>	<p>What are key factors leading to pressures for change, and success and failures?</p> <p>What are constraints and accelerators acting upon these forces? (past, present and future)</p>

<b>INFORMATION</b>	Identify any further information required to inform process and any decision making. Assess information availability and practicality of obtaining it in time available. Where information is absent, create information “wish list” to inform future decisions	Is there enough information currently available to you regarding carbon management?	Is there enough information available to make informed decisions at a local (by local managers and agencies) or nationally (by government), given that the economic situation is so influenced by policy and support.
<b>INCENTIVES</b>	What are the key sources of incentive to effect the different types of change that may be desirable according to which agenda is being pursued e.g. private investment, SRDP etc / legislative/policy. Identify how these incentives either assist or undermine our ability to resolve any identified conflicts. Identify additional incentives that could assist in resolving problems/conflicts	What help/incentive is needed encourage more emphasis on carbon management in your moorlands? What forms could this take, and would there be implications for other issues?	What are the key sources of income and employment in the area, where is there direct money; where is there indirect money and where is there ‘hidden treasure’ (e.g. Carbon, renewables) and where does these income opportunities join up and where does it not?
<b>SOLUTIONS &amp; OPTIONS</b>	Having completed above and in the context of the two study areas and having identified and recognised any conflicting agendas, determine in a practical and realistic way: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What potential to better manage Upland Bird populations can be realised within existing framework of current investment conditions (private/public sector) and current legislation/policy.</li> <li>• What investment/regulatory solutions might be required to protect and enhance Upland Bird populations and any economic activity associated with them</li> <li>• Whether options/solutions identified are in conflict and if so identify choices that need to be made and the consequences of those choices</li> </ul>	With the right incentives in place, what solutions/options would you consider for contributing to an improved carbon balance?	How might issues/options integrate or better co-exist to provide better employment, economic outcomes and custodial resource management (e.g. of Carbon, wildlife, for which currently only non-financial credit) to different parts of the economy?  What can local people, institutions and businesses do to improve things and what is stopping them? What can government do to directly improve, to constrain or enable?

**MEMBERSHIP OF STRAND TEAMS**

	<b>Upland Birds</b>	<b>Carbon</b>	<b>Upland Economics</b>
	<b>Chairman: Andrew Wallace (ASFB)</b>	<b>Chairman: Will Boyd-Wallis (CNPA)</b>	<b>Chairman: Tony Waterhouse (SAC)</b>
<b>Core Group</b>	GWCT	SEBG	LLTNPA
	RSPB	FCS	FCS
	BASC	RICS	SNH
	BTO	SWT	SGA
	SNH	JMT	GCSRT
	MI(ACES)	ADMG	NFUS
<b>Supporting Role</b>	SRSG	SGA	HT
	CEH	HB	BDS
	SACS	SRPBA	DCS
	SCA	NTS	CC
	SGA	SG	SG
	SG		

**Note** SG agreed to provide support for each strand

## SUMMARY OF STRAND QUESTIONS

### 1 Upland Birds

- 1.1 What are the trends for the important upland bird species, and what do you think the reason for these trends is?
- 1.2 What activities are influenced by these bird populations?
- 1.3 What are the difficulties or opportunities associated with these activities?
- 1.4 What can we do to realise these opportunities and minimise the effect of blockages – with examples?
- 1.5 Do you require any more information about the management of the uplands for upland birds, and if so what?

### 2 Carbon

- 1.6 Is Carbon management in the uplands IMPORTANT to you?
- 1.7 How do you think Carbon should be managed in the uplands?
- 1.8 Is there anything PREVENTING good Carbon management in the uplands?
- 1.9 What else could be done to improve Carbon management in the uplands?

### 3 Economics

- 1.10 What are the key issues affecting economics/land use locally?
- 1.11 What are the factors creating blockages or opportunities?
- 1.12 What is working well in the area and why?
- 1.13 What are the ingredients of local solutions to improve economic outcomes from the upland area?

EXAMPLE STRAND QUESTIONNAIRE

# Upland Solutions

UPLAND BIRDS STRAND QUESTIONS

**Your Role / Interest in the Uplands:**

**1. *What are the trends for the important upland bird species, and what do you think the reason for these trends is?***

**2. *What activities are influenced by these bird populations?***

**3. *What are the difficulties or opportunities associated with these activities?***

**4. What can we do to realise these opportunities and minimise the effect of blockages – with examples?**

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**5. Do you require any more information about the management of the uplands for upland birds, and if so what?**

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**Contact details (optional)**

Name

Address (optional)

Post code	
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Telephone Number	
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E-mail address	
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If you answer these questions after the workshop, please return them to:  
Upland Solutions, C/o The Heather Trust, Newtonrigg, Holywood, DUMFRIES DG2 0RA  
Please indicate here if you would like to be contacted with a view to discussing  
your responses in more detail.

Thank you for your support for the *Upland Solutions* project

**INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

The form used at Tomatin is shown below. For Muirkirk, the question about Deer Management was replaced with one about Opencast Mining.

**Upland Solutions**  
**INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS**

**Your Role / Interest in the Uplands:**

Tell us about different land uses, giving examples if you can. Please ask for more paper if you wish to expand on any subject and issue you are most aware of, or where you feel it most important for us to understand.

**Forestry**

What has happened?

What does the future hold?

Interaction with other activities

**Farming**

What has happened?

What does the future hold?

Interaction with other activities

## **Game birds and fisheries management**

What has happened?

What does the future hold?

Interaction with other activities

## **Upland Birds**

What are the important upland bird species/types in your area?

What is happening to their populations?

Do you think there important issues about upland birds, and if so, what are they and why?

## **Carbon**

Where and how is Carbon / Climate Change management important in the study area?

Do you think it important that our moorlands play a role in Carbon management?

Yes  No  Don't know

Please explain why and how.

## **Renewable energy**

What has happened?

What does the future hold?

Interaction with other activities

## **Deer Management**

What has happened?

What does the future hold?

Interaction with other activities

## **Tourism in the Study Area**

How does tourism interact with the study area?

What does the future hold?

Interaction with other activities

## Employment

Do you think overall employment, **linked to upland land use**, in the study area has gone up, down or remained the same over the last 10 years

Are there reasons for any changes?

Do you have any comments about employment and level of activity in particular sectors?

## Relationships

Do some estates get on better with government agencies and other organisations (e.g. SNH & RSPB) than others with similar interests? If so, why?

## Contact details (optional)

Name

Address (optional)

Post code	
Telephone Number	
E-mail address	

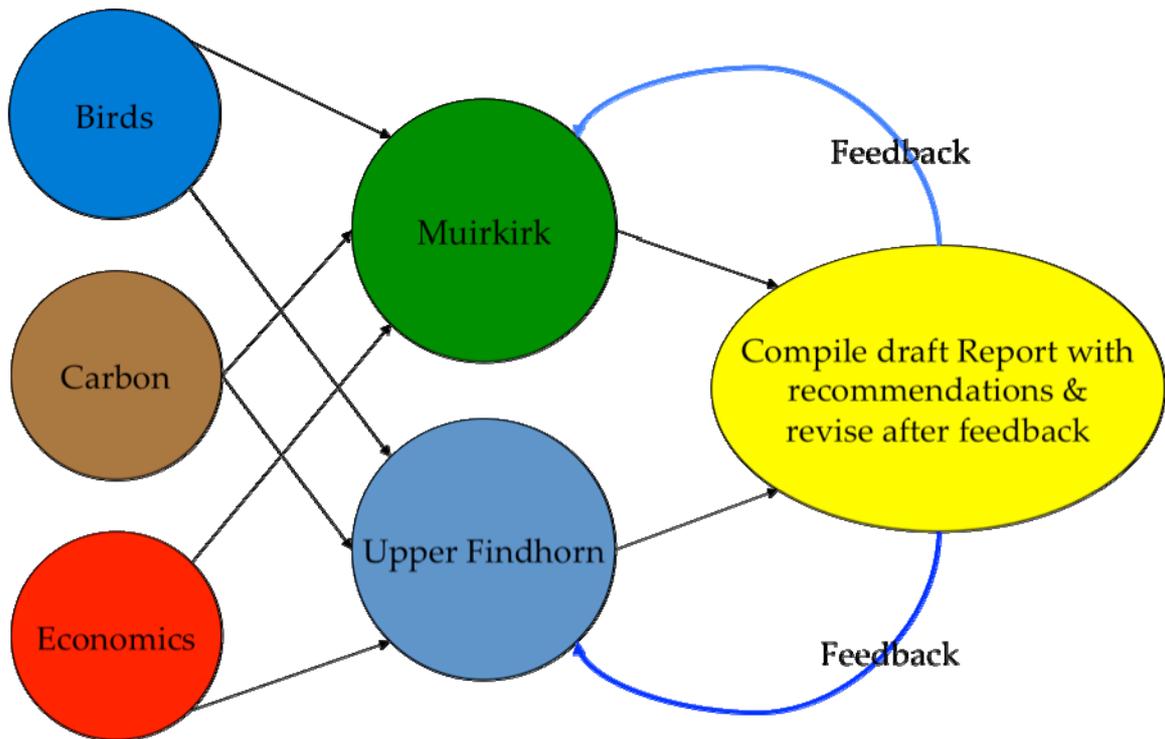
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SUMMARY DIAGRAM



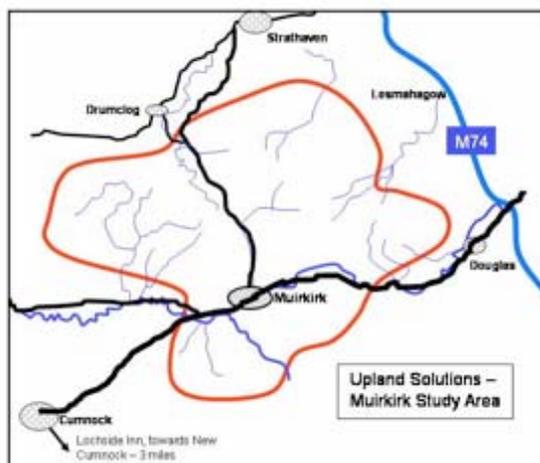
**INTRODUCTION**

The future viability of Scotland's Uplands is critical to the delivery of key economic, social, cultural and eco-system benefits. The management of these areas is facing unprecedented challenges that have the potential to affect the economics and the environment of these unique habitats and the ways of life associated with them. But with the challenges come opportunities. The *Uplands Solutions* project of the Moorland Forum seeks to identify these challenges and opportunities and to present options and solutions to Government that are informed by the people living and working in these unique parts of Scotland.

*Upland Solutions* is a project that is being run by Scotland's Moorland Forum. By engaging directly with landowners, land-managers, local communities and other key interests, it aims to identify practical problems and solutions at ground-level. The project also aims to gain an understanding of the blockages to what would otherwise be practical solutions.

**UPLAND SOLUTIONS**

Two study areas have been selected: an area in the vicinity of Muirkirk and the Upper Findhorn catchment, to the south-west of Tomatin. (Larger maps are available on the Forum's website).



The project will discuss the issues and opportunities under **three strands: upland economics, upland birds and carbon**, and the discussions will draw on the skills, knowledge and experience available to the Forum through its 30 member organisations. Ultimately this project is focused on identifying practical solutions to practical problems.

The findings of this work will be disseminated to the Scottish Government and Ministers, to those who participate and to other landowners, land-managers, local communities, and public agencies. The report will also include recommendations about how support for moorland and upland areas can be improved. It may be appropriate to include details of solutions that have worked in another part of the country so that they may act as a template for addressing similar problems in the study area.

**THE WORKSHOP**

This workshop will be held to obtain the views of local people. Questions will be prepared for each of the three strands and these will be given out on arrival. Each Strand will be introduced with a short presentation and then there will be an opportunity for discussion in small groups with a facilitator from the Forum. The questions can be answered within the groups or individually.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Alison Young, Forum Administrator,  
c/o The Heather Trust, Newtonrigg, Holywood,  
DUMFRIES DG2 0RA  
Tel: 01387 723201  
e-mail: [info@moorlandforum.org.uk](mailto:info@moorlandforum.org.uk)  
[www.moorlandforum.org.uk](http://www.moorlandforum.org.uk)



There is no charge for attendance.

Lunch will be provided

Forum Members would like to hear your views

## Upland Solutions Stakeholders Workshop

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Lochside Hotel, New Cumnock  
KA18 4PN. Tel: 01290 333000

### Application Form

Title.....Name.....

Organisation.....

Job title.....

Address.....

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Tel..... Fax.....

Email.....

I wish to attend the workshop on 25 February

I would like to have lunch provided.

Special dietary requirements

Please contact us by phone or fill in the above details and return by post to the address overleaf or send details by e-mail to [info@moorlandforum.org.uk](mailto:info@moorlandforum.org.uk)

The deadline for receipt of application forms is:

**12 noon, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

## Upland Solutions Stakeholders Workshop

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Lochside Hotel, New Cumnock  
KA18 4PN. Tel: 01290 333000

### OUTLINE PROGRAMME

10:30	Registration
11:00	Welcome & Introduction
11:15	Upland Birds: Issues and discussion
11:55	Carbon: Issues and discussion
12:35	LUNCH
13:20	Upland Economics: Issues and discussion
14:10	Overview and general discussion
14:45	Close
14-45 – 15:15	Opportunity for further / individual discussion

### LOCATION

Registration will take place from 10:30 in the Lochside Hotel. The hotel is situated to the west of the A76, 1 mile north of New Cumnock. Post code: KA18 4PN

### ATTENDANCE

The workshop is aimed at people with an active interest in the uplands in or close to the study area. This includes: landowners, farmers, gamekeepers, local people, and recreational users. It is hoped to attract representatives from a diverse range of interests.

Those wishing to attend should complete the application form and send it to the Forum Administrator by 18<sup>th</sup> February. All applications will be acknowledged.

### LUNCH

A light lunch will be provided, if booked in advance. Please indicate on your booking form if you have special dietary requirements.

### SCOTLAND'S MOORLAND FORUM

The Forum was established in 2002 to provide an opportunity for a diverse range of organisations to come together to discuss issues that effect the management of Scotland's moorland and upland areas. 24 organisations founded the Forum and membership has since expanded to 30.

The Forum has since developed as a vital multi-stakeholder group that is dedicated to understanding the challenges that face Scotland's moorland and upland areas and to identifying and enabling appropriate solutions.

A list of members and other information are available from the Forum's website:

[www.moorlandforum.org.uk](http://www.moorlandforum.org.uk)