

**Scotland's Moorland Forum
Programme for Delivery
Proposed Programme for 2018**

Month	Date	Meeting	Venue	Issues
January	23-Jan-18	Working for Waders - Raising Awareness & Best Practice Action Group meeting	SRUC, Perth	
	26-Jan-18	Programme for Delivery Documents	Conference Call	Alex Hogg (SGA), Richard Luxmoore (NTS), Julia Stoddart (SACS) and Director
	29-Jan-18	Succession Task Group	Conference Call	To agree the brief and the role profile.
February	06-Feb-18	WfW - Collaboration Action Group Meeting	RSPB, Edinburgh	
	06-Feb-18	WfW - Information Needs Action Group Meeting	Details TBC	
	09-Feb-18	Chairman's Working Group Meeting	BASC, Trochry	
March	02-Mar-18	Full Forum Meeting	Dewars, Perth	
	07-Mar-18	WfW - Collaboration Action Group Meeting	Details TBC	
	20-Mar-18	WfW - Raising Awareness & Best Practice Action Group meeting	Battleby	
	20-Mar-18	WfW Facilitation Team meeting	Battleby	
	23-Mar-18	WfW Information Needs Action Group Meeting	Battleby	
April				
May	11-May-18	Chairman's Working Group	RSPB, Edinburgh	
June	01-Jun-18	Full Forum Summer Meeting	Location tbc	
	21 - 24 Jun 18	Royal Highland Show	Edinburgh	
July	29 Jun - 1 Jul 18	Scottish Game Fair	Scone	
August				
September				
October	12-Oct-18	Chairman's Working Group	SRUC, Perth	

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November	02-Nov-18	Full Forum Meeting	Dewars, Perth	
December	03-Dec-18	Publication of Forum Annual Progress Report		

**Scotland's Moorland Forum
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Priority Issues**

Issue	Approach	Action	Priority
Main Issues			
Working for Waders (WfW)	Support the continuing development of this initiative, as a successor to Understanding Predation.	Moorland Forum	Green
Muirburn Code - Supplementary Guidance	Develop the Supplementary Guidance to provide information of value to practitioners	Muirburn Group	Green
Principles of Moorland Management	Complete the development of the first three guidance topics. Identify and start work on the next round of topics. Seek engagement from beyond the Moorland Forum.	Moorland Forum	Green
Other Issues			
New for 2018			
Chairman's Succession	Scout for suitable candidates, agree the procedure to be followed to appoint a new Chairman and review the role profile.	Succession Task Group	Green
Wildfire Mitigation Code	Proposed by SGA. Similar to (or to be read with) the working Muirburn Code policy document, to protect globally threatened moorland from accidental wildfire: to include minimum mitigation measures the Scottish Government and Scottish public would expect to be in place in order to protect species habitat and any public money invested in habitat programmes.	To be considered by Muirburn Group	Amber
Guidance for land managers undertaking land use change, at scale, on moorland	Proposed by SGA. With land use change and loss of habitat posing major threats to declining moorland species, what assessment framework (Code) can be established by Moorland Forum so the costs and benefits of large scale land use change (appropriate to moorland) can be transparently assessed. This code can be used as an advisory document for land managers/owners.	To be considered as part of Challenges & Opportunities discussion	Amber
A review or 'health check' of existing Codes regarding forestry development on moorland	Proposed by SGA. With recommendations for the future as Scottish Government moves towards ambitious forestry targets. This review should include present guidance on mounding, planting and harvesting of trees on upland moorland with reference to drying of peat, moorland flora and fauna and the provision of a food source to sustain moorland species.	To be considered as part of Challenges & Opportunities discussion	Amber
Galloway Biosphere	Monitor the development of the biosphere. Consider Forum briefing / presentation for Forum members. Could be a subject for the Sumer visit 2018.	Director	Amber

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Priority Issues**

Issue	Approach	Action	Priority
From 2017			
Muirburn - Extension of the season	Monitor progress of the out of season burning trial	Muirburn Group	Green
Land Use Strategy	Continue to monitor development	Director	Green
Uplands Vision	Forum to be ready to support the development of an Uplands Vision and the strategy to deliver it.	Director	Amber
Upland Solutions	Consider revisiting the Upland Solutions report with a view to applying it to some new locations.	Director	Red
Langholm Moor Demonstration Project	Discuss the final project report when it is published.	Director	Amber
Peatland ACTION	Liaise with project manager and offer Forum support, if appropriate.	Director	Green

Colour Key

In progress	Green
Under consideration / In development	Amber
No action at present	Red

**Scotland's Moorland Forum
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Ongoing Work**

Ref	Description	Action
1	Maintain contact with developments in the English Uplands through membership of the Uplands Stakeholder Forum / Uplands Management Group	Director
2	Scottish Wildfire Forum	Director to represent the Forum
3	Access Forum	Maintain liaison - direct with Forum secretariat and also through common members
4	Maintain effective internal and external communications, and respond to consultations on issues that are relevant to the work of the Forum	Make use of the website, the Forum's Blog and Newsletters

**Scotland's Moorland Forum
Programme for Delivery
Issues for Consideration**

Category	Ref	Issue	Details	Proposed Approach
Carbon	C3	Eco-system Services	Discuss this concept and how the approach might be used to assist with the formation of policy in the uplands.	A briefing on this concept to be provided at a full Forum meeting.
	C5	Identify the key risks to our uplands arising from various climate change scenarios		
Biodiversity	B1	Zoned Conservation Forestry	Consider the potential for conservation forestry to enhance biodiversity in some areas.	A paper to be drafted for consideration by the full Forum
	B2	FES Open land Workshop	Run a second Open Land Workshop. Progress unlikely until after the review of the SFS	Director, FES
	B3	Forestry development on moorland	A review or 'health check' of existing Codes to include present guidance on mounding, planting and harvesting of trees on upland moorland with reference to drying of peat, moorland flora and fauna and the provision of a food source to sustain moorland species.	Task Group
Sustainability	S5	Upland Catchment Management	Consider the importance of moorland management in the supply of good quality drinking water. Consider how improved water retention on moorland could assist the retention of peat and the formation of new peat.	Monitor opportunities to support the development of large-scale upland management plans. Possibly through SEPA, Scottish Water & SWT. Link to Payment for Ecosystem Services and Scottish Forum on Natural Capital
	S9	Communities	a) identify role of moorland land use (full range) on local communities b) investigate changing role of 'estates' and local community c) identify and support ways in which good practice and sustainable use of moorlands can be achieved	Presentation given by Giles Ruck, (Scottish Community Foundation) at the Feb 10 meeting.
	S14	Upland Solutions	What follow up is possible to this project?	See Priority Issues
	S15	Renewables / Windfarms	No immediate action is proposed, but consideration may be given to visits / meetings to discuss relevant issues in the future.	
	S16	Grazing Management	Consider the impact of introducing minimum stocking levels.	NFUS / SRUC
Awareness and Access	A1	Communications	Develop an efficient and effective means to communicate with, and educate, a broader audience on moorland issues Improve perceptions, attitudes, awareness and reputation of Scotland's moorlands	Liaison between the Forum and the communication resources and outreach of Member organisations

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Issues for Consideration**

Category	Ref	Issue	Details	Proposed Approach
Awareness and Access	A3	National Moorland Day	Consider the feasibility and benefit of promoting a National Moorland Day.	Support of partner organisations outside the Forum might also be required.
	A4	Improving Recreation & Access	Study the feasibility of establishing public access to moorland areas close to city centres (e.g. Pentland Hills) with information and education facilities	Liaison between SNH (re Pentland Hills) and relevant Members
	A12	SNH Board	Consider giving presentation to the Board about the existing and potential role of the Forum	
	A13	Sharing Good Practice - Hill Tracks	Work with SNH to develop a programme of work to raise awareness of current guidance.	This could include running seminars and/or workshops
Evidence Base	E1	Drivers of Change	Identify the drivers of change in the uplands of Scotland.	Ed Mackey from SNH gave a presentation on 30 Oct 09. Monitor future developments. Consider firther update.
	E4	Bracken encroachment & control	Monitor the work of the Bracken Control Group to maintain the availability of asulam for bracken control and to promote other control techniques	2017 - PoMM Guidance Group to be considered
	E5	Sheep Ticks	Consider how management practices can reduce the threat from sheep ticks to human, animal and bird health. Raise awareness of the threat posed to the income from tourism, sporting and farming enterprises.	SG initiative stalled. 2017 - PoMM Guidance Group to be considered
	E6	Review all evidence of a long term reduction in the fertility of upland areas.		Research Exchange topic?? (See E10)
	E7	Monitoring of Trends	Monitor changes that are ongoing such as climate change statistics, stock reductions, sporting returns	Link with E1. Input from Forum members with specialist knowledge & other specialists could be obtained
	E8	Successor to <i>Nature of Change</i>	Provide a reference source for information about moorlands.	Harness specialist information that MF members have available to them. Could be incorporated in PoMM project (see Priority Issues)
	E9	Heather Beetle	Promote a national survey of heather beetle outbreaks	Monitor the Heather Trust's initiative

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Issues for Consideration**

Category	Ref	Issue	Details	Proposed Approach
Evidence Base	E10	Research Exchange	Consider the establishment of a research exchange to allow for the identification of knowledge gaps and exchange of information about ongoing work between upland research specialists.	Grazing and sheep ticks was proposed as the first topic for consideration.
	E11	Land Tenure	Review the impact that different land tenure has on moorland and upland management - avoid duplicating any ongoing work	
	E12	CAP reform	Monitor progress and contribute to a health check Make use of Forum's ability to bridge the gap between sectors	
	E13	Renewables: Habitat Management Plans	Review the role of habitat management plans and their effectiveness	Work through Scottish Renewables and/or large windfarm developers
	E14	Core conservation areas	Consider establishing the criteria to bring together the work of individual member organisations to inform planning decisions	
	E15	Funding for Restoration & Management	Consider the opportunities available under the proposed changes to SRDP	
	E16	Rural Skills	Continue to investigate how the Forum might support the development of rural skills. Discussion to take place with both Cabinet Secretaries.	
	E17	Wildfire Prevention	Presentation by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - follow on from Wildfire Conference 2015	Director
	E18	Deer Management	Consider SNH Review on Deer Management as an agenda item for the Forum meeting in November 2017.	

**Scotland's Moorland Forum
Programme for Delivery
Completed Issues**

Category	Ref	Issue	Details	Action Taken
Carbon	C1		(a) Establish a better understanding and advice on where trees and woodlands should and should not be established in moorland areas as part of ministerial ambitions for greater forest cover and climate change mitigation measures. (b) Consider the possibility of carbon management and trading as a source of future funding for the management of the uplands.	A guest speaker to be invited to address the Forum. Consider two topics: a. Expansion of Forest cover, and b. Trees vs Heathland as a carbon store Bob McIntosh (FCS) addressing the Forum about forest expansion on 31 Oct 08 Addressed Full Forum 31st October 2008
	C2	Climate Change Bill	Respond to Consultation	Completed 22 Apr 08
	C4	Renewable Energy	Consider the role of the uplands in providing a platform for the generation of renewable energy. Consider the impact that the development of renewable energy schemes has on landscape and the condition of the uplands.	Full Forum Addressed by Task Group in 2008/09
	C6	Adapting our Ways: Managing Scotland's Climate Risk	SG consultation - response due 31 Oct 08	Responded to Consultation. No further action.
	C7	Carbon Issues	Establish and promote a better understanding of the role of upland peat as a strategic store of carbon.	Dr Fred Worrall (Durham University) addressed the Forum on 30 Oct 09. Clifton Bain (IUCN Peatland Programme) gave a presentation on 11 Jun 10
	C8	IUCN UK Peatland Programme	Continue support for this programme	Lord Lindsay is a Patron of the Programme. The Secretary and other members are on the Advisory Group
Biodiversity	B2	Upland Forestry	Review the opportunities for planting of additional forestry on moorland or on moorland fringes	Task Group report for consideration on 31 Oct 08 Work complete.
	B3	Increase the abundance of terrestrial breeding birds		Deemed to be incorporated into Understanding Predation project (Apr 14).
	B4	Raptor issues	Complete the work identified during the Raptor Issues Task Group meetings in 2007.	Considered within 2009 programme
	B5	Raptor – Grouse Conflict	Review the measures considered in earlier papers and report to the Forum about outstanding actions.	To be considered within 2011 programme. Considered to be complete (Jan 14) with launch of the Understanding Predation project.

**Scotland's Moorland Forum
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Completed Issues**

Category	Ref	Issue	Details	Action Taken
Biodiversity (cont)	B6	Mountain Hare	Review the available research to consider how management practices are affecting the status of mountain hares.	Adam Smith to be invited to address the Forum in 2009. Presentation given at the Feb 09 meeting
	B7	Golden Eagle Framework Report	Consider findings of this Report	To be considered within 2009 programme Presentation given at the Jun 09 meeting
	B8	Phytophthora Consultations	Forum to respond to the consultation and will monitor progress of this disease threat to heather.	NTS asked to keep the Forum informed of developments
	B9	Biodiversity Delivery Structures	Support the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plans where these relate to MF issues	The Upland Ecosystems Group disbanded. The Forum no longer has direct involvement (Apr 14)
	B10	Forest expansion	Consider the positive and negative impacts of forest expansion on moorland. Possible theme for the summer meeting in 2017.	Director
Sustainability May	S1	Royal Society of Edinburgh Inquiry	Inquiry into the Future of Scotland's Hill and Island Areas.	RSE Report published on 8 Sep 08. Consider inviting a member of the Committee to attend a Forum meeting.
	S2	Develop a best practice Muirburn Plan	To be used in support of the Muirburn Code and Muirburn Guidance Card	Considered to be complete (Jan 14) as a burning plan will be considered as part of the Muirburn Code Review
	S3	Consider how to promote best practice management of moorland Develop best practice guidance in all aspects of moorland management	A paper to be drafted for consideration by the full Forum Outcome: increase % of protected nature sites in favourable condition	Considered to be complete (Jan 14) with the launch of the proposal to develop best practice guidance.
	S6	Upland Farming Identify the likely consequences of changes in the LFASS and seek to influence the review of LFASS	a) Consider the impact of changes to the support mechanisms for farming. b) Understand impacts of changing practices (moorland grazing reductions/abandonment in many areas, 'tick mops' in others on biodiversity (High Nature Value Farming concept), other	SAC work on 'Retreat of Farming from the hills' to be noted and acted upon Manifesto for the Hills published by NFUS to be brought into discussion
	S7	Scottish Government Consultation on Deer Issues	Offer support once the Consultation period has concluded	Letter sent from Forum 28 Jan 08
	S8	Sporting	How can the income from sporting enterprises be enhanced in conformity with nature conservation objectives How can the viability of sporting enterprises be enhanced to try and develop them as sustainable economic activities?	Rob McMorran to give a presentation on the 'Tomintoul Grouse Report' at the Jun 10 meeting.
	S10	Upland Strategy for Scotland	Consider the benefits of the Forum developing a strategy	See A8

**Scotland's Moorland Forum
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Completed Issues**

Category	Ref	Issue	Details	Action Taken
	S11	IUCN UK Peatland Programme	Consider the options for developing a local network to link national issues with local priorities	Note the formation of the Land Management Forum in the Cairngorms National Park.
Sustainability (cont)	S12	Muirburn	Continue to assist the SG to develop muirburn guidance & regulation through the Muirburn Group.	Ways to communicate the new provisions of the WNE Bill to be considered. Review of the Muirburn Code to be considered. Completed - Muirburn Code Review in Progress (Jan 14)
	S15	Wildlife Management	Support for the development of the concept and establishment of SNH's Wildlife Group	
	S16	Troubleshooting Task Force	Consider the provision of a task force function in support of communities with upland issues that require resolution.	This could form part of an extended Upland Solutions project or be independent.
Awareness and Access	A2	Web-site	Develop the web site to include more information and a members section.	Forum Secretary Some funding will be necessary.
	A5	Managing Recreation & Access	Consider the impact of management on the use of the uplands for recreation & access.	Minutes from meetings of the Access Forum to be obtained and made available to Forum members. Minutes from the Landscape Forum will also be made available.
	A6	Upland Information	Information bulletins to be circulated to Forum members for use in PR campaigns.	Carbon issues, followed by muirburn. Other topics to be agreed. Considered replaced by Briefings for Forum members
	A7	Moorland Forum Advisory Group	Consider establishing a small group of 'wise men' to advise the Forum on direction	Chairman to discuss with Des Thompson & Secretary; proposals to be made to the Chairman's Working Group
	A8	Upland Aspirations	Complete the preparation of the draft document	Aim for further discussion at the Summer meeting 2011
	A9	Access Forum	Maintain links to the work of this Forum	There are several members in common
	A10	Moorland Centre	Consider the opportunities for developing a moorland centre to be used as a focus for improving understanding of moorland & upland issues.	
	A11	Workshops / Demonstration Events	Consider how events could be used to increase awareness of moorland issues, support the Wildlife Management concept and/or roll out the provisions of the WNE Bill.	Considered to be complete (Jan 14) with development of Sharing Good Practice events
Evidence Base	E2	Large Scale Moorland Project	Assist with the development of this project and advise on the level of support required from the Forum.	Support provided for the ACES lead application to NERC.
	E3	The Langholm Moor Demonstration Project	Receive regular reports on the progress of this project.	Project Officer to be invited to attend full Forum meetings.

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Completed Issues**

Category	Ref	Issue	Details	Action Taken
	E7	Review of RSPB publication: The Uplands: Time for Change?		RSPB Uplands Conservation Officer (Dr. Pat Thompson to give presentation at Summer Meeting 2008). Included in programme.
Priority Issues		National Peatland Plan	Support the completion and delivery of the Plan	Director
Priority Issues		SNH Peatland Steering Group	Attend meetings (likely to be disbanded March 2015)	Director
Priority Issues		Land Reform	Task Group and Forum members to decide what input the Forum should following the consultation.	SL&E + Task Group
Ongoing Work		Upland catchment management	Monitor opportunities to support the development of large-scale upland management plans. Possibly through SEPA, Scottish Water & SWT. Link to Payment for Ecosystem Services and Scottish Forum on Natural Capital	Overtaken by SAC Report recommendation for large-scale, long-term experiment.