



## **'Upland Solutions' Project**

### **NEW PROJECT IN SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND AND THE NORTHERN MONADHLIATHS TO EXPLORE UPLAND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS**

***Upland Solutions* is a new project, being run by *Scotland's Moorland Forum*, which will find practical ways through the difficulties of managing land in the uplands. The project will focus on the Muirkirk area, in Ayrshire, and the Upper Findhorn catchment area, in Inverness-shire.**

By talking directly with landowners, land-managers and local communities, Scotland's Moorland Forum aims to focus on issues relating to upland economics, carbon management, and upland birds. With the help of local people, it will identify the problems, and what the practical solutions could be, at ground-level. Through the *Upland Solutions* project, the Forum wants to find out if institutional or regulatory blockages are getting in the way of practical solutions.

The Chairman of the Forum, Lord Lindsay, said, "I am delighted that this project will provide an opportunity both to understand the problems and successes that exist at ground-level and to engage the skills and experience of the Forum in a practical way so as to help upland managers in these areas. Ultimately this project is focused on identifying practical solutions to practical problems and we will ensure that the lessons we learn are disseminated to land-managers elsewhere in Scotland and to Ministers, their advisors and public agencies."

Scotland's Moorland Forum is inviting upland owners, managers and employees from these areas to come to a workshop, where members of the Forum will listen to their day to day problems. The Forum will explore where practical solutions have been, or might be, developed at local level and to offer their knowledge and experience of solutions to similar problems that have worked in other areas. The findings of this work will be fed back to those who attend the workshop, and all

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Chairman: Lord Lindsay

Secretary: Simon Thorp  
Administrator: Alison Young

other relevant parties, and will be reported to Government Ministers with a view to easing some of the blockages that obstruct progress in upland areas.

**The workshops will be held at The Lochside Hotel, New Cumnock on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February and The Tomatin Country Inn, Tomatin on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March. They are free of charge, but booking a place is essential. Booking forms and additional information can be obtained from the Forum's Administrator, Alison Young, on 01387 723201, or by emailing [info@moorlandforum.org.uk](mailto:info@moorlandforum.org.uk) or from the website: [www.moorlandforum.org.uk](http://www.moorlandforum.org.uk)**

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#### Notes to Editors

1. The Scotland's Moorland 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)
2. For this project to be successful it requires the support of local people from all walks of life and it would be appreciated if you could include reference to this project in your publication.
3. A copy of the flyer that has been prepared to promote the project is enclosed for your information. It is also available to download from the Moorland Forum's website.