



## **Innovative Scottish Landscape Forum grouping presents forward-looking report to Minister**

The Chair of the Scottish Landscape Forum (SLF) Isabel Glasgow has highlighted the important role which our landscapes play in contributing to the quality of life of the people of Scotland and the visitors who come here. Her comments accompanied the publication of the SLF report which was presented today (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>) to Sarah Boyack, Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, in the Scottish Parliament.

The report considers how Scotland can promote good management of all our landscapes – whether in urban areas or in the countryside – to secure benefits for all. The report is in part a response to the UK's signing of the European Landscape Convention and also advance preparation for the Executive's future review of planning guidance on landscape and the natural environment. Following 9 months of deliberations and discussions between key bodies representing Scotland's public, private and voluntary sectors the report contains recommendations for the appropriate bodies to consider taking forward.

Speaking at the presentation of the SLF's report Isabel Glasgow said:

“It is the first time that such a wide range of interests have come together to focus on landscape issues. We all know that many of our landscapes are world class, attracting visitors and supporting business. But if we wish everyone to enjoy the many benefits which our landscapes bring, and ensure all communities can enjoy good quality surroundings, we must pay proper attention to securing the good management which will achieve that.”

The Forum's report highlights key recommendations to be taken for the Executive and public bodies to consider, as a first step towards delivering better care of all our landscapes. Sarah Boyack said: “Scotland has led the way in establishing the Scottish Landscape Forum, the first body of its kind in the UK. It has brought key organisations together to produce an important report and we look forward to seeing what more can be done to enhance the care of all our valuable landscapes.”

The SLF brought together 25 organisations sharing an interest in the well-being of Scotland's landscapes, representing land managers, tourism and economic development interests, environmental organisations, communities and agencies.

Having discharged its duty in producing its report members have pledged to continue the work of the SLF by continuing to meet in future to help drive forward action on the recommendations.

ENDS

### **Notes for editors**

1. The Scottish Landscape Forum is a group of public and non-governmental bodies with a common interest in the future well-being, management and use of Scotland's landscape resource. Established by Scottish Natural Heritage with the support of the Scottish Executive in June 2006, its purpose is to facilitate discussion, prepare advice and promote action for the

better care of Scotland's landscapes. The Forum has met five times to consider the work of its working groups, and held a seminar this January.

2. Seven key recommendations have been identified by the Forum as first steps in delivering action. These include recommendations for the Executive to provide leadership on landscape matters; adopt and implement a European Landscape Convention action plan; the preparation of a national statement on landscape and the promotion of new legislative provisions and guidance for National Scenic Areas in conjunction with SNH. The Forum also recommends that the Executive should maintain its support for the Scottish Landscape Forum. SNH are recommended to examine and advise on the possible landscape content of a revised National Planning Framework whilst the Forum tasks itself to prepare and implement a Communication Strategy to raise the profile and understanding of landscape amongst stakeholders and other key audiences.
3. The European Landscape Convention is a Council of Europe initiative promoting the protection, management and planning of all landscapes – not just our finest, but the everyday and degraded as well. The UK ratified it on 21 November 2006.
4. The report is to be presented to the Minister in the Parliament on Thursday 22 March.

The Forum membership comprises:

Activity Scotland Association  
Architecture & Design Scotland  
Association of Scottish Community Councils  
Black Environment Network  
Built Environment Forum Scotland  
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities  
ECA School of Landscape Architecture  
Greenspace Scotland  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Homes for Scotland  
Landscape Institute Scotland  
National Farmers Union Scotland  
Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland  
Scottish Council for Development and Industry  
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations  
Scottish Enterprise  
Scottish Environment Link  
Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Scottish Rural Property and Business Association  
Visit Scotland  
Corresponding member - Communities Scotland  
Observer - Forestry Commission Scotland  
Observer - Historic Scotland  
Observer - Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department

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