

Programme

Making Sustainable Places: Planning and the Natural Heritage 25 February 2010

10:00	Arrivals, registration & coffee	
10:35	Welcome and introduction	John Thomson, SNH
10:40	Planning Reform for sustainable economic growth	John McNairney, Scottish Government
11:00	SNH's role in helping to deliver Planning Reform and sustainable economic growth	John Thomson
11:15	Biodiversity Planning Toolkit: an on-line resource	Mike Oxford, Association of Local Government Ecologists
11:40	Introduction to workshops	John Thomson
11:45	Workshops – choose one from 6 workshops (see detailed descriptions overleaf)	
	1. Think Big, Think Biodiversity!	Brigid Primrose, SNH & Gareth Heavisides, Scottish Government
	2. Living in the landscape – looking at the interface between landscape and development	Elli Carlisle & Caroline Read, SNH
	3. Greenspace and health – what's it got to do with Planning?	Deryck Irving, greenspace Scotland
	4. Planning new urban communities: how green can we be?	Kevin Murray, Kevin Murray Associates
	5. Planning new communities in rural settings	Matthew Hawkins, Cairngorms National Park Authority & Pete Moore, SNH
	6. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – It's not rocket science!	Fiona Simpson & William Carlin, Scottish Government & Graham Esson, Perth & Kinross Council
12:45	Lunch & Marketplace with stalls, exhibitions and demonstrations of related sites and publications.	

13:45	Workshop – Session 2 (same as above – choose one from 6 workshops)	
14:45	Debate: Can the planning system deliver the Scottish Government's aim of sustainable economic growth?	Chair: Stuart Hepburn, The University of West Scotland Panel members: Clive Mitchell, SNH Peter Marshall, Perth & Kinross Council Kevin Murray Deryck Irving Zoe McLelland, RTPI Young Planners' Network Archie Thomson, Renton Development Trust
15:45	Closing remarks	John Thomson
16:00	Depart	

Workshop choices:

Each workshop runs twice, once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

Places are limited so it is advisable to book in advance. Please select your top **2** choices + **2 back-ups in case of over subscription**. Enter your details on the form sent via your lecturer. Completed forms to be received by SNH no later than **Wednesday 10 February**.

1. Think Big, Think Biodiversity!

Brigid Primrose, SNH & Gareth Heavisides, Scottish Government

The aim of this workshop is to help develop understanding and knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystems and their relationship to assessing planning and development situations.

How do you know where to start? Why is it even important?

What are the implications of doing it or not doing it?

This workshop will use a practical exercise with a hypothetical development scenario in the local landscape. This will be mostly an outdoor session, weather permitting.

2. Living in the landscape – looking at the interface between landscape and development

Elli Carlisle & Caroline Read, SNH

This workshop will explore what landscape is, why it is so important and how it can be protected and enhanced as part of sustainable development.

You will be given the chance to understand more about the benefits of the landscape and the 'sense of place' it can engender; look at how tools such as landscape character assessment are used and try using all this information in a development scenario.

Please come prepared to work outdoors (weather permitting).

3. Greenspace and health – what's it got to do with Planning?

Deryck Irving, greenspace Scotland

The planning profession originated from a perceived need to address public health problems and priorities – is this still a role for planning and for planners? greenspace Scotland, NHS Scotland and SNH have recently published a framework for action on health through greenspace. This framework identifies the roles of a range of key players (including planners) in creating and sustaining healthy environments. More importantly, it identifies the ways in which these players must interact to get the best result. This work offers you a chance to look at aspects of the framework and to begin to evaluate your own, and your profession's priorities in this field.

4. Planning new urban communities: How green can we be?

Exemplar of Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative (SSCI) Grandhome and Whitestripes, Aberdeen

Kevin Murray, Kevin Murray Associates

This workshop will explore the challenges of integrating new urban expansion into the landscape. Using the SSCI proposal Grandhome and Whitestripes as an exemplar, this workshop will ask participants to consider the proposed development from the perspective of different stakeholders, identifying priority concerns of each group, and suggesting possible actions to inform the overall masterplan vision. It will then be considered whether and how these viewpoints are deliverable within the overall project vision.

5. Planning new communities in rural settings

Exemplar of Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative (SSCI) An Canas Mor, Aviemore

Matthew Hawkins, Cairngorms National Park Authority & Pete Moore, SNH

This workshop will explore the various complexities of site constraints to the masterplanning process as an introduction to planning within a National Park. Using the SSCI proposal An Canas Mor as a case study, participants will be encouraged to consider the issues of natural designation, landscape and other relevant constraints. Debate will be encouraged on the relative significance and weight which should be given to the various factors and values associated with these factors.

6. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – It's not rocket science!

Fiona Simpson & William Carlin, Scottish Government & Graham Esson, Perth & Kinross Council

The workshop will explore the role of SEA within development planning. It is important that planners are aware of the environment and how to assess their impact on it. However, SEA processes can appear intimidating, bureaucratic and unappealing to some. This workshop aims to try to convert those who are cynical about the SEA process by explaining the basics and showing participants how to navigate their way through the choppy waters of SEA.