



Eurosite Annual Conference – Dunblane, Scotland 13 to 16 September 2010

Generously hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage, in co-operation with the Countryside Council for Wales

THE CHALLENGE OF MANAGING SITES IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

Eurosite's Annual Conference places site managers, their practical experience and the work of their nature conservation organisations centre stage. Site managers are facing tremendous challenges in their daily work: their working environment is changing, both in terms of their operating context and the physical nature of their sites. Climate change poses real threats and biodiversity is under tremendous pressure. Never have the challenges of managing sites in a changing environment been so great: never has the need for effective site management and expert site managers been greater.

Combining expert presentations, interactive sessions and site visits, the Eurosite Conference provides a unique opportunity to compare practices, gather information and learn about approaches and techniques being applied by colleagues on nature conservation sites around Europe. We invite you to join us to share your ideas, exchange views and network for Europe's nature.

Conference Overview

The 2010 Eurosite Conference is a three-day event. Our venue lies in the picturesque village of Dunblane, easily accessible by train, bus and car from Glasgow, Edinburgh, south and north of Scotland. Delegates arriving by train in Dunblane will be picked up by a courtesy shuttle bus. Apart from the field trips and one evening reception, all events will take place in the Dunblane Hydro Hotel, which boasts a spectacular setting - <http://doubletree.hilton.co.uk/dunblane?WT.srch=1>

The Conference is open to members and non-members alike: day delegates are also more than welcome. All site visits will depart from and return to the hotel. A generously subsidised 'all-inclusive' fee has been negotiated – apart from their own personal expenses and travel to and from the venue, delegates will be extended the best of Scottish hospitality.

In summary, the programme is as follows:

- Monday 13th September - arrival of delegates to the Conference venue: Dunblane Hydro Hotel, Dunblane;
- **Day 1: Tuesday 14th September** – main seminar day: The Challenge of Managing Sites in a Changing Environment;
- **Day 2: Wednesday 15th September** – network business and a choice of 4 field trips;
- **Day 3: Thursday 16th September** – further on-site learning with a choice of longer field trips, with variable timings to accommodate delegates' departure schedules.

The Conference closes with the return to the hotel from the field trips on Thursday, 16 September. However, should delegates wish to extend their stay for a day or two at their own cost, they will benefit from the negotiated conference rate.



Day 1: Tuesday 14th September 2010 – Seminar Day

Note: This is a provisional draft programme for the main seminar day of the Conference. Currently speakers are being invited for the various sessions identified. These will be confirmed as soon as possible. If you would like to be considered for a presentation in the 'pop-up' sessions, please send an email to: info@eurosite.org.

Simultaneous English-French/ French-English translation will be provided for the whole of this part of the programme.

TIMING	No.	SESSIONS	
09.00 to 09.15	1	Welcome, opening statements and Introductions	Ian Jardine
		SITE NETWORKS – WHY THEY MATTER IN ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE	
09.15 – 09.45	2	Site networks – what do they look like?	TBC
09.45 – 10.15	3	How ecological networks contribute to avoiding biodiversity loss: challenges for the next decades.	Tom Tew
		CHALLENGES IN MANAGING SITES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE	
10.15 – 10.35	4	Upland example – UK (The Countryside Council for Wales)	CCW
10.35 – 10.55	5	Forest example – Netherlands (Staatsbosbeheer)	Sander Wijdeven
11.00 to 11.30		<i>Coffee/ Tea</i>	
11.30 – 11.50	6	Freshwater example – Tour du Valat, France	Jean Jalbert, Director
11.50 – 12.10	7	Marine & Coastal example - SNH	Alistair Rennie, SNH
12.10 to 12.30		PANEL DISCUSSION: WHAT ARE THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSES REQUIRED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE?	
12.30 to 14.00		<i>Lunch</i>	



		MAKING THE LINKS – SITES AND PROJECTS DEVELOPING INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS	
14.00 - 14.30	8	Protected areas and climate change: an overview of the challenges, opportunities and potential responses	Micheal O'Briain, EC – DG ENV
14.30 – 14.50	9	Best practices about the need to manage around, beyond and between sites – buffering for climate change? – Slovenia	Darij Krajčič, Director
14.50 – 15.10	10	"Making habitats and species more resilient – LIFE projects management tools examples"	Joao Silva, AEIDL (BE)
15.10 – 15.30	11	Urban – Natura 2000 in the spatial planning of the Barcelona Region - Spain	Carles Castell Puig
15.30 – 15.45		PANEL DISCUSSION	
15.45 -16.15		<i>Coffee/ Tea</i>	
16.15 – 17.00	12	“Pop-up” session A dynamic, interactive series of 5 minute slots for different perspectives from throughout the Eurosite network	
17.00 – 17.30	13	The value and importance of effective communication about biodiversity and our natural heritage – Wild Wonders of Europe	TBC
17.30 - 17.45		WRAP UP AND CONCLUSIONS	

Evening Programme

18.30 to 20.00 Civic reception in Stirling Castle

20.00 Evening meal in the conference venue, Dunblane Hydro Hotel



Day 2: Wednesday 15th September

08.30 to 13.00 - Eurosite Board, Council and Annual General Meetings

The morning of day 2 is given to attending to network business matters. 2010 is also an election year for the network. Members will receive papers regarding this in due course.

13.00 to 18.00 – Choice of four site visits

The afternoon is devoted to four site visits to spark discussion and learning in the field – the provisional list from which delegates will be able to choose is:

1. Ben Lawers – NNR – upland site
2. Loch Leven - NNR – wetland site
3. Tenstmuir - NNR – coastal site
4. Loch Lomond/ Inchcailloch - NNR – woodland site

Evening Programme - 19.00 onwards

Following return to the hotel, the traditional “Eurococktail” will be followed by a meal and a ceilidh, for an evening of Scottish dancing and music – kilts are optional, but highly desirable, especially when bagpipes are around! For the Eurococktail, delegates are warmly invited to bring along a small sample of local produce (something to eat or drink, which typifies your part of Europe) to share with Conference participants.

Day 3: Thursday 16th September

The final day of the Conference provides various longer field trip options to exchange and compare practical site management experiences. The trips will be divided in to morning and afternoon sessions to enable delegates to depart at lunchtime if that would suit their travel plans. The trips will include options to feed red kites at Argaty, visit Flanders Moss, a boat trip on Loch Katrine, and visit the Great Trossachs Forest. Full descriptions of all field trips can be found in the separate Site Visits info sheets (www.eurosite.org).

At the end of the day, delegates will be brought back to the hotel. Although the Conference is officially ended, delegates may wish to stay on for an extra night or so and enjoy the local setting. Please note that a generous discount rate negotiated for the duration of the Conference is available for delegates, should they wish to book an extension at their own cost.



Loch Leven, Scotland (photograph courtesy of SNH)