

Our approach



For the first time, many of the [public bodies](#) who are responsible for regulating and improving the environment have worked together to describe the condition of [our environment](#).

We want to progressively increase the information available, to deliver our ambition of providing the best assessment of the state of Scotland's environment and we'd like you to get involved.

We hope that you will be able to find the level of detail that you want on Scotland's environment in [our environment](#). We have provided information on a number of environmental topics and will progressively increase the range of topics covered.

For each topic we describe the condition of that part of the environment and how it is changing. We assess the pressures causing the changes and describe the consequences of changes in its condition on the economy, society and the wider environment. Finally, we consider what has been done by society in the past to address the various problems identified and look forward to what might be needed to prevent similar problems occurring in future. There are numerous links to more detailed sources of information and data.

The summary section gives a synopsis of the information from [our environment](#), supplemented by other sources of information. In particular, two important 2011 publications: the [UK national ecosystem assessment report for Scotland](#) and [Scotland's marine atlas](#).

An assessment of condition and the expected trends in the topics of [our environment](#) has been made and we would welcome your views on our current assessment. Please [contact us](#) with your views.

We will review this over the next year in consultation with all interested parties. We believe that this period of debate and discussion will help develop a wider consensus for action.

Who wrote this?

State of our environment report

For the first time, many of the organisations who are responsible for regulating and improving the environment have worked together to describe the condition of our environment. The information contained within our environment is essentially a state of the environment report, providing you with an authoritative and impartial assessment of the state of the Scotland's environment. It aims to:

- clearly explain the state of the environment;
- determine if, and if so how, the environment is changing, what causes the changes and the impacts these changes have on the wider environment, society and the economy;
- summarise the key messages about the environment and;
- highlight the actions required to protect the environment.

Information on a range of topics was provided by experts in the relevant field and the number of topics will progressively increase through time.

We would also like to encourage you to provide your input to the topics. If you wish to comment on any topic, or challenge any of the information we provide, please do so using the form at the bottom of each page.

Who are the authors?

The text for the topics in our environment was written by small groups of specialists from a range of organisations, providing a robust and impartial report.

Who are the editorial group?

The production of the report is overseen by an editorial group whose members represent a number of organisations and who bring a range of skills and experience to the group. The editorial group is responsible for ensuring the text is consistent, balanced and accurate. You can read more about us below.

Rebecca Bell



BA (Hons), MSc, AIEMA

Sustainability Officer

Clackmannanshire Council



Rebecca's main areas of expertise are strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sustainable development policy, with current work focusing on development planning, sustainable procurement, fair trade, and sustainability performance monitoring.

She co-authored Clackmannanshire's Council's sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, and is now co-ordinating its implementation. She is the Council's lead contact for strategic environmental assessment, and carried out the SEA for the Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan Main Issues Report.

As a steering group member for the Sustainable Scotland Network, Rebecca represents the network of sustainable development officers from Scottish local authorities.

Dr. Seumas G. Campbell



BSc, PhD, C Geol, C Sci, EurGeol

Chief Geologist Scotland

British Geological Survey



Diarmad is responsible for the British Geological Survey's onshore spatial data capture and 3D modelling programmes in Scotland, and cross-cutting research in the Glasgow area.

He provides a range of geoscience information and advice to decision makers in Scotland. This is especially in support of urban development, regeneration and infrastructure projects, and in relation to a wide range of environmental impacts, including hazards related to landslides.

He has previously been involved in similar work in Hong Kong, and prior to that in projects on the structural controls of mineralisation, especially gold, in Zimbabwe, and the interpretation of ancient volcanic rocks.



Nathan Critchlow-Watton



BSc, MSc

Chair of SoE Editorial Group

Principal Scientist

State of Environment Unit

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)



Nathan is responsible for co-ordinating monitoring of the water environment, with a particular focus on freshwaters. He also chairs the cross-partner Freshwater Monitoring group, which is tasked with delivering a co-ordinated monitoring network for Scotland. Nathan produces the annual status assessment for all waters in Scotland, bringing together data from across SEPA and partner bodies and publishing it to inform the public. During the development of this classification system, Nathan worked with partners across the UK and EU to shape the final scheme. Prior to this post, Nathan has worked as an ecologist in Scotland, England and Wales.

Dr. Karen Dobbie



BSc, PhD, MISoilSci, CSci

Principal Scientist (Soil)

State of Environment Unit

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)



Karen's role in SEPA focuses on developing soil / land aspects of Scotland's Environment Web and soil monitoring aspects of the CAMERAS Environmental Monitoring Strategy. Over the last six years, Karen has also worked in SEPA's Land Policy Unit and Field Chemistry Unit. She was an author and co-editor of Natural Scotland's state of Scotland's soil report (2011). Before joining SEPA, Karen worked for many years as a postdoctoral research fellow at Edinburgh University mainly on greenhouse gas emissions from soils and published a number of peer reviewed papers on a range of



topics.



Dr. Daniel Hinze



Dipl.-Vw., MA, PhD

**Head of Environmental Analysis Unit - Rural and Environment Science and Analytic Services (RESAS)
 Scottish Government**



Daniel is head of the Environmental Analysis Unit which supports Climate Change, Environmental Quality and Natural Resource policy.

Daniel joined the Scottish Government in 2003, leaving a post at the Bundesbank in Frankfurt, and has worked in various Government posts, in the Scottish Government's Office of the Chief Economist, the Scottish Government Health Finance Directorate and, on secondment, in Scottish Water's regulation team.

James Simpson



BSc, MBA, MICFor

Independent Environmental Services Consultant

Forestry Commission Scotland



James Simpson is a chartered forester with 25 years career experience in ecological science, sustainable forestry and land use. James is currently on a sabbatical from the Forestry Commission, living and working in the Czech Republic.

Alan Motion



Business Manager

Meteorological Office



Dr. Marie Russell



BSc, BA, PhD, MRSC

Senior Environmental Chemist

Marine Scotland Science



Marie is mainly involved in marine environmental issues, particularly in relation to persistent organic pollutants and marine litter. She is the Marine Scotland Science lead on issues relating to marine litter for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

She is the Marine Scotland Science Responsible Officer on the Clean and Safe Seas Evidence Group (CSSEG) of the UKMMAS (United Kingdom Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy). The evidence group co-ordinates and reviews monitoring and evidence requirements relating to hazardous substances, radioactivity, eutrophication, oil and chemical spills, marine litter, underwater noise, microbiological contamination and algal toxins.

At Marine Scotland Science Marie works in the Marine Environmental Assessment Group, with responsibility for the analyses of organic contaminants. She is also responsible for ensuring that contaminant data from Marine Scotland Science is submitted to the Marine Environment Monitoring and Assessment National (MERMAN) database annually.

Professor Des Thompson



BSc, PhD, DSc, FIEEM

Principal Adviser on Biodiversity

Scottish Natural Heritage



Scottish Natural Heritage
 All of nature for all of Scotland

Des manages SNH policy and advisory work on ecosystems and climate change.

With particular interests in the uplands and bird ecology, Des has fifteen books to his name on subjects ranging from raptors, shorebirds, vegetation, mountains and moorlands to the changing nature of Scotland. He manages the SNH-SEPA PhD studentship scheme, is Associate Editor of the Journal of Applied Ecology, and is currently involved in taking forward the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to meet ambitious 2020 targets.

Des collaborates closely with researchers and government advisers across the UK, and has strong ties with Norwegian officials. He is also a Trustee of the Field Studies Council.

Willie Towers



BSc

Senior Soil Scientist

James Hutton Institute



**The James
 Hutton
 Institute**

Willie is a soil scientist whose early career was to map and characterise the soils in the north of mainland Scotland. This gave him the grounding to undertake applied research into diverse topics such as native woodland potential, waste recycling to land and land based renewable energy options for, and in partnership with, a wide range of government teams and agencies. He has produced over 200 publications including 35 refereed papers. More recently he undertook a short secondment to the Scottish Government to assist in compiling the Scottish Soil Framework and has acted as an advisor to the Government in the re-delineation of Less favoured Areas, including at the House of Lords. He is an author and co-editor of Natural Scotland's State of Scotland's Soils report (2011), is a member of Council of the British Society of Soil Science and is chair of the European Soil Bureau Network's Working Group on Soil Education and Awareness.



Karen Robertson



BA (Hons), Post Graduate Diploma (GIS)

Senior Research Manager

Historic Scotland



Karen is a Senior Research Manager for Historic Scotland. Her current work includes writing Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA), managing the Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland and providing evidence to support the implementation of the Historic Environment Strategy.

Prior to this post, Karen has worked as Good Practice Manager for the Scottish Housing Regulator and as an analyst for the Scottish House Condition Survey.

Karen has a postgraduate diploma in Geographic Information Systems, with a particular interest in geo-demographics.