



Landscape for Scotland

Working together to help shape
quality in landscape and place



**Landscape
Institute**
Scotland



Welcome to Landscape for Scotland

Scotland's landscapes are diverse, rich and unique in the world. Forged by the forces of time, climate and humanity both the natural and built environment are an enormous asset to our country. However, they are constantly changing in response to the needs of society and natural processes. Careful decision making and management are essential to ensure their continuing value and benefit for future generations.

We would like to demonstrate how Scotland's landscape professionals can play a key part in protecting and improving the places in which we live, work and play.

Our vision is to promote and create great places – places that are beautiful, multi-functional, sustainable and embedded in Scotland's communities.

The landscape profession includes landscape architects, planners, managers and scientists who work in many areas including health, placemaking, transport, energy and housing. The profession is chartered and governed by the Landscape Institute. As its Scottish branch, we at Landscape Institute Scotland (LIS) wish to encourage Scotland's commitment to international best practice in landscape protection, planning and management, and support the Scottish Government and others in the public and private sectors in delivering its Programme for Scotland.

The LIS is at the forefront of recognising the importance of well-designed and managed landscapes, and the benefits they bring to society. We can help make Scotland a greener and healthier country, with better places to play, work, learn and make a home in, while tackling climate change and nurturing biodiversity.

Rachel Tennant
Chair, Landscape Institute Scotland



We want Scotland to be the best place in the world to bring up children, the best place to grow up and be educated, the best place to live, work, visit, invest and do business, the best place to be cared for in times of sickness, need or vulnerability, and the best place to grow old

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon
MSP, First Minister
of Scotland, The
Government's Programme
for Scotland 2017-18



*From the corner of Scotland I know so well
I see Edinburgh sprawling like seven cats
on its seven hills beside the Firth of Forth.*

*And when I'm in Edinburgh I walk
amongst the mountains and lochs of
that corner that looks across the Minch to
the Hebrides.*

*Two places I belong to as though I was
born in both of them.*

*They make every day a birthday,
giving me gifts wrapped in the
ribbons of memory.*

I store them away, greedy as a miser.

Norman MacCaig, Assynt and Edinburgh

All landscapes matter

Scotland aspires to lead in the protection, management and creation of our natural and built landscapes. Through the UK, we are a signatory to the European Landscape Convention, an international treaty which promotes the value of all landscapes; it states:

'Landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas.'

We are proud that Scotland was the first country to achieve national coverage of Landscape Character Assessment now

enshrined in the European Landscape Charter. Landscape professionals in Scotland are at the forefront of research and use of methodologies such as Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Landscape Character Assessment that help guide decision making about our landscapes today.

We urge the Scottish Government to implement its international commitment to the value of landscape and to recognize the great contribution landscapes can make to delivery of the Programme for Scotland. We recommend that the Government place landscape at the heart of its policymaking for the future, and by doing so deliver on its ambitions.

SCOTLAND'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT

- To recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- To establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning;
- To establish procedures for greater participation of the public, authorities

and other parties in decisions that affect landscape

- To further integrate landscape into its planning policies, and cultural, social, environmental, agricultural and economic policies, as well as in any others with possible direct or indirect impacts on landscape;

Our vision supports effective delivery on this commitment

Protection of our cherished landscapes requires sympathetic planning and management built on scientific understanding

HOW TO GET THERE: FIVE ACTION POINTS

The role landscape professionals play in shaping world-class places is vital, yet often overlooked. We at Landscape Institute Scotland propose five key areas for shared action:

- 1 Promote a holistic approach to the planning, design and management of place, in order to integrate and balance community, land-use, economic, environmental, cultural and ecological values.
- 2 Engage with willing and supportive organisations with a shared interest in Scotland's landscape and place, forming a Scottish landscape coalition to support the Programme for Government with skills and energy to help drive this vision.
- 3 Monitor and document the importance and significance of Scotland's landscape and natural capital, providing robust evidence to guide future investment, management decisions and conservation measures.
- 4 Ensure appropriate awareness and training exist across all relevant sectors of the economy and society, such that appropriate skills and expertise in landscape are made available to decision makers across the public, private and third sectors.
- 5 Uphold Scotland's leadership and commitment to international best practice to safeguard the importance of landscape for the quality of life and the quality of place for all of Scotland's people.

A shared vision

The Scottish Government has bold aspirations that are embedded in its national plans, policies and strategies covering sustainability, placemaking, the natural environment, green infrastructure, health, connectivity, the historic environment, and community planning and empowerment. The work of landscape professionals in Scotland embraces all aspects of the government's strong and inspiring ambition.

This is what we have ...

+ Stunning natural landscapes and vibrant, historic towns and cities that support a tourism industry bringing £11 billion to our economy per year

VisitScotland, 2015

- 59% of people living in the most deprived decile are estimated to live within 500m of derelict land, compared to 13% of people in the least deprived decile

Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey, 2016

+ Healthy environments to live and work in, leading to our top spot in the UK's index of quality of life

Social Progress Index, 2016

- The lowest life expectancy in the UK, with a worrying number of people dying before the age of 65

Social Progress Index, 2016

... and what we could have

Examples of good placemaking exist in Scotland, as shown from page 8. But there are still more instances of badly planned and managed landscapes that have a negative effect on people's lives and prospects. Our national planning framework (NPF3) expresses the ambition of creating high-quality, successful, sustainable places that are diverse, low carbon, naturally resilient, accessible and connected, and our Place Standard shows how our communities can be involved.

Achieving this aim will require joint effort and a shared vision.

Good design for the future

No place stays the same. Population growth, development, increasing tourism, evolving technology and a changing climate will inevitably bring change to all our landscapes – rural and urban. Achieving a balance between nature and people, economic and social priorities, and productive land use and natural habitats requires well-informed decisions, based on clear evidence and the needs of the communities in which we live.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?

Places evolve through the interplay between physical features, natural processes and human intervention.

Understanding how habitats and processes interrelate and affect a place – and how people interact with it – is vital for the creation of great places. It requires knowledge of how the environment works, what makes each place unique and how to maximise its value.

Landscape professionals help deliver great places by:

1 Combining expertise with creativity

Expertise spanning natural and social sciences, environmental assessment, design and practical delivery must be combined with creativity, vision and strategy.

2 Thinking big

Landscape professionals take a holistic and longer-term view. A holistic approach

helps create places that function well, are distinctive, biologically diverse and have enduring character.

3 Designing sustainably

Sustainable, resilient places are only achieved by balancing the needs of community, economy and environment. Landscape professionals promote an interdisciplinary approach to ensure the full potential of a place can be realised.



First life, then spaces, then buildings – the other way around never works.

Jan Gehl,
influential Danish urban designer



New York's acclaimed Highline park transformed dereliction into a delightful green escape from the city streets below



The Highline isn't just a sight to see; it's also an economic dynamo.

Patrick McGeehan
New York Times, June 2011

The art of listening

Listening to and responding to residents' aspirations for their families and community is a vital part of good design and placemaking.

Meaningful, well-structured consultation that involves local people in decision making empowers communities, giving them a sense of ownership and belonging. To create truly authentic and sustainable places, dialogue should be an integral part of the design process.

Our skills can help communities articulate their needs and aspirations, and can help support the national community-empowerment agenda.

As landscape professionals we also work with the next generation in schools to raise awareness of the landscape. We believe that the environmental studies curriculum could be further developed to provide a landscape-scale view of issues, beyond geography and environmental science.

Helping communities to plan their environment, such as here in Annbank, is a vital skill in building sustainable places



If we are going to make strides in Scotland in transforming our environment, then we need to begin by involving people. This will result in better planning outcomes and the people involved will have a better sense of their own self-worth and feel more in control of their lives. The outcome will be an improved sense of wellbeing in Scotland.

Professor Sir Harry Burns, former chief medical officer for Scotland

Healthy spaces for all

Research increasingly shows that access to safe and inviting green spaces, and opportunities for active travel, make for better health outcomes. Scotland's outdoor access legislation, which provides great freedom for use of the outdoors, is the result of progressive political thinking, but we need to lead the field in other areas too.

Why do those living in deprived areas continue to suffer health inequality, or be denied the quality of greenspace available to those in more affluent areas? Providing the right environment can help tackle rising levels of chronic mental and physical health



All the evidence points to very significant uplifts in both mental and physical health from enabling people to spend more time in the natural world ... We should concentrate on creating an environment that reinforces and underpins better health.

Jonathon Porritt CBE

problems; food-growing, natural play, outdoor sports are key parts of the solution. For example, the Maggie's Centres use their beautiful landscape setting to help in the care of cancer patients, a concept increasingly adopted in healthcare.

The Scottish Government policy focus on health and wellbeing aims to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow old (A Nation with Ambition: The Government's Programme for Scotland, 2017-18). Without putting landscape design at the heart of planning policy and solutions this aim will be harder to achieve.

Green space supports improved recovery rates, and in Larbert Woods this extends to outdoor health classes and waymarked exercise trails connecting to the Forth Valley Hospital. The establishment of the Green Exercise Partnership – comprising Forestry Commission Scotland, the National Health Service and Scottish Natural Heritage – enabled diverse health and landscape objectives to be met

Ian White Associates; Nick Bowen



Rarely do briefs for infrastructure require the creation of an environment that supports wellbeing. As a society, we focus on illness when we should be thinking more about wellness.

Professor Sir Harry Burns, former chief medical officer for Scotland



Natural-play landscapes build confidence, independence and creativity in our children



90%

of respondents said doing physical exercise outdoors in a natural environment was important in determining how they felt



12x

adults in the most deprived areas were around 12 times more likely to report poor health in 2014/2015 than those in the least deprived areas

Larbert Woods: A Green Exercise Partnership (NHS, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage); Ecotherapy: The Green Agenda for Mental Health, Mind, 2007; Scottish Government Long-term monitoring of health inequalities, 2017

Plan for prosperity

Giving neglected places a new lease of life injects fresh energy into a community. Regeneration provides a focal point for economic activity and investment, and can bring new-found prosperity to faltering areas, whether urban or rural.

To transform and regenerate an area requires a big-picture view – a successful masterplan should increase both the economic and natural capital of a place. It should take into account the biodiversity of the area, as well as its social and cultural history. Good landscape design makes the best use of what’s already in



We need to create compact, biodiverse, walkable, public transport-orientated, water-smart, mixed-use places ... (to) create sustainable, vibrant and creative local economies that are the kind of places where people want to live.

Jonathan Hughes, CEO, Scottish Wildlife Trust

situ, saving money and attracting further investment.

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment revealed that nature is worth billions of pounds to the UK and Scottish economies. For example:

- the UK’s green spaces are worth at least £30 billion a year in health and welfare benefits;
- pollinators are worth £430m per year to British agriculture;
- the benefits that inland wetlands bring to water quality are worth up to £1.5bn per year.



Landscape professionals worked closely with engineers to integrate Edinburgh’s trams into diverse settings

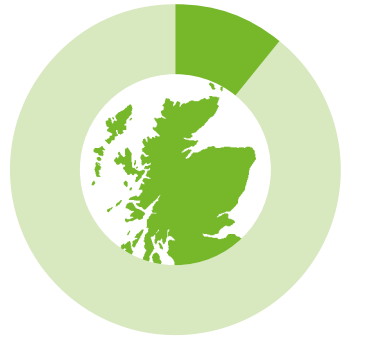


Creating a distinctive sense of place benefits development, such as Quatermile in Edinburgh

Shutterstock; Op-En; Gillispies



Glasgow’s ‘style mile’ is a great walkable space created through visionary design



11% of Scotland’s total economic output depends on sustainable use of the environment. This accounts for:

£17.2bn pounds a year, supporting 1 in 7 of all full-time jobs



The Economic Impact of Scotland’s Natural Environment, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2008

Somewhere to be proud of

If a place works well, it is more likely to be respected and cared for.

Good design can help halt decline, by building beauty and usefulness into surroundings that turn the circle from a vicious to a virtuous one. If a place is well designed people enjoy and appreciate it – it's somewhere to be proud of.

The Place Standard supports collaborative working between communities, public, private and third sectors, and allows all to evaluate the quality of their place and identify improvements. Landscape professionals can help in this process and in translating this into action.

Scotland's rich natural and built heritage inspire both residents and visitors. By drawing on this strength with imagination and sensitivity we can make the most of historic features, create new landmarks and places that we all have a stake in caring for.



The state of communities matters hugely to people whether they live in cities, the countryside or in between. It matters in the obvious ways but also for our health, wellbeing and economy. Once deterioration begins the trend is downward unless action is taken quickly. It can become a vicious circle.

Scotland's local environmental quality in decline, *Keep Scotland Beautiful*, March 2016



The places we spend our time have an important impact on our lives. The way a place looks, feels and functions can influence our health and wellbeing, and the quality of life in communities. Improving the quality of places can help to tackle inequalities.

Ian Gilzean, Scottish Government chief architect and chair of the Place Standard project board.

Ben Williams



Transformation of derelict land and rejuvenation of the canal at Helix Park provide a hub for 16 local communities, as well as a new icon for Scotland

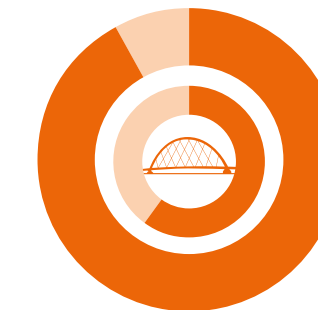


The best projects act as catalysts: they create a strong identity and have the capacity to stimulate further beneficial change. The best projects are those that encourage the talented to come and stay. These projects create points of attraction that can make a difference: they are impressive, and amazing attractiveness creates identity, pride and jobs.

Evert Verhagen, senior project manager for Creative Cities and REUSE



44%
of derelict and vacant urban land redeveloped in 2015 was for housing



60%+
of Glasgow City's population live within 500 metres of a derelict site, and
92%+
live within 1,000 metres of a derelict site

Scottish Government Key Scottish Environment Statistics, 2016; *Derelict Land, Deprivation, and Health Inequality in Glasgow, Scotland*, Juliana Maantay, 2013

Stewards of the landscape

Here in Scotland we are lucky to have some of the most stunning landscapes in the world. But we can't take them for granted. The needs of a 21st-century population can, if not properly managed, put the landscapes we love at risk.

New development – residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural – is vital to Scotland's economy. The same is true of new infrastructure such as roads and railways, power generation and transmission networks, waste treatment facilities etc.

Transport Scotland, for example, recognises the need for 'high-quality, well-integrated, bio-diverse, adaptable' landscapes to be developed, to help meet national sustainability targets.

VITAL CONTRIBUTION
Through leading research and development, methods and techniques, Scotland's landscape professionals can make a vital contribution in the planning and design of new development, infrastructure and the delivery of our longer-term renewable targets.

We can help monitor and moderate impacts including people's responses and attitudes, helping to manage our landscapes sustainably for the future. This will help maximise the benefits of a diverse natural environment in which natural capital contributes to a sustainable economy, biological diversity is protected and ecosystem services continue to support us.

The potential impacts of infrastructure on landscape quality can be significant. Sensitive appraisal, planning and design are required to avoid destroying an intangible resource

Alamy; Ian White Associates



Cities and regions require a network of natural and semi-natural landscapes and water (green infrastructure) that is the equal of their networks of transport and utilities (engineering infrastructure). This will ensure that the benefits of natural and semi-natural environments work well for natural and human habitats (ecosystem services).

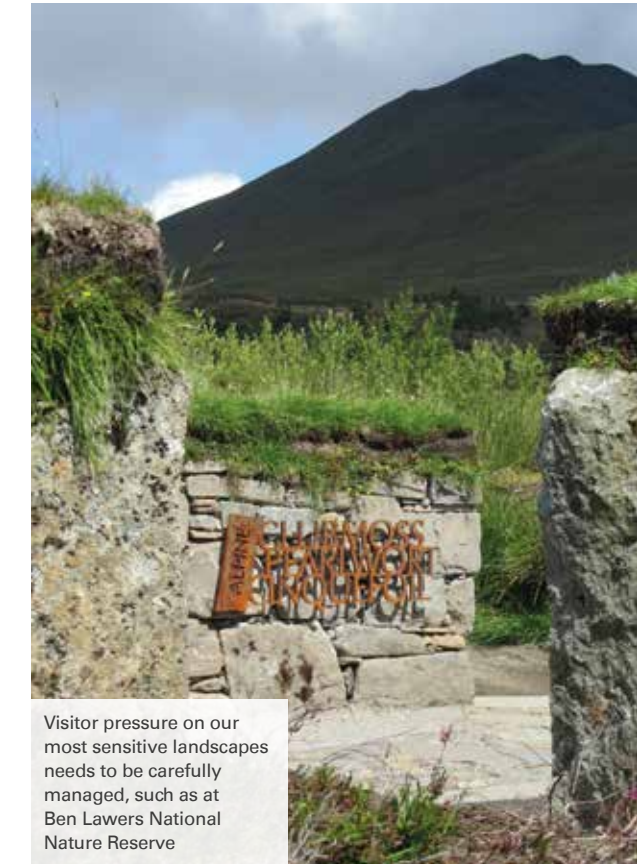
Professor Brian Mark Evans



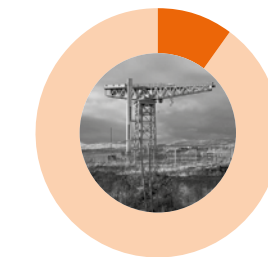
1st

Scotland voted the most beautiful country in the world by Rough Guides readers

Rough Guides 2017; Scottish Government Key Scottish Environment Statistics 2016



Visitor pressure on our most sensitive landscapes needs to be carefully managed, such as at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve



10%

increase in total amount of derelict and vacant urban land between 2009 and 2015, to 12,674 hectares

Face up to climate change

Climate change is already transforming the way we live. If trends continue we can expect rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events, affecting all of our human and biological communities.

The Scottish Government's new Climate Change Bill will set more ambitious targets to reduce emissions, and its programme for government pledges to develop low-emission zones in cities, invest in active travel and boost the low-carbon economy.

The way a place is designed can help these aims become reality – landscape professionals have the expertise to plan safe and attractive active-travel routes, for

example, and good landscape design can mitigate the impact of renewable energy infrastructure on our landscapes.

Resilience must be at the heart of policy. Green infrastructure should form the framework for new development. Multifunctional landscapes such as wetlands help to control flooding and support biodiversity, while making a place distinctive and improving the setting of development.

As landscape professionals, we take a holistic and landscape-scale, research-led approach to development, working with business to deliver places that can flourish in a changing climate.



People want to reconnect with nature and they want to transform underused land to produce clean air clean water, good microclimates and good food. They recognise the urgent need to capture carbon and to create landscapes teeming with wildlife. They want to be protected from flooding and they want access to land for health and wellbeing. The landscape profession is best placed to deliver these aspirations.

Merrick Denton-Thomson OBE, President of the Landscape Institute



Queen Margaret University campus in Edinburgh benefits from a series of attractive ponds which treat and delay rainwater so that downstream flooding is prevented; in the process, valuable wetland, woodland and meadow habitats have been created, integrated with healthy walking trails, and strong environmental credentials were achieved (BREEAM and CEEQUAL Excellent)

Ian White Associates; Alamy



Flood defence works have allowed the creation of an attractive public riverside realm in Perth



2kg

carbon emissions saved every time you walk or cycle a journey under three miles instead of drive



27%

increase in rainfall since 1961



54%

of our electricity needs came from renewables in 2016, compared to 28% in 2009

Quotes on pages 7,8,10,13 and 15 are from *Growing Awareness: How green consciousness can change perception and places*, Ed. Brian Evans and Sue Evans, RIAS, 2016; Carbon Trust, 2006; Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Scottish Government Energy Statistics Survey



Why we need to urgently redouble our efforts

Scotland is known internationally for the quality of its landscape, natural capital and built heritage. To continue to uphold this deserved international reputation we need to be alive to the changes that we face in the 21st century. Through my work for the UN it is clear that the developed nations of the north face a cocktail of change within the existential forces of climate change: we are living longer but fertility rates are dropping; automation is pregnant with threat and opportunity; and immigration to the north and to the city remains a constant trend.

We are good at explaining why landscape and natural capital are important as a resource, and decision makers and the public know it as a 'good thing'. But we have so much, it is often taken for granted. We need to redouble our focus on why landscape and natural capital are important to people's daily lives – the way we live and the way we work – and essential to our wellbeing and prosperity. That is the mission of this document.

Fragmentation of the urban ecosystem does not happen overnight – that takes time and carelessness. Every new dual carriageway, new power line and wind farm is pored over and decided upon – but for the contribution to mobility or energy security. The threat of creeping industrialisation of our landscape creates attrition of the very resource that Scotland is internationally renowned for – a clean, green and accessible country.

Landscape change is slow and pernicious: it is cumulative, and when finally obvious to all is hard, if not impossible, to reverse. Change needs to be designed not only to mitigate the effect on landscape but to positively contribute to its enhancement. This is a mindset that needs to permeate daily decision making.

In Scotland, we have the technology and the capability to address these challenges but this needs our landscape and natural capital to be an equal and central pillar of community and business development in the prosecution of Scotland's Programme for Government.

Professor Brian Mark Evans, Professor of Urbanism and Landscape at Glasgow School of Art

scotland.landscapeinstitute.org



We will create a legacy which will be there for all to see – rendered in our buildings, streets, squares and places. This will be a tangible expression of who we are as a country, and what we want to be. It is only by aligning our efforts and working together that we will create places that serve our communities, inspire future generations and define our contribution to the world.

Creating Places, a policy statement on architecture and place in Scotland, Scottish Government 2013

Alamy



Norway's National Scenic Routes scheme allows human interaction with stunning natural landscapes



Landscape is about the relationship between people and place. It provides the setting for our day-to-day lives

Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland

Growth and investment ... rely on the continuing environmental quality of our countryside, infrastructure and the sustainable use of our natural resources

National Planning Framework 2014

One thing that is clear is that creating great places also delivers better returns for the owners of our business

Mark Clare, former group chief executive, Barratt Developments plc.

To allow our businesses to seize opportunities, it is incumbent on us to provide the environment and conditions which will allow our businesses and people to innovate

A Nation with Ambition: The Government's Programme for Scotland, 2017-18

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

We would love to hear from you and continue the discussion, so please get in touch with us.

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Produced by Think
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