



## Background

The landscape of Wester Ross is well known for its beauty and outstanding scenery and in 1980 this was recognised nationally with much of Wester Ross designated as a National Scenic Area. This is the largest of 40 NSAs identified across Scotland. In 1998-99 Scottish Natural Heritage undertook a review of the designation and put forward a series of recommendations to the Scottish Executive that would ensure that the NSA became an effective tool in the management of Scotland's scenic assets. One of these recommendations was the preparation of a Management Strategy for each NSA.

## Pilot Management Strategies

To clearly understand and assess how a Management Strategy could be prepared and what it could deliver for a NSA, two pilot projects were set up, one in Dumfries and Galloway and one here in Wester Ross. The intention was to identify those qualities which merit national designation, and set out the objectives and actions required for the safeguarding and enhancement of each NSA.

In Wester Ross a partnership was set up with The Highland Council and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2001 to prepare a Management Strategy. A NSA project officer was employed for 19 months and a steering group established to help guide the process. The project sought to establish through a participative approach a close dialogue with the local community in the preparation of the Management Strategy and also to draw in the views and interests from national bodies.

## Content and Scope

The NSA Management Strategy covers the range of issues that affect and interact with the landscape of Wester Ross, from crofting and agriculture to recreation and tourism.

It begins by describing the landscape of Wester Ross in terms of its character, the quality of wildness that can be experienced, and identifies seven scenic qualities that make Wester Ross a particularly scenic landscape:

- ◆ expansive space and distance
- ◆ sense of height and vertical scale
- ◆ uneven shape
- ◆ indented coastline
- ◆ sense of mass
- ◆ sense of naturalness
- ◆ richness of detail

The document then outlines the natural and human influences that have shaped the landscape we see and experience today. The activities and main issues that are affecting the landscape are outlined, with the key issues to be addressed by the Management Strategy identified for agriculture and crofting, woodlands, aquaculture and inshore fishing, housing development and settlements, infrastructure, recreation and tourism and cultural heritage. The validity of the NSA boundary and potential suggestions for its rationalisation are made.

The strategy is focused on a central vision - ***to identify, safeguard and enhance the outstanding landscape of the NSA always recognising that this should go hand in hand with the support and development of the economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the communities in the area.*** This vision is underpinned by a set of key principles, namely community involvement, partnership and integration, sustainability, high quality development, special support, national importance and the NSA as a management unit. The strategy then puts forwards aims and actions that seek to safeguard the outstanding quality of the Wester Ross landscape. The principal aims are:

- ◆ Landscape and scenic resource - to safeguard and enhance the landscape, scenic and wild land resources of the Wester Ross NSA.
- ◆ Agriculture and crofting - to maintain the contribution of working crofts and agricultural land to the Wester Ross NSA and guide change so as to safeguard and enhance the landscape.
- ◆ Woodland - to support woodland management, expansion and related activity in Wester Ross in appropriate locations which safeguards and enhances the NSA's landscape and provides opportunities for people to enjoy and benefit from it.
- ◆ Open hill - to encourage management of open hill and freshwater systems that increase their natural biodiversity and safeguards and enhances their contribution to the NSA's landscape.
- ◆ Aquaculture - to support the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry that safeguards and enhances the landscape of the NSA.
- ◆ Housing, settlement and development - to see settlements develop to meet their requirements within their physical and infrastructural capacities while safeguarding and enhancing the NSA's landscape and ensuring that the individual character of each settlement is strengthened.
- ◆ Infrastructure - to ensure necessary infrastructure development safeguards and enhances the landscape of the NSA.
- ◆ Recreation and tourism - to encourage enjoyment of the area in a responsible and knowledgeable manner which provides a high quality experience for all users, supports the needs of local people, business and land managers and maintains or enhances the qualities of the NSA.
- ◆ Heritage and understanding – to raise awareness and increase understanding amongst local communities (especially young people) and the wider public of the special qualities and value of the NSA recognising the local culture, Gaelic language, history and traditions that relate to the maintenance, use and understanding of the landscape of Wester Ross NSA.

Finally the strategy sets out how The Highland Council and Scottish Natural Heritage hope to take forward the successful implementation of the strategy. A separate action plan is being developed to sit alongside this Management Strategy.



# IOMRADH GNÌOMHA

## Eachdraidh

Tha sgìre Rois an Iar ainmeil airson bòidhchead agus seallaidhean sònraichte. Chaidh seo aithneachadh gu nàiseanta ann an 1980 nuair a chaidh mòran de Ros an Iar a chomharrachadh mar Sgìre Bòidhchead Nàiseanta. Seo an sgìre as motha dhe leithid a-mach à 40 air feadh Alba. Ann an 1998-99, rinn Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba sgrùdadh air a' chomharrachadh, SBN. Chuir iad molaidhean gu Pàrlamaid na h-Alba a dhèanadh cinnteach gum biodh comharrachadh SBN èifeachdach mar dhòigh air seallaidhean iongantach na h-Alba a stiùireadh. B' e fear dhe na molaidhean ro-innleachd stiùiridh ullachadh airson gach SBN.

## Ro-innleachdan Rannsachadh Stiùiridh

Chaidh dà phroiseact a chur air chois, aon ann an Dun Phris 's Gall-Ghaidhealaibh agus am fear eile an seo ann an Ros an Iar, airson beachdachadh 's measadh a dhèanamh air ciamar a dh'fhaodadh ro-innleachd airson stiùiridh ullachadh agus dè a' bhuanachd a bheireadh seo do SBN.. Bhuidhe seo bha e na amas a bhith ag aithneachadh na puingeann a bha airidh air comharrachadh nàiseanta, agus amasan a stèidheachadh airson na tha ri dhèanamh airson gach SBN a dhìon agus a leasachadh.

Ann an Ros an Iar thàinig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba còmhla ann an 2001 airson ro-innleachd stiùiridh ullachadh do SBN Rois an Iar. Chaidh oifigear fhastadh dhan phroiseact airson 19 mìosan agus chaidh buidheann stiùiridh a stèidheachadh airson an obair a chuideachadh air adhart. Dh'fheumadh am pròiseict obair dluth leis a' choimhearsnachd ann a bhith ag ullachadh an ro-innleachd stiùiridh agus cuideachd beachdan fhaighinn bho bhuidhnean nàiseanta.

## Susbaint agus Farsaingeachd

Tha ro-innleachd stiùiridh SBN a' còmhdach gach cùis a tha a' bualadh air sealladh na tìre ann an Ros an Iar bho croitearachd 's àiteachas gu cur-seachadan 's turasachd.

Tha tuairisgeul ann an toiseach de shealladh na tìre ann an Ros an Iar. Tha seo a' gabhail a-steach gnè an àite 's an seòrsa iomallachd a tha ann, agus tha e a' cur seachd comharran bòidhchid an cèill a tha a' ciallachadh gu bheil an tìr seo air leth àlainn:

- ◆ farsaingeachd 's astaran mòra
- ◆ àirde 's scèile dhìreach
- ◆ cruth stacach
- ◆ oirthir eagach

- ◆ seagh tomaid
- ◆ seagh nàdarrachd
- ◆ iomadh seòrsa sealladh

Tha am paipear an uair sin a toirt iomradh air a' bhuidh a tha nàdair agus daoine air a thoirt air sealladh na tìre a chì sinn an-diugh. Tha iomradh air a thoirt air na gnìomhan agus na cùisean a tha a' toirt buaidh air sealladh na tìre, leis na prìomh chùisean airson coimhead ris ann an ro-innleachd an stiùiridh air an comharrachadh airson àiteachas 's croitearachd, coilltean, àiteachas uisge 's iasgach mu na cladaichean, leasachadh taigheadais 's tuineachaidhean, bun-structair, cur-seachadan, turasachd 's dualchas. Tha dearbhadh ann air crìochan na SBN agus molaidhean co-cheangailte ris.

Tha aon amas aig cridhe na ro-innleachd – ***sealladh tìre sònraichte na SBN a chomharrachadh, a dhìon agus a leasachadh agus a bhith an-còmhnaidh mothachail gum bu chòir seo a bhith a' dol air adhart le taic agus leasachadh airson math eaconamach, àrainneachdail, sòisealta is dualchasach nan coimhearsnachdan san sgìre.*** Tha an t-amas seo stèidhichte air prìomh phrionnsabailean. 'S e sin a' choimhearsnachd a bhith an sàs ann, co-bhanntachd 's amalachas, seasmhachd, leasachadh aig sàr ìre, taic shònraichte, cudrom nàiseanta agus an SBN mar aonad stiùiridh. Tha an ro-innleachd an uair sin a' cur amasan agus rudan a dh'fheumar a dhèanamh air adhart, gus an sealladh tìre sònraichte a tha ann an Ros an Iar a dhìon.

Na prìomh amasan:

- ◆ Sealladh na tìre agus stòras bòidheach – sealladh na tìre agus àitichean bòidheach, iomallach SBN Rois an Iar a dhìon.
- ◆ Àiteachas agus croitearachd – an t-àite a tha aig croitean a tha gan obrachadh agus aig talamh àiteachais ann an SBN Rois an Iar a chumail a' dol agus atharrachadh a stiùireadh ann an dòigh a dhionas agus a leasaicheas sealladh na tìre.
- ◆ Coilltean – taic a chur ri stiùireadh coilltean, agus obair co-cheangailte ris an leudachadh ann an Ros an Iar ann an àitichean iomchaidh a dhionas agus a leasaicheas sealladh tìre na SBN agus a bheir cothroman do dhaoine a mhealtainn agus buannachd fhaighinn às.
- ◆ Monadh fosgailte – brosnachadh a thoirt do stiùireadh siostaman uisge ùr is monadh fosgailte a bhios a' leudachadh bith-iomadachd nàdarra agus a' dìon agus a' leudachadh an t-àite a tha aca ann an sealladh tìre na SBN.
- ◆ Àiteachas uisge – taic a thoirt do leasachadh seasmhach ann an gnìomhachas àiteachas uisge a dhionas agus a leasaicheas sealladh tìre na SBN.
- ◆ Taigheadas, tuineachadh 's leasachadh – tuineachaidhean fhaicinn a' leasachadh a-rèir am feumalachdan taobh a-staigh de chomas is bun-structair an àite, ach a' dìon agus a' leasachadh sealladh tìre na SBN agus a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil gnè gach tuineachadh air a neartachadh.
- ◆ Bun-structair – a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil leasachadh riatanach ann am bun-structair, a' dìon agus a' leasachadh sealladh tìre na SBN.
- ◆ Cur-seachadan 's turasachd – a' brosnachadh daoine gu bhith a' mealtainn na sgìre ann an dòigh a tha ciallach is eòlach ach an còrd i gu mòr ris a h-uile duine, gum bi i a' toirt taic do dh'fheumalachdan muinntir an àite, stiùirichean fearainn 's gnìomhachais agus a' gleidheil no a' leasachadh inbhe na SBN.
- ◆ Dualchas 's tuigse – mothachadh 's tuigse a leudachadh 's na coimhearsnachdan ( gu h-àraidh am measg na h-òigridh) agus am measg an t-sluaigh, air luach 's feartan sònraichte na SBN ann a bhith ag aithneachadh an dualchas ionadail, Gàidhlig, eachdraidh 's cleachdaidhean a tha a' buntainn ri bhith a' cumail suas, a' cleachdadh agus a' tuigsinn sealladh tìre SBN Rois an Iar.

San àite mu dheireadh tha an ro-innleachd a' cur an cèill mar a tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba an dòchas an ro-innleachd a chur an gnìomh ann an dòigh a bhios soirbheachail. Tha plana gnìomh air leth ga leasachadh a thèid an cois na ro-innleachd stiùiridh seo.