

# Landscape Institute Scotland

Inspiring great places

Wild Land Consultation  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Great Glen House  
Inverness  
IV3 8NW

19<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Dear Sirs

## **SNH Core Areas of Wild Land 2013 Map**

### **Consultation Response**

#### **Introduction**

The Landscape Institute (LI) is the chartered institute in the United Kingdom for landscape architects, incorporating designers, managers, and scientists, concerned with conserving and enhancing the environment.

The LI is an educational charity and chartered body whose purpose is to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public. The LI is committed to the principles of sustainable development by improving the quality of design of urban and rural environments and to the protection and enhancement of our physical and natural environments.

The LI's Scottish Branch (LIS) represents the professional membership within Scotland and is particularly concerned with design, management and planning for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment of Scotland.

Many members have experience of providing landscape advice to developers, local authorities and statutory consultees on all aspects of landscape architecture including landscape planning, site selection, siting, design, landscape and visual impact assessment, construction and research into the as-built effects of development proposals.

Our members work in the public sector, private sector and the voluntary sector and LIS welcomes the opportunity to respond on behalf of members to this consultation on SNH's Core Areas of Wild Land 2013 Map. LIS invited all members to comment and contribute to the LIS response to this consultation paper both in discussion and online. The LIS response to the three questions posed in the consultation paper is therefore a co-ordinated response to the points raised by members in that consultation process.

## CONTEXT

On November 21, 2006 the UK government announced that it had ratified the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention (ELC). The Convention's aims are to promote protection, management and planning of all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape. It aims to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.

LIS has signed the Scottish Landscape Charter (October 2010) which identifies the importance of Scotland's landscapes and sets out principles that should guide further action in support of maintaining and thereby sustaining the quality and distinctiveness of Scottish landscapes.

## LIS RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

LIS would like to offer our answers and some insights to the three questions in the consultation paper and associated maps. These are contained in the attached Consultation Response Form as requested which is submitted with this covering letter.

As you will see from our response, LIS is supportive of the intention of the map to identify the Core Areas of Wild land as published in April 2013. However this support is qualified by the points LIS raises in answering the three questions in the consultation paper that revolve around the issues of:

- definitions of wildness and Core Wild Land;
- further verification of how the areas on the 2013 map were determined;
- status of the mapped areas and how to use and apply the map.

LIS believes it and its members have a key role in bringing specialist professional skills to assist in developing planning policy that has a landscape dimension, through sound assessment, evaluation, design, communication and consideration of potential landscape change that may result from planning and policy applications and considerations.

With this in mind, LIS would like to offer thanks on behalf of the membership, for the opportunity to take part in this important consultation exercise and would be happy to discuss further any of the points raised in our response.

Yours faithfully,

Rebecca Hughes,  
Policy and Development Officer, Landscape Institute Scotland