



Refertilising Wester Ross 7th, 8th and 9th April 2016



With in-kind support from:



This three-day gathering is intended for anyone (including youngsters on their school holidays) interested in learning more about the (human-) ecology of Wester Ross, wildlife management (including deer and fish) and producing food from the land. Two outdoor excursions are planned (wrap up well . . .), one on either side of an indoor meeting in Gairloch. All welcome!

Thursday 7th April: Field trip, Beinn Eighe NNR & Glen Torridon. Meet by the Beinn Eighe NNR Visitor Centre at 10am. Bring walking boots, warm waterproof clothing, some food and a hot drink. Local land managers Doug Bartholomew (Beinn Eighe NNR); Charlie Hill (Beinn Damph Estate) and Seamus MacNally (NTS Torridon) are planning to join us. We'll head up the Pony Path from near the NNR visitor centre to consider how fertility, productivity and biodiversity (the diversity of plants and animals) can be affected by wildlife management as well as by more direct human impacts. Afternoon field excursion to deer & sheep grazing areas near the head of Glen Torridon. Meet at the car park opposite Loch an Iasgair at 2:30pm. **Free!**

Friday 8th April: 'Refertilising Wester Ross' workshop. Gairloch Community Hall, 9:45am - 16:30pm

Chairman: Prof Dave Barclay.

10:10 Peter Cunningham (WRFT) *'Fertility sources & nutrient cycling in Wester Ross'*

10:40 Dr James Merryweather (WREN & SLEF) *'Now you see it? No you don't!'*

Tea break

11:30 Dr Scott Newey (Hutton Institute) *'Deer Carcasses, scavengers, soil nutrients & invertebrates'*

12:00 Dr Adam Smith (GWCT) *'Moorland fertilisation: a wild grouse chase?'*

Lunch

13:20 Simon McKelvey (Cromarty FT) *'Nutrient Restoration in Upland Streams'*

13:50 Prof Davy McCracken (SRUC) *'What future for hill farming and crofting?'*

Tea break & Workshop session

15:00 Presentation(s) from High School pupils . . . [titles to follow!]

15:30 Conclusions of workshop session & general discussion 16:15 Summing up.

Cost: £8 per person (under 18's £4) . . . to help to cover the cost of hiring the hall & soup lunch.

Saturday 9th April: Field trip, 10am – 1pm. Meet at the Sands Archaeology Trails car park (1 mile beyond Sands Caravan and Camping). We'll walk up onto the hill to consider issues such as how grazing pressure and muirburn can affect fertility and the production of food for livestock and wildlife, consider the value of scrub woodland and a small patch of ancient oak woodland, discuss fertility management, and possibly count skylarks . . . Local land managers (& everyone else) invited. Further details at workshop on Friday 8th April. **Free!**

For more information & to book place on field trips & at the workshop, please contact Peter Cunningham by 4th April 2016:

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