

# Maximising the Margins – Agenda

Scottish Land & Estates Annual Conference 2019

The Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh

15th May 2019

9.00 – 10.00

## **Breakfast reception and exhibition**

Registration, informal networking breakfast and exhibition

10.00 – 10.05

## **Introduction**

Ken Rundle, conference chair

10.05 – 10.15

## **Welcome address**

David Johnstone, Chairman of Scottish Land & Estates

10.15 – 10.30

## **Keynote speech**

Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural Environment

10.30-10.45

## **Status Quo is not an option**

Sarah-Jane Laing, SLE Executive Director

10.45-11.00

David Johnstone SLE Chairman & SLE Executive Director Sarah-Jane Laing will take questions from the floor.

11.00 – 12.20

## **The lie of the land**

Our series of expert speakers will build on several of the themes addressed in the keynote, examining particular threats and opportunities for remote and fragile areas in more detail.

1. Professor Davy McCracken, Head of Department of Integrated Land Management and Head of Hill & Mountain Research Centre, SRUC  
*Setting the scene*
2. Simon Hart, EGGER Forestry  
*Is forestry the big Game Changer?*
3. Graeme McNaughton, Barclays  
*Funding & Financing Diversification*
4. Athole McKillop, Galbraith  
*The realities of delivering public goods from private land*

5. Mark Tennant, Vice-Chair Policy Scottish Land & Estates  
Developing the Markets – funding the move to net zero

Followed by a brief panel discussion with questions from the chair

12.20 – 13.20

**Lunch, networking and exhibition**

13.20 – 13.45

**Facing up to Reality – What is the future for Scotland's marginal areas**

Jamie Blackett, Arbigland Estate

13.45 – 14.45

**Lessons from the ground**

Always one of the most popular features of our conference, member case studies help to share best practice, new innovations and problems to avoid

1. Dee Ward, Rottal Estates  
*Holistic approach to upland estate management*
2. David Fuller-Shapcott, J. N. Fuller-Shapcott & Co. Sweethope Farm  
*Arable Innovation*
3. Edward Tennant, Innes Estate  
*Future proofing a traditional estate*
4. Grace Noble Aberdeenshire Highland Beef & David Smart, Leys Estate  
*Supporting tenants businesses development*
5. Duncan McConchie, Laggan Outdoors  
*Maximising income from marginal land*

Followed by an audience Q&A

14.45 – 15.05

**Refreshments, networking and exhibition**

15.05 – 16.00

**Panel debate**

Marginal areas often pose the most intriguing challenges for land managers and local communities, requiring fresh thinking to maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits. Our varied panel of guests will provide their own perspectives on how best to face the future.

- Eleanor Kay, Policy Adviser (Agriculture & Forestry) Scottish Land & Estates
- Rob Yorke, Rural Commentator
- John Fyall, Sheep Farmer
- Andrew Howard, Moray Estates, member of SCDI

A panel discussion which will include an opportunity for Q&A from audience

16.00 – 16.10

**Concluding remarks**

David Johnstone, Chairman of Scottish Land & Estates

16.10 – 17.10

**Networking drinks reception and exhibitor engagement**

Includes address from 16.15-16.20 on behalf of Gift of Grouse by Tim Baynes, Scottish Land & Estates, Moorland Group Director

17.10

**Close**