

Chiene+Tait

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Rory Kennedy, Partner at Chiene + Tait, will chair this discussion about the opportunities and challenges presented by rewilding, and from different land-use perspectives. The subject has become synonymous with land reform however the aim is to separate the two and examine areas where rewilding can exist in parallel with existing commercial land use.

Rewilding is a broad term with emotive connotations. While the subject of lynx reintroduction is hugely divisive, the other end of the spectrum is existing agri-environment schemes. In light of Brexit and divergence from CAP, it is likely that the long term future of our grant regime will be

weighted increasingly towards agri-environment schemes rather than the historical basis of food production. The economic, social and biodiversity issues surrounding rewilding and related initiatives will provide plenty of grounds for lively debate.

Rory leads Chiene + Tait's rural estates sector team. Rory advises on major rural property, leisure and regeneration projects. A passionate field sports enthusiast, he is current Chairman of SACS, an active member of the SCA and on the judging panel for the Scottish Rural Awards. To complete the circle, he is on the GWCT West of Scotland committee and a member of the JMT.

Rewilding Opportunities for the working estate?

Your line up of speakers and panellists include:

- David Balharry, Scotland Director, Rewilding Britain
- Andrew Gilruth, Director of Communications, GWCT
- Alex Stoddart, Director, Scottish Association for Country Sports
- Stuart Brooks, Chief Executive, John Muir Trust
- Jamie Stewart, Director, Scottish Countryside Alliance
- George Milne, Scottish Regional Development Officer, National Sheep Association



David Balharry

As well as an obvious passion for rewilding, David has a wealth of experience gained from a career in land management advisory and land use policy. This includes roles with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Government, the Deer Commission for Scotland, acting CEO of the Crofting Commission and an environmental consultant for Bidwells. David has an honours degree in Zoology and a PhD in Ecology. He has a deep love of the great outdoors, including taking an active role in deer management/ stalking.



Jamie Stewart

Originally from Mull of Kintyre, Jamie is a keen naturalist and started his career as a gamekeeper and stalker, before obtaining a BSc in Biology/ Wildlife Management. He then became conservation project officer for both RSPB (Native Greylag Goose Project) and then SNH (White tailed Sea Eagle project). Along with his obvious fieldsports lobbying role, Jamie has transformed the SCA, shifting a large amount of its lobbying focus onto economic development, youth employment and rural infrastructure issues.



Stuart Brooks

After studying geography at Newcastle University, Stuart joined the Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1995 supporting a European peatland project. It was there that Stuart co-authored a peatland management handbook and was involved in a large range of habitat and species conservation initiatives in many countries around the world. He joined the John Muir Trust as Chief Executive in 2009, holds positions on various conservation and land management bodies and is currently Chairman of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Andrew Gilruth

Andrew is a key spokesman for GWCT and regularly writes articles on a vast range of conservation and land management issues. Included in his debating credentials is representing shooting on the panel of the World Land Trust 'Controversial Conservation' event, which saw him debate against Chris Packham, Bill Oddie and Mark Avery.



Alex Stoddart

Originally from a Gaelic-speaking crofting family on Skye, Alex has had a colourful and varied career, included working as a professional deer stalker and within an organisational role at RSPB. Alex is a passionate advocate for field sports and its diverse participant base. He has a particular interest in deer management and is involved in initiatives such as the Moorland Forum.



George Milne

Formerly the Scottish Chair for a number of years, George's development role at the National Sheep Association coincided with the foot and mouth crisis and the cataclysmic impacts across the industry. George is also a board member of Quality Meat Scotland and also runs his own beef and sheep farm near St Andrews.

Please join us at the Scottish Countryside Alliance stand at Gamekeepers Row (next to the main ring) following the event to continue the debate. We will also be serving tea and cakes from 1pm.