

# 'Ecological Networks: Science and Practice'

**ialeUK**  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY • UK REGION

ialeUK 2009 conference  
1st - 3rd September 2009, Edinburgh  
**Announcement and Call for Papers**

**Conference:**  
1st – 3rd September 2009  
University of Edinburgh

**Field excursions:**  
3rd September 2009  
Loch Lomond and the  
Trossachs National Park –  
Edinburgh and the Lothians



## Proposed Conference Plenary Themes

**Day 1 (Science):** Measuring Connectivity, Dispersal Processes, Landscape Genetics

**Day 2 (Practice):** Spatial Planning, Ecosystem Services, Network Implementation,

*An open session will be available on each day for submissions that meet the broad theme of the conference. It should be noted that any conceptual or model-based submissions should be supported by appropriate empirical observations and validation wherever possible.*

**Abstract Submission Deadline:** 1 April 2009

**Completed Paper Submission Deadline:** 29 May 2009

Poster and presentation format guides can be found at [iale.org.uk](http://iale.org.uk)

Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words to the following email address:  
[proceedings2009@iale.org.uk](mailto:proceedings2009@iale.org.uk) Please note that submissions after this date will not generally be considered.

## Conference Workshops

Spatial Data and Decision  
Support Systems  
(Kevin Watts,  
Forest Research)

Engagement Methods and  
Advocacy Tools  
(Mike Townsend,  
Woodland Trust)

SNH Land Use Decision  
Support Tool  
(Phil Baarda, Scottish  
Natural Heritage)

Lake District. © Pete Carey



Forest Research



Scottish Natural Heritage  
All of nature for all of Scotland



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## Welcome

The UK chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology would like to warmly invite you to its 16th Annual Meeting. The theme of the conference reflects the unique links that this organisation has between science and practice.

The integrative nature of landscape ecology makes it highly relevant to conservation and land use planning in the 21st century. Although ecological networks have been a long-established aspect of European land use planning and conservation, they are a relatively new concept in the UK which has traditionally focussed on site-based activities. In the face of rapid environmental change, there is a growing consensus that complementary approaches are needed. Scotland has been chosen because this need has been widely embraced at both the political and practical levels.

The aim of this international meeting is twofold: to review the empirical foundations for the design and implementation of ecological networks and to consider how this evidence has been used in practice in different countries. Field trips to the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park and the Edinburgh & Lothians area are planned to demonstrate implementation strategies that are in progress and provide a practical focus for discussion. The meeting will also include three short, informal workshops on the use of spatial data and decision support systems, an SNH land use planning tool and the use of stakeholder engagement and policy influencing techniques. We hope that these interactive workshops will help build capacity for ecological network design and implementation, particularly amongst practitioners. We look forward to welcoming you to the historic city of Edinburgh and hope you will be able to join us.

**Dr Roger Catchpole**

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Strath Fillan, near Criannlarich. © Lorne Gill/SNH

## Plenary Session Speakers

**Prof Santiago Saura** is currently an associate professor at the Polytechnic University of Madrid. He also holds a post at the University of Lleida, where he coordinates the Landscape Planning, Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation Research Group and is an affiliate researcher at the Forest Technology Centre of Catalonia. His main research interests are quantitative methods in landscape ecology, landscape connectivity, forest biodiversity indicators, scale analysis, forest inventory and forest planning. Most recently he has focused on the development of improved approaches and quantitative tools for the analysis of landscape connectivity which has resulted in the Conefor Sensinode application (version 2.2 is freely available for download from [www.conefor.udl.es/](http://www.conefor.udl.es/)). For further information on this speaker please see: <http://www.udl.es/usuaris/saura>

**Dr Phill Watts** is a lecturer at the University of Liverpool, where he is a member of “conservation biology” and “marine and freshwater systems” research groups. His research group employs contemporary genomic technology to determine the spatio-temporal dynamics of key life-history parameters on a variety of endangered and microbial species, and to assess the impact of the landscape structure on spatial genetics and adaptive divergence. He has also used molecular-genetic methods to address applied problems, such as the definition of conservation areas, identification of the sources of biological invasions as well as exploring the effect of anthropogenic change on dispersal capability and genetic diversity. Further information about his current research projects and publications can be found at: [http://www.liv.ac.uk/bio/people/academic/watts\\_p/](http://www.liv.ac.uk/bio/people/academic/watts_p/)

**Dr Rob Jongman** is a landscape ecologist with experience in river ecology, nature conservation planning and environmental monitoring. His doctoral research was on ecology, planning and policy in river systems. This subsequently led him to work on major projects in South America where he modelled river landscapes and water processes. He has published two textbooks on multivariate analysis and ecological networks. Since 1990 he has been closely involved with the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network through a secondment to the European

Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and other associated work. His current research interests include the application of academic ecological knowledge to ‘real-world’ problems and the interaction between science and practice.

**Duncan Stone** is a senior scientific advisor to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) with extensive applied experience in woodland ecology. After completing his degree in Forestry at Aberdeen University and working for a commercial forestry company in the Borders and Aberdeenshire he joined Scottish Natural Heritage as an adviser on conservation issues in agriculture, crofting, forestry and deer management. He now leads a team of SNH advisers covering similar issues. During the last six years he has led on the development and application of landscape ecology principles in woodland management which has involved a close collaboration with Forest Research. He is interested in a number of other areas that include the impact of deer on semi-natural vegetation, land use policy development and climate change adaptation.

**Dr Paula Harrison** is a Senior Research Fellow within the Terrestrial Ecology Group of the Environmental Change Institute at the Oxford University Centre for the Environment where she has worked since 1991. She has worked on the application of mathematical models to analyse climate change impacts and adaptation options for biodiversity and ecosystems in both Britain and Europe. Her current research interests include the development and testing of robust analytical frameworks for quantifying links between biodiversity and ecosystem service provision, assessing the ecological resilience of service-providing populations to drivers of change, and conservation planning for ecosystem services. She is the co-ordinator of the European Commission RUBICODE project (2006-2009) which is investigating the effects of various drivers of change on the provision of ecosystem services through a series of review exercises and stakeholder workshops.

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Taken from Waddington Fell, The Forest of Bowland AONB. © Graham Cooper

## Conference Workshops

### Spatial Data and Decision Support Systems

*(Kevin Watts, Forest Research).*

### Engagement Methods and Advocacy Tools

*(Mike Townsend, Woodland Trust).*

### SNH Land Use Decision Support Tool

*(Phil Baarda, Scottish Natural Heritage).*

## Field Trip

The field trip has been designed to present two contrasting situations in which the application of ecological network concepts are actively being considered. The first is the Great Trossachs Forest Regeneration Initiative which is located near Loch Katrine in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. This is a £2m, multi-agency project that is using a network orientated approach to target woodland regeneration management within a culturally sensitive landscape. The second focuses on the work of the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Partnership. This was established in 2008 to co-ordinate the development of social forestry initiatives across this region of Scotland. It is a multi-agency project that is seeking to develop a 40-year vision that explicitly links forest management with social, economic and environmental benefits using an ecological network approach.

## Conference Venue and Location

The conference venue is run by the University of Edinburgh and is situated on George Square, which is in the heart of the Old Town. The George Square complex offers modern, fully-equipped facilities with large exhibition and registration areas and a variety of seminar rooms. The accommodation is also centrally located, within a short walking distance from George Square. Pollock Halls lie within the shadow of Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh's ancient volcano. The Royal Mile, Edinburgh Castle and Palace of Holyroodhouse are all within easy reach. High quality, single en-suite rooms will be available but should delegates require different arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Evelyn Hall.

## Key Contacts

**Conference Bookings:** Ms Evelyn Hall, Forest Research, Northern Research Station, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9SY.

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Email: [evelyn.hall@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:evelyn.hall@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**Field Trip:** Phil Baarda, Scottish Natural Heritage, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW.

Tel: +44 (0)1463 725 208. Email: [phil.baarda@snh.gov.uk](mailto:phil.baarda@snh.gov.uk)

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