

# SCOPING A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE UPLANDS

## INTRODUCTION

As the National Mapping Agency for Great Britain, Ordnance Survey's expertise lies in the capturing and maintaining spatially related data. We have been doing this since 1791.

OS welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the Scottish Government's vision for the Scottish uplands, and looks forward to working with key stakeholders going forward.

### **1. WHAT BROAD CHARACTERISTICS SHOULD WE USE TO DEFINE THE UPLANDS? SOME POSSIBLE APPROACHES ARE SUMMARISED IN THE ANNEX TO THIS NOTE.**

In the attached appendix you have highlighted several options such as altitude and land use administrative boundaries. Whilst we do not feel it is our role to comment as to which method is applicable, we do have considerable experience working with Government to identify and depict land use types once a methodology has been agreed. In Scotland we are working closely with all the key stakeholders, including SNH, to develop the second national GreenSpace Map which has similar requirements to identify types of land use.

We would be more than willing to share this experience with the key stakeholders in the development stages of this programme.

### **2. WHAT ARE THE KEY SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THAT THE UPLANDS PROVIDE FOR SCOTLAND?**

We do not feel it is Ordnance Survey's role to comment on this.

### **3. HOW CAN UPLAND LAND USE HELP TO PREVENT OR REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?**

We do not feel it is Ordnance Survey's role to comment on this.

### **4. A STRATEGIC VISION COULD INFORM DECISIONS ABOUT THE BALANCE BETWEEN DIFFERENT LAND USES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE UPLANDS. WHAT ARE THE KEY CHOICES THAT AN UPLAND VISION SHOULD ADDRESS, AND WHY?**

We do not feel it is Ordnance Survey's role to comment on this.

### **5. ARE THERE ANY OTHER TOPICS OR ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN UPLAND VISION, AND IF SO WHY?**

We do not feel it is Ordnance Survey's role to comment on this.

**6. ARE THERE ANY TOPICS OR ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM AN UPLAND VISION, AND IF SO WHY?**

We do not feel it is Ordnance Survey's role to comment on this.

**7. WHICH STAKEHOLDERS DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE, AND HOW? WOULD PARTICULAR APPROACHES BE NEEDED, FOR EXAMPLE, TO REACH PARTICULAR GROUPS?**

We do not feel it is Ordnance Survey's role to comment on this.

**8. WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROCESS THAT MIGHT BE NEEDED TO BRING TOGETHER THE KEY INTERESTS AND DEVELOP A SHARED VISION?**

We have had the opportunity to work with Scottish Government on a number of projects recently, including the Scottish GreenSpace Map, the Digital Rivers Network and the National Coastal Change Assessment. From this experience, we have seen the benefits of developing a shared spatial framework right from the outset to ensure that there is a consistent and maintainable programme for data capture.

We would like to propose that we work closely with the key stakeholders in this project to share this experience to develop the spatial framework for this programme.

**9. WHO WOULD BE BEST PLACED TO LEAD THIS PROCESS?**

We do not feel it is Ordnance Survey's role to comment on this.

**10. WHAT FORM SHOULD A VISION FOR THE UPLANDS TAKE (VISUAL OR DESCRIPTIVE, MAPS, DIAGRAMS OR TEXT)?**

Whilst it is not our role to directly influence how Scottish Government chooses to report on this programme, we do suggest that mapping would be an ideal vehicle to depict this type of geography.

The One Scotland Mapping Agreement (OSMA) has been specifically designed to meet Scottish Governments needs and we have worked closely with this community to meet other policy requirements.

We would propose that we work closely with the key stakeholders to review the options available under the OSMA including how we could develop Open Data to meet Scottish Governments commitments under the Digital Scotland strategy.

## 11. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Our experience has taught us that in these initial stages it is important to develop a shared vision of requirements and agree a methodology for data capture that is achievable and maintainable. An agreed Spatial Framework provides the stakeholders with a methodology for data capture which will in turn ensure that the output is consistent, meets the stated objectives and more importantly is maintainable.

Working across GB, we have several examples where the development of this framework has been a key element to the success of a project. In Scotland specifically, our work with the Scottish GreenSpace Map, the Digital Rivers Network and the National Coastal Change Assessment has highlighted just how important an agreed framework can be

We would like to propose that we work closely with the key stakeholders in this project to share this experience to develop the spatial framework for this programme.

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