



Press Release: 29 June 2016 FOR IMMEDIATE USE

A new virtual Flow Country helps to inspire people about the Peatlands

The Flows to the Future Project led a well attended event on Saturday 25 June at Caithness Horizons, celebrating the launch of the new digital resources that have been recently created as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded project.

Both children and adults enjoyed exploring the peatland landscape by testing their conservation skills and battling for the highest score in the carbon capture game, discovering the sights and sounds of the peatlands through the 3D landscape model or by watching the new 'The Flow Country' film produced by award winning film makers Maramedia.

For both the 3D landscape model and computer game it was the first time they had been seen by the public and provided an excellent opportunity to test them out. Feedback from the day was fantastic; people felt they were a great way to find out more about the Flow Country in a fun and engaging way and looked forward to exploring them in more detail at home.

Dr Roxane Anderson, Peatland Scientist from the Environmental Research Institute in Thurso attended the event and said: “I was delighted to attend the event and see the positive response from the public to the film, the 3D model and the game. The model really brings the Flows to life “virtually” and will be invaluable in raising awareness of this amazing landscape in the UK and even around the world. The game proved very popular with the kids, and I hope it can be used in schools to help them understand how we can have a huge and long-lasting impact on the peatlands, the species that inhabit them but also for our own quality of life by making better management choices.”

The film, 3D landscape model and computer game will soon be available to watch and play on our website www.theflowcountry.org.uk, along with details of future events and lots of information about peatlands. You can also follow and like The Flow Country on Twitter and Facebook.

The Flows to the Future project gratefully acknowledges funding support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

PHOTOGRAPH: The Flow Country 3D landscape model – 5221

The Flow Country Carbon Capture Game – 5212

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Peatlands Partnership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Highland Council, RSPB Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Third Sector Interface, The Flow Country Rivers Trust, The Northern Deer Management Group and The Environmental Research Institute. It liaises with local community groups, the Scottish Government’s Rural

Payments and Inspections Directorate and the North Sutherland Community Forest Trust.

RSPB Scotland is the lead partner in The Flows to the Future project, a Peatlands Partnership project, which gratefully acknowledges funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the following funders and supporters; Environmental Research Institute, European Regional Development Fund, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Peatland Action, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, RSPB, WREN, Scotland Rural Development Programme, Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Tubney Trust.

CONTACT DETAILS

Alan Tissiman RSPB Public Affairs Manager can be contacted on 01463 228810 or 07775 227614 or alan.tissiman@rspb.org.uk

Caroline Eccles Project Manager - Flows to the Future Project, working on behalf of The Peatlands Partnership, Tel. 07590 441475 or caroline.eccles@rspb.org.uk

Ian Mitchell, Secretary, The Peatlands Partnership, c/o Scottish Natural Heritage: Tel 01408 634063 or peatlands_partnership@snh.gov.uk