



Press Release: 11/10/2016

Flows Field Centre Open Day

The Peatlands Partnership's new building opens its doors to the public

On Saturday 22 October the newly completed Flows Field Centre in Forsinard will open its doors to the public for the first time. This open day will give people the opportunity to explore the new centre and take part in a whole host of activities.

Caroline Eccles, Flows to the Future Project Manager, said "With the building only just completed, we couldn't wait to invite local people to come and see what it will have to offer. Rather than a formal opening ceremony, which we will have at some point next year, we are holding an informal open day for local people to come and see for the building for themselves. There will also be a range of family oriented events including art activities, a children's trail and crafts, screenings of our new film 'The Flow Country', a chance to see our new 3D digital landscape model, carbon capture computer game, and the opportunity to find out all about the scientific research that is taking place across the Flow Country.

The building has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other project partners. It was built by O Brien Construction from Thurso.

The new building will significantly increase the scope of work that can be achieved in the area. Kristin Scott, SNH's Area Manager for the Northern Isles and North Highland, explained "the Flow Country has become a key centre for studying how peatlands help us tackle climate change, given their significant role as a carbon store. As well as a laboratory for visiting scientists, the new centre at Forsinard will have an education room and facilities for school groups, new office facilities for RSPB reserve staff and new accommodation for residential volunteers and students."

This event is at the Flows Field Centre, Forsinard on Saturday 22 October from 1 pm to 4 pm.

There will be tea and cake. There is no charge and no booking is required – just turn up, we would be absolutely delighted to see you. The event is open to all.

If you are unable to come along, then you can find out more about what is happening by looking at our website at www.theflowcountry.org.uk or joining us on facebook (The Flow Country) or twitter (@theflowcountry).



Photograph: The Flows Field Centre - Copyright Frazer Gillespie.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The new Flows Field Centre is located at Forsinard on RSPB's Forsinard Flows Nature Reserve, part of which received the accolade of being designated as a National Nature Reserve by Scottish Natural Heritage in September 2016

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. It is independently chaired by John Henderson of Scrabster Farm, Caithness.

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.

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