



Press Release: August 2019

Flow Country event takes Edinburgh by storm.

Below The Blanket is an immersive art event which celebrates the Flow Country of Caithness and Sutherland and is now open in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Described as a 'midsummer night's dream' by The Herald and rated one of the best outdoor art events in Britain this summer by The Times, Below The Blanket is a one-of-a-kind event. It is sharing the importance and beauty of The Flow Country not only with the UK, but with the world, as tourists flock to Edinburgh for its famous Festival and Fringe.

Below The Blanket demonstrates collaboration between artists and scientists to raise awareness of the globally important blanket bogs of The Flow Country and particularly their importance in helping us address the current climate crisis.

The event has been commissioned as part of the National Lottery Heritage funded, "Flows to the Future Project" (a project led by RSPB Scotland). It allows access to the Botanic Gardens at dusk, when they are normally closed to the public, to enjoy a unique perspective on The Flow Country.

A marked trail introduces you to new work from visual artist and composer Kathy Hinde, composer Luci Holland, visual artist Heather Lander and sound designer

Matthew Olden. Artwork takes a range of forms, from umbrellas filled with the song of the skylark, to music created from data gathered by scientists working in the Flow Country and to neon sculptures inspired by Sphagnum moss, an essential peat-forming and carbon capturing plant.

Below The Blanket also features the premiere performances of a choral work composed by Malcolm Lindsay. On the 16th and 23rd of August, Scotland's leading baroque ensemble, the Dunedin Consort, will perform the piece among the Garden's huge cypress trees.

Below The Blanket is open until Sunday, 25 August 2019. For more information visit <http://www.theflowcountry.org.uk/below-the-blanket/>

Photos.

1. Skylarks serenade you from the inside of an umbrella in Kathy Hinde's immersive art. Credit Neil Jarvie
2. Kathy Hinde's artwork is inspired by the importance of water in the Flow Country. Credit Neil Jarvie
3. Luci Holland's sculptures are inspired by sphagnum moss, an important Flow Country plant. Credit Neil Jarvie
4. A meander through the artworks at dusk is sure to cure all fringe festival-induced stress. Credit Neil Jarvie



NOTES TO EDITORS

The Peatlands Partnership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, Forest and Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, The Highland Council, RSPB Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Third Sector Interface, The Flow Country Rivers Trust, and The Environmental Research Institute. It is chaired by Professor Stuart Gibb from the Environmental Research Institute/University of the Highlands and Islands.

RSPB Scotland is the lead partner in The Flows to the Future project, a Peatlands Partnership project, which gratefully acknowledges funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and from the following funders and supporters; Environmental Research Institute, European Regional Development Fund, Forest and Land 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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