



Press Release: 12 December 2018

The Flows come into schools

Christmas trees have been making their way into Sutherland schools during December. The trees have come from areas of deep peat at RSPB Forsinard Flows in the Flow Country, where they have been taken out as part of a major restoration project.

The children from Farr, Melvich and Tongue Primary Schools learnt that whilst trees are usually good for wildlife, when conifers are planted on deep peat they cause damage by drying it out. Peatland plants and animals also do not like to live in the non-native plantations.

The children used their senses to explore a little bog in a box that was brought into the schools, especially the special sphagnum moss that eventually becomes peat. They also found out more about the animals and plants that depend on a healthy peatland environment, and then made natural decorations for the Christmas trees.

The trees and classroom activities were provided as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund supported Flows to the Future Project.

Hilary Wilson, Learning Development Officer with the schools said:

“Many of the children live on the edge of the Flow Country and it has been lovely to see them so fascinated by this unique and special landscape, which is just on their doorstep.”



NOTES TO EDITORS

The Peatlands Partnership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, 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.

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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