



Scottish
Environment
LINK

5 Atholl Place
Perth
PH1 5NE
T: 01738 630804
E: enquiries@scotlink.org
W: www.scotlink.org

Gillian Martin MSP
Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, Scottish Government

10 July 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Scottish Environment LINK and member organisations have warmly welcomed recent opportunities to engage in discussions led by Nature Scot on the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and 30 x 30 and look forward to relevant aspects being carried into the Natural Environment Bill.

Both Scottish Government initiatives will have a very positive impact for nature, communities and our economy in Scotland and a large bearing on how LINK members, including the National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust and RSPB Scotland manage land throughout Scotland.

Between us we manage 165,000ha for the benefit of nature and local communities, making a very significant contribution to rural employment and the tourist economy, the latter worth approximately £9 billion per annum in Scotland. Between us we manage many key rural tourism sites across Scotland such as Corrieshalloch, Culloden, Falls of Clyde, Glencoe, Loch Leven, Loch of the Lowes, Mar Lodge, Mersehead and Montrose Basin.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to host you on one of our sites which has a high relevance to 30 x 30 and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, which may help provide context to your work as Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for the Natural Environment Bill. We would also welcome the opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of protected areas for local communities and rural economies.

We would suggest that NTS Old Wood of Drum, near Aberdeen would provide a good case study of an existing protected area (SSSI) with high recreational value and good opportunities for 30 x 30 and national ecological network development in the wider landscape, which would provide enhanced opportunities for supporting nature and tourism in the area.

If this is possible, we would look forward to hosting your visit. We would also welcome any relevant colleagues from Scottish Government or agencies you would like to attend.

We look forward to hearing your reply, and which day(s) would potentially be convenient for you this summer or autumn, so that we can arrange a date.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Brooks, Director of Conservation & Policy, National Trust for Scotland
Deborah Long, Chief Officer, Scottish Environment LINK
Aedán Smith, Head of Policy and Advocacy, RSPB Scotland
Bruce Wilson, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Please reply to Jeff Waddell, Head of Nature Conservation, National Trust for Scotland,
jwaddell@nts.org.uk to make arrangements for the visit.



Scottish Environment LINK the voice for Scotland's environment

Registered office: 5 Atholl Place, Perth, PH1 5NE. A Scottish Charity No. SC000296

Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish Company Limited by Guarantee and without a share capital under Company no. SC250899

