



UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN

**Rural Law Research
Group Conference:**

Sustainable Rural Development

**Thursday and Friday
1st and 2nd September 2011**

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Foreword from the Rural Law Research Group

The Rural Law Research Group is delighted to welcome you to its second Rural Law conference in the University of Aberdeen. The publication of Scotland's first sustainable land use strategy earlier this year makes it an exciting time to consider sustainable rural development in Scotland.

The ways in which we use Scotland's land resources in the future will be critical to our economic performance, to our environment, to our sense of place and community, and to our quality of life (*Getting the Best from Our Land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland*, 2011)

One of the key principles for delivering sustainable land use in Scotland is that people should have opportunities to contribute to debates about land use and management decisions which affect their futures. We want to contribute to that debate and to influence the development of policy and law by bringing together a diverse and distinguished group of contributors from academia, legal practice and beyond to discuss key cross-cutting issues in land use planning and land management. It is our pleasure to include amongst our speakers: Brian Pack, Chair of the Inquiry into Future Agricultural Support for Scotland; and Professor Mark Shucksmith, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry on Crofting. We are pleased to welcome Donald Rennie, Head of the European Council for Rural Law for his first involvement in our activities. Peter Cook is returning to speak to us for the second time, having spoken at our Land Reform conference in 2009, and we are joined by Nigel Miller, the President of the National Farmers Union for Scotland. We have an equally diverse, interesting and expert audience and we are grateful to all of you for supporting this event, acknowledging that many of you have done so from inception through to fruition. In particular we are grateful to our main conference sponsors: Barclays; Terra Firma Chambers; and the School of Law itself. We are also grateful to Stronachs, Anderson Strathern and Bidwells for their support.

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Thursday 1st September 2011 - Making the Connections

- 09.15 – 09.45 Registration and refreshments (kindly supported by Anderson Strathern LLP)
- 09.45 – 09.50 Welcome from Chair, Keith Aitken, Journalist and Broadcaster**
- 09.50 – 10.00 Welcome from Professor Ian Diamond, Principal of the University of Aberdeen**
- 10.00 – 10.05 Welcome from Rural Law Research Group: Dr Aylwin Pillai and Anne-Michelle Slater**
- 10.05 – 10.30 Professor Mark Shucksmith OBE, Newcastle University - The Uplands after Neo-Liberalism: The Role of Small Farms in Rural Sustainability**
- 10.30 – 10.55 Mr Brian Pack OBE - REFORM OF THE CAP – opportunity or threat to sustainable agriculture?**
- 10.55 – 11.20 Mr Donald Rennie, President of the European Council for Rural Law - Sustainable Rural Development - An Overview**
- 11.20 – 11.30 *Discussion*
- 11.30 – 11.50 *Coffee (James Mackay Hall)*
- Parallel sessions:**
- 11.50 – 13.10 Agriculture and Forestry (Main Conference Hall)**
- 11.50 – 12.10 Key Challenges for Agriculture – Luise Locke, Terra Firma Chambers
- 12.10 – 12.30 Agricultural Tenancies and the Right to Diversify – Hamish Lean, Stronachs
- 12.30 – 12.50 The Forestry Sector – Has Commercial Timber Production Become an ‘Inconvenient Truth’? - Dr Andrew Cameron, University of Aberdeen
- 12.50 – 13.10 Genetically Modified Organisms: Protest and the Law – Dr Luc Bodiguel, University of Nantes and Professor Michael Cardwell, University of Leeds
- 11.50 – 13.10 Hunting and Animal Welfare (King’s College KCG8) Chair: Iain Maclean, Terra Firma Chambers**
- 11.50 – 12.10 Wildlife Law Reform - the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 – Professor Colin Reid, University of Dundee
- 12.10 – 12.30 Livestock Welfare with an Emphasis on Upland Sheep Systems – Dr Pete Goddard, James Hutton Institute
- 12.30 – 12.50 Combating Wildlife Crime in Grampian – Supt Alan Smailes, Grampian Police
- 12.50 – 13.10 Sustainable Deer Management – Robbie Kernahan, Scottish Natural Heritage
- 13.10 – 14.15 *Buffet Lunch (James Mackay Hall)*
- 14.15 – 15.40 Funding and Economic Development**
- 14.15 – 14.35 Key address – Ian Baker, Relationship Director and Agriculture Specialist: Finance and Agriculture (Barclays) - The Colour of Money - is Credit Available to UK Agriculture and if so at What Cost?**
- 14.35-14.50 Farm and Rural Property Values – Anna Thomas, Savills
- 14.50-15.05 Douglas Bell, Senior Agricultural Policy Consultant, Scottish Agricultural College
- 15.05-15.20 Rural Diversification - Jim Drysdale, Partner, Anderson Strathern LLP
- 15.20-15.35 Panel discussion
- 15.35 – 16.00 *Coffee (James Mackay Hall)*
- 16.00 – 17.00 Making the Connections**
- 16.00-16.15 Enabling Citizen Choices about Land Use and the Natural Environment – Dr Mark Reed, University of Aberdeen
- 16.15-16.35 The Remaking of the Crofting Community?: Land Reform and the Politics of Place - Dr Calum Macleod and Derek Flyn
- 16.35-16.50 ‘Sustainable Rural Development: Implications for Land Owners and Legal Advisers’ Dr Aylwin Pillai, University of Aberdeen
- 17.00 – 18.30 Wine Reception Sponsored by Stronachs (James Mackay Hall)**
- 18.45 **Conference Dinner (Elphinstone Hall)**
Dinner Speaker – Andy Wightman





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Friday 2nd September 2011 - A Sustainable Future

09.30 – 10.00 *Registration (second day) and refreshments*

10.00 – 10.05 **Welcome**

10.05 – 10.15 **Summary of Day One, Keith Aitken, Chair**

10.15 – 10.35 **Opening address: Mr Peter Cook - Key Economic Challenges for Sustainable Rural Economic Development**

10.35 – 10.55 **Nigel Miller, NFUS President**

10.55 – 11.10 Discussion

11.10 – 11.30 *Coffee (James Mackay Hall)*

Parallel sessions:

11.30 – 12.45 **Renewable Energy (Main Conference Hall) Chair: Nial Gemmell, Barclays**

11.30 – 11.45 Renewables Funding – Nial Gemmell, Director of Project Finance in Scotland, Barclays

11.45 – 12.00 Planning for Renewable Energy – Elaine Farquharson-Black, Paull & Williamsons

12.00 – 12.15 Why Wind Turbines Down on the Farm may not be Such a Great Idea? – John Campbell, QC

12.15 – 12.30 Meeting Controversies in the Development of Wind Energy – Professor Anita Rønne, University of Copenhagen

12.30 – 12.45 Panel discussion

11.30 – 12.45 **Connecting People to the Land (King's College KCG8) Chair: Robert Sutherland, Terra Firma Chambers**

11.30 – 11.45 Crofting Reform – Nick Reiter, Crofters Commission

11.45 – 12.00 Crofting Reform and Key Legal Challenges- Robert Sutherland, Terra Firma Chambers

12.00 – 12.15 The Role of Farm Households in Local Economies – Dr Deb Roberts, University of Aberdeen

12.15 – 12.30 Ruaig an Fhèidh – Malcolm Combe, University of Aberdeen

12.30 – 12.45 Panel discussion

12.45 – 13.30 *Buffet Lunch (James Mackay Hall)*

13.30 – 14.50 **Rural Land Use and Planning**

13.30 – 13.50 **Keynote Address – Stuart Gale QC, Terra Firma Chambers**

13.50 – 14.05 The Planning Act and the Land Reform Act in Scotland – Fellow Travellers or Strange Bedfellows – Bob Reid, Halliday Fraser Munro

14.05– 14.20 Getting the Best From Our Land – Scotland's First Land Use Strategy – Sally Thomas, Scottish Government

14.20 – 14.40 Rural Community Regeneration – Is the will really there? (A case study in Rural Aberdeenshire) – Tom Hardie, Hardie Planning Consultancy and David Fyffe, Scottish Land and Estates

14.35 – 14.50 Panel Discussion

14.50 – 15.10 *Coffee (James Mackay Hall)*

15.10 – 16.10 **Future Connections**

15.10 – 15.25 Sustainable Rural Development in the Cairngorms National Park – A Case Study in a Contested Landscape – Murray Ferguson, Cairngorms National Park Authority

15.25 – 15.40 Progressive Property in Action: Part I of The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 – An American Perspective – Professor John Lovett, Loyola University, New Orleans

15.40 – 15.55 Kinveachy Estate, Strathspey – Estate Management in a Special Area of Conservation – Odell Milne, Brodies

15.55 – 16.05 Land and Sea: A Future Connected For Scotland – Anne-Michelle Slater, University of Aberdeen

16.05 – 16.20 Panel discussion

16.20 – 16.30 **Closing Remarks: Chair**

16.30 Conference Close



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About the Conference Organisers



Anne-Michelle Slater
Senior Lecturer
University of Aberdeen
School of Law

Anne-Michelle Slater is a founding member of the Rural Law Research Group and co organiser of this conference. She is a planning law specialist, completing a succinct overview text of the reformed planning regime in Scotland, *Planning Law Essentials*, Dundee University Press (2010). She has a long standing interest in rural law beyond planning matters and has published on access and national parks in Scotland. Anne-Michelle's current research focuses on the emerging area of marine spatial planning. At present she is engaged in an interdisciplinary project on marine information requirements arising from the new marine planning and licensing regime, funded by The Crown Estate.



Dr Aylwin Pillai
Lecturer
University of Aberdeen
School of Law

Dr Aylwin Pillai has been a Lecturer in Law at the University of Aberdeen since 2005. Prior to taking up her post at Aberdeen Aylwin held an AHRC funded postdoctoral research position at the University of Dundee examining the environmental regulation of hydro-electric developments in Scotland. She holds Masters (Environmental Law) and PhD degrees from the University of Aberdeen. Aylwin's AHRC funded PhD research examined the role of the principle of sustainable development in Part 2 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Aylwin co-directs the Rural Law Research Group and her main research interest is in rural law, encompassing aspects of environmental and property law. She is particularly interested in land ownership and community rights of acquisition and in rural land use and development, including renewable energy development.



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The School of Law is proud to be sponsoring the Rural Law Research Group's second conference



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Rural Law Research Group

The RLRG is a unique grouping in Scotland. Its members are actively involved in research, consultancy and teaching in the field of rural law

Centre for Energy Law

The Centre was established to reflect the research and teaching interests of the many members of the Law School who share an interest in energy law. The centre has extensive links with lawyers and other professionals engaged in energy work in industry, with other Universities and organisations.

Both the Rural Law Research Group and the Centre for Energy Law can organise CPD training events on request.



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