

Moorland and Wildlife Management Conference

Wednesday 10 June 2026

Meet the speakers



Ross Ewing

Ross was appointed as Director of Moorland & Strategic Projects at Scottish Land & Estates in October 2025. Ross leads SLE's representation on moorland and wildlife management and is a member of the organisation's senior management team. Ross oversees Wildlife Estates Scotland (WES) at SLE – an accreditation scheme which recognises positive outcomes for nature and biodiversity through land management.



Kenny Barbour

Kenny Barbour is Deputy Assistant Chief Officer and Head of the Prevention Directorate at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. He leads prevention activity including community safety engagement, protection and preparedness, focusing on risk identification, fire and incident prevention, and protecting people in workplaces and public buildings to build safer communities. As SFRS Wildfire Lead, Kenny works closely with the Scottish Government and chairs the Scottish Wildfire Forum. He served as Head of Training Delivery and as a Local Senior Officer across regions during his 29-year fire service career.



Peter Graham

Peter brings over 40 years' experience in estate and land management across Scotland. He has led major renewable energy negotiations, advised on environmental land use and natural capital, and overseen farming, forestry and sporting estate operations. Former Global Chair of the RICS Membership Standards and Education Board, he offers strong strategic and international insight. Founder of Peter Graham & Associates, which merged with Paton & Co in April 2026, Peter provides strategic leadership, supporting long-term estate planning, land management and integrated rural development services.



Alex McGrigor

Alex McGrigor is an insurance professional working with Lycetts Insurance Brokers. Brought up on a working Hill Farm Estate in Argyll, Alex brings a strong understanding of rural and property related needs to his role. He specialises in Estate Insurance, providing tailored advice and solutions to meet the unique requirements of estate owners and managers.



Colin McLean

Colin started in the Red Deer Commission in the 1980s. Managed Abernethy for the RSPB. Wildlife Manager at Glen Tanar Estate for 12 years and now Head of Land Management at CNPA.



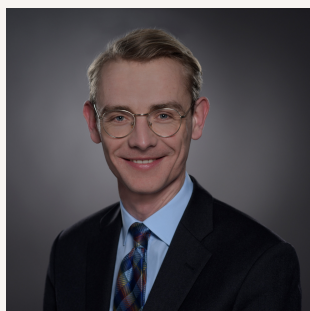
David McKie

For twenty years, David has acted for all of the major sporting organisations in Scotland, including SLE, SGA, SACS, BASC, as well as representing major sporting estates all over Scotland and beyond. Additionally, he represents many of the major land agents across Scotland. David has helped to navigate the industry through the many legislative changes and has helped guide both landowners and those who work in the countryside through that period. He has been a strong supporter of the industry and has used his unrivalled experience to assist many rural communities.



Dr Beth Wells

Beth has a background in hill livestock farming and livestock veterinary research, specialising in parasitology. After completing a PhD and research projects at the Moredun Research Institute, she became a Principal Researcher and Knowledge Exchange Specialist, promoting uptake of scientific outputs with industry and stakeholders. With a lifelong focus on upland farming, moorland and sheep ticks, Beth led the Louping Ill vaccine development project, linking research, policy and industry. Recently retired, she now consults on vaccine commercialisation and tick awareness.



Dr Felix Meister

Felix Meister is the Senior Advisor for GWCT Scotland. With a dual background in academia and practical land management, Felix coordinates the advisory team's work to ensure that scientific evidence is used to inform stakeholders at all levels. Owning two pointing dogs (German, of course), Felix is actively involved in GWCT's red grouse monitoring programme.



Jess Findlay

Jessica Findlay has worked in wildlife management and conservation for 30 years and is currently the Licensing Policy Manager with NatureScot. In her current role she leads a small policy team to support NatureScot's licensing functions. Jessica enjoys and is experienced in working collaboratively with a range of people to develop new approaches to licensing and land and wildlife management.



Professor Robin Pakeman

Prof. Robin Pakeman is an ecologist at the James Hutton Institute. His research focusses on how habitat management and global change drivers impact on biodiversity and ecosystem function. He has worked on moorlands, grasslands and coastal habitats as well as looking at Scotland and UK wide trends in biodiversity. He currently leads one of the Research themes, Natural Assets, in the Scottish Government's Strategic Research Programme, which covers research on air pollution, waters, soils, biodiversity and natural capital. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and a Chartered Ecologist. He started researching bracken control 36 years ago and has recently taken it up again.



Patrick Colquhoun

Patrick Colquhoun is Chair of SLE and a Director of Luss Estates, on the shores of Loch Lomond. A graduate of Strathclyde Business School (MBA, 2016), he spent his early career in executive search across London, Dubai and Singapore before returning to lead the family estate in 2017. Patrick was Vice Chair (Policy) of Scottish Land & Estates until 2026, prior to which, he served on the Central Regional Committee.



Sarah-Jane Laing

Sarah-Jane Laing has been Chief Executive of Scottish Land & Estates since 2019 and is the first woman to lead the organisation in its 120-year history. Having joined SLE 15 years earlier as Housing Strategy Officer, she brings deep sector knowledge and over 30 years' experience in rural policy, rural development and public affairs. She has been involved in numerous national stakeholder groups and taskforces, and is a regular conference speaker and media commentator known for championing practical, evidence-based policy and collaborative leadership. She lives on her family farm in the Borders.