



NEW APPOINTMENT AT THE HEATHER TRUST

The Trust is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Marion Thomson as the Development Director.

Marion has a PhD in Heather Management and an MSc in Environmental Resources. She comes to the Trust with a range of experience from working in the public sector and land management. She will be working for the Trust part-time so that she can combine her work with managing her small farm near Dalbeattie that is stocked with Galloway cattle and sheep.

In addition to expanding the work of the Trust into new areas, Marion will be supporting the Director using her experience and scientific background. One of Marion's roles will be to investigate the establishment of a Heather Improvement Fund that will be used to provide small grants for novel research in the uplands. She will be looking to forge new links as well as assisting with the delivery of current projects and supporting existing commitments to forums and other committees up and down the country.

Simon Thorp, the Director of The Heather Trust said "I am delighted to welcome Marion to the Trust. Her knowledge and experience will be invaluable in developing the Trust further and providing us with additional capacity to meet existing and new commitments. I look forward to introducing her to members and supporters."

END

Notes

- 1 The Heather Trust is an independent charity dedicated to the promotion of high standards of moorland management. Working with a wide range of other organisations throughout the UK, the Trust seeks to improve moorland habitat for the benefit of wildlife, domestic stock, game and all people with an interest in moorland areas. Website: www.heathertrust.co.uk
- 2 The Heather Trust has recently been involved in the following areas of work, which are specific to the SW of Scotland:
 - Linking the Ling Project
 - Dalswinton Wind Farm
 - D&G Wildfire Group
- 3 Marion Thomson can be contacted by telephone on 01387 723201 or by e-mail marion.thomson@heathertrust.co.uk
- 4 Marion's experience since 1992 includes working for:
 - 4.1 Dumfries & Galloway Community Planning Partnership (2007-08);
 - 4.2 South of Scotland European Partnership (2006-07);
 - 4.3 European & International Manager for Scottish Natural Heritage (1998-2006); and
 - 4.4 Area Manager for Scottish Natural Heritage in Dumfries (1992-98).

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