

Envisioning Future Upland Landscapes in 2013 & 2030*

Main Influences & Drivers

2013	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy, Market & People • Precautionary Response • Business as usual • Lowland dominance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased energy, water & climate pressures • More wind farms • Shifting public preferences (nb <i>what are these?</i>) • Differences between designated & non-designated landscapes: • Designated landscapes: government influenced • Non-designated landscapes: market influence • Who are the stakeholders?: global, urban • Public backing for designated areas • Upland restructuring • Climate change: which way? • Displacement effect of alternative lowland land uses

* This document summarises the thoughts and suggestions of Discussion Groups that formed part of the ESRC Transdisciplinary Seminar Series: Sustaining Upland Landscapes, 'Debating Upland Futures' Seminar Day, February 28th 2006, Exeter. Groups were facilitated by Rick Minter.

Main Influences on Upland Landscapes

2013	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP, CAP ERDP support; decoupling; RDR • Market forces, end of single payment • Removal of farm production support, continued funding for environment • Adaptability of farmers • Reduction in small-scale farms • Agricultural restructuring • Diversification • Globalisation of Agriculture • Uptake of environmental stewardship • Preservation of present policy & key stakeholder outlooks • Differentiation of rural economies • Land ownership by public bodies; NGOs; private individuals • Supermarkets' influence • Changes to grazing: both some intensification & some extensification • Reduced cattle numbers • Tourism & access • Food Versus Energy production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change & political response • Globalised agriculture: food production needs but public goods ? • Energy needs & energy industry • Carbon sequestration needs • Shifting public preferences • Market forces esp Supermarkets • Markets for environmental goods • Support measures & markets for rewilding, upland support • Land ownership: declining numbers of farmers • Land out of agriculture • Tourism demands • Land ownership by private individuals & by communities • Public support for rewilding strategies • Ranching • Water catchment issues • Limited targeted rewilding • Natural regeneration up the hill • Bird flu (!) • Ice age (!)

Questions:

- How educated are the public?
- How to educate the influential public?: with what ideologies?

What does the Landscape Look like?

2013	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Similar to now with small tweaks• Managed agri-environment landscape• More under-grazed 'wooly rough' scrub• Improved boundaries and heather regeneration• Fewer livestock• More habitat for wildlife• Vegetation change due to changes in grazing pressure• Moving towards 'favourable conditions'• Establishing working models	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less concern for keeping what we've got• Decoupled as a separate entity• Manage decoupled uplands as environmental service/tourism• Greater uncertainty• Climate change landscape, carbon landscapes• New landscapes with potential• Could sweep away traditional landscapes• Water resources already major concern & influence

Questions:

- Decisions: living with uncertainties or intervention with stewardship?
- Longer term: up for grabs: but where's the debate?
- Will a wealthy nation still be concerned about heritage assets amidst acute environmental concerns such as climate change and water resources?

Land Managers

2013	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (As today) • Small Medium Enterprise farmers • Foresters • Large landowners – National Trust • Commons • Land occupiers • Water companies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plus ranching? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity • Polarised sizes: very small & very large • Scale of management changing: larger scale co-operative schemes • NGOs • Public bodies • Wealthy private individuals • Energy & Water companies • Commoners • New commons?
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who will buy more bits of the uplands? ○ How will paternal landowners operate? ○ Role of commoners? ○ Who influences the commons? ○ Future for sheep, cattle, ponies ○ How to get more cattle? ○ How to get other herbivores? 	

Strength of Communities

2013	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable • Not much change: accelerated erosion • Moving away from farming • Conflict: in-migration • Impact of 2nd homes • Positive potential of incomers but depends on scale • Estate own communities • Consumption leisure-based hotspots • Conflicting communities reacting to renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House prices? • Gentrification • More diverse rural economy & community: more fragmented • Polarisation: peri urban & peri remote: heterogeneity of 'rural': not homogenous • Saturation of tourism • Consumption leisure-based hotspots • Collapse of the city region concept • The majority 'breeding' population of Britain may result in future generations with different perspectives on priorities for the uplands.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the dynamic of incomers? ○ Where are the incomers from? ○ White middle class? ○ What values will incomers have? 	

Role of Government & Public Sector

2013	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely unchanged with increased regional role • Like today: diversity • DEFRA: Huge role • Difference between Regional Development Agency & Natural England objectives • Regional tension • Role of National Park Authority? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term – government players are using decentralised methods • Longer term – government may have to intervene to override other factors & concerns • Increasing centralisation, More government • More private market, less state intervention • Public open space

Role of Private Sector

2013	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited: sporting, tourism • Increased: water & energy companies etc • Persistence of Charitable sector will mean NGOs and charities continue owning and managing land • Pioneering business of rewilding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More influential: rich playground? • Extension outside designated areas (eg water & energy companies) • Persistence of charitable sector

How Sustainable?

2013	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not sustainable: current policy model	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uncertainty• Hopefully more so
<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What are we sustaining?○ How do you measure it?	

Suggested Research Priorities

Nb. in no organised order

Rewilding:

And market liberalisation:

What Upland landscape economy would be produced?

Impacts on current nature conservation interest Vs nature conservation potential

How & what should be achieved in managed rewilding of upland landscapes?

How to achieve managed rewilding of Upland landscapes

Impacts of climate change on uplands & rewilding

Public Goods:

Relationship between demand & supply

Their values

Landscape aesthetics & public perception

What do the public really want?

how much are they prepared to pay for it? Public willingness to pay

Identify range & alternative uses/managers/users & associated social, environmental, economic implications

Determine the degree of acceptability of alternatives

Implications of loss of social and human capital

Understanding the social leg of sustainability

The Rural economy

How does capital flow in the rural economy?

The extent and diversity of the Upland economy that is not dependent on farming - including trends.

The political economy of rural change under new scenarios

What would the upland ecology & economy look like if de-coupled from market forces?
... tourism, recreation, health

What would the Upland economy look like under carbon sequestration funded major natural forest networks with linked farming business