



the National Trust  
for Scotland  
a place for everyone

# 2007 Scottish Parliamentary Elections Policy Manifesto

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THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND CALLS UPON ALL CANDIDATES  
FOR THE 2007 ELECTIONS TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:



## HERITAGE FUNDING

### **Funding for Scotland's natural and cultural heritage should be increased by 5 per cent**

Scotland's magnificent heritage makes significant contributions to sustainable economic growth, community development and social and economic regeneration. It is one of the main reasons that people visit Scotland and, as such, forms the essential basis of our tourism industry, which is such a critical element of so many rural economies.

However, the successful conservation of that heritage requires knowledge, skills, expertise and the provision of adequate resources. So does enriching people's lives by providing opportunities for everyone to engage with their heritage, to enjoy it and to learn about it. Increased funding is therefore required for those arms of government that support individuals and groups involved in heritage conservation and access, particularly local authorities, National Parks, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland.

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

**A review of historic environment legislation should be undertaken, particularly to close loopholes that allow unnecessary damage and to give statutory protection to historic and wider cultural landscapes**

The historical dimension to Scotland's environment greatly contributes to its quality and character. This is most obvious in our tangible built heritage of ancient monuments, archaeological sites and landscapes, historic buildings, townscapes, parks, gardens and designed landscapes, and other remains resulting from human activity of all periods. It encompasses the setting of these features and the patterns of past use in landscapes and within the soil, and in our towns, villages and streets. It also has less tangible aspects, such as historical, artistic, literary, linguistic and scenic associations. These various elements contribute fundamentally to our sense of place and cultural identity.

However, there are significant shortcomings in the current suite of historic environment legislation, which is piecemeal, complex, incomplete and difficult to understand. Conversely, there are opportunities to enable the system to work better and more simply, and to increase its effectiveness so that the historic environment is properly valued, holistically viewed and sustainably managed. A review is therefore required to tackle these shortcomings and to develop these opportunities by introducing modern legislation fit for the 21st century.



## OUTDOOR ACCESS

**The Scottish Executive should give sufficient dedicated financial support to local authorities to enable them to employ local access officers and develop and publicise core path networks**

The recent Land Reform Act and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code have dramatically changed for the better the context of access and outdoor recreation in Scotland, so that we now have amongst the best access arrangements in the world. There are increasingly clear links between informal outdoor recreation and the wider social and sustainability policy agendas, including health promotion and social justice. The emphasis is now, rightly, on developing and publicising core path networks and on resolving issues that arise, through the skills of experienced access officers. Adequate funding for this work is crucial to reap the full benefits of the access legislation.

## LANDSCAPE

### **The Scottish Executive should prepare a national locational strategy for renewable energy developments**

Scotland's landscapes are renowned throughout the world. For those who live here, they enhance our quality of life and our well-being; they give us inspiration, refreshment and enjoyment. They contain the record of the achievements of those people who went before us, and form a key part of our national, regional and local identity. Scotland's landscapes are of fundamental importance to its environment, society and economy, so they need to be protected from inappropriate development.



At present the greatest threat to Scotland's landscapes comes from ill-sited wind farms and transmission lines. Scotland does need to source more of its energy needs from renewable sources, but not at the expense of its natural and cultural heritage and of its landscapes, which are also so vital to the health and well-being of the people of Scotland and to the nation's economy. The Scottish Executive should not leave this critical issue largely to local authorities; it must take the lead and work with local authorities, conservation groups and other stakeholders to identify suitable areas for development and areas that must be safeguarded, along with realistic and achievable targets. The best way to achieve this would be through the creation of a national locational strategy. This will not be easy to achieve, but the Executive is the only body that can provide the necessary cohesion and overview to make this a success.

## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

### **Scotland's tourism industry must develop clear indicators of environmental sustainability**

Tourism, Scotland's largest industry, has the potential to bring substantial social and economic benefits if well managed at a scale that respects Scotland's environment and culture. However, there are clear risks associated with unsustainable tourism growth; untrammelled tourism expansion is frequently seen to be damaging on an international scale.

Scotland's tourism industry therefore needs an unequivocal commitment to sustainability, with clear measures and indicators developed to demonstrate what this means in practice. For example, it should give strong support to public transport and decrease its dependency on unsustainable modes of transport. Positive initiatives should be supported, such as the Green Tourism Business Scheme and the development of ecotourism ventures.



## CROFTING

**Legislation and policy should be introduced that protects and enhances the natural and cultural heritage of crofting areas and ensures that crofting benefits the wider community**

Crofting is a significant and valued part of the cultural and natural heritage of Scotland; it is a way of life that gives highland and island communities a sense of place and belonging. As a small-scale, low-intensity form of farming, it has created and maintained valuable wildlife habitats and landscapes in many coastal and upland areas of the Highlands and Islands. We therefore wish to see the protection, enhancement and enjoyment of Scotland's crofting landscape and its associated cultural and natural heritage.

Revised crofting legislation will be required following the forthcoming wide-ranging national inquiry into crofting issues announced in September 2006. Any such legislation and associated policy should encourage active involvement in crofting, by tackling neglect and absenteeism, and should support the traditional focus on land-based activity. Crofting should be protected from development pressure arising from the strong second home market in some areas, to enable access to affordable housing by crofters and other local people.

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**The conservation charity which protects and promotes Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy**

We are Scotland's largest voluntary conservation charity; we believe that the natural and cultural heritage of Scotland is one of our nation's greatest assets and that we have a duty to pass on this inheritance to benefit future generations.

We aim to achieve this in three ways:

- by directly owning or managing some of Scotland's most important heritage places
- by engaging with all sections of society to make our heritage more socially inclusive
- by campaigning on behalf of the whole of Scotland's heritage

We are supported in this by our 291,000 members and a team of 2,500 dedicated volunteers. Our 129 properties include 76,000 hectares of Scotland's finest countryside and wild landscapes as well as castles, country houses and gardens. Each year we welcome around 3 million visitors to these very special places, and well over 100,000 young people benefit from specially arranged educational visits.

**the National Trust for Scotland is a recognised charity No SC 007410**



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