

# WHV – Is it time for a peatland World Heritage Site? The Flow Country World Heritage Site project

## Flow Country, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2012)

10 August - 24 August 2024

**THE SITE** - The Flow Country is widely considered to be the largest area of blanket bog in the world. Together with associated areas of heath and open water it is of international importance as a habitat and for the diverse range of rare and unusual breeding birds it supports.

**OBJECTIVES** - The Flow Country Partnership plays a custodial role in The Flow Country region, with its constituent members providing many local, social and environmental services. The Partnership is committed to the betterment of The Flow Country peatlands and its communities and see World Heritage as an important component of this. The project aims at introducing young people from a variety of backgrounds to The Flow Country peatlands and offer educational opportunities for international volunteers. It also aims at raising awareness of the Flow Country World Heritage Site bid, both locally and on a national stage.

**ACTIVITIES** - The programme will combine hands-on restoration work with community engagement and classroom-based educational activities. Hands-on work will include: an introduction to peatland monitoring, a moth trap workshop, native tree tending, peat probing (checking the depth of the peat), volunteering at a butterfly bank, sphagnum moss relocation and regenerating conifer control. Community/cultural engagement will include: visit to Dunnet Community Forest, evening astronomy event with Caithness Astronomy Group, visit to Strathnaver Museum, visit to Camster Cairns and a visit to a croft/farm. Educational activities will include: evening bat walk and talk, visit to PlantLife Munsary, Evening talk on Flow Country Birds and an introduction to The Flow Country peatlands. This combination of activities will ensure that volunteers learn new skills, gain an appreciation of The Flow Country and get a sense of local culture and customs.

**PARTNERS** - The Highland Council, NatureScot, Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Caithness Astronomy Group, Strathnaver Museum, Dunnet Community Forest Group; RSPB Scotland, Wildland Ltd.

**The Flow Country Partnership**

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