

## **EIGHTY SIXTH SNH BOARD MEETING, 20 MAY 2003, BATTLEBY**

### **CONFIRMED MINUTES**

#### **Members Present**

John Markland, Chairman  
Michael Scott, Deputy Chairman  
Peter Chapman  
Keith Geddes, Chairman, Audit and Risk Management Committee  
Isabel Glasgow, Chairwoman, West Areas Board  
Nick Kempe  
Alice Lambert  
Jeremy Rowan Robinson, Chairman, East Areas Board  
Janet Sprent, Chairwoman, Scientific Advisory Committee  
Sue Walker

#### **In Attendance**

Ian Jardine, Chief Executive  
Andrew Bachell, Director  
Ian Edgeler, Director  
John Thomson, Director  
Jeff Watson, Director  
Susan Davies, Head of Advisory Services  
Jane Clark, Head of National Strategy  
Iain Rennick, Head of Secretariat, Press and PR  
George Anderson, Head of Press and Public Relations  
Pam Gaiter, Board Secretary  
Alan Mowle (for item 6)  
Alan Hampson (for item 7)  
Alan McKirdy (for item 8)  
Peter Pitkin (for item 9)

#### **Apologies**

Simon Fraser, Chairman, North Areas Board  
Colin Galbraith, Director

**\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION\*\*\***

**ITEM 1: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)**

1. No interests were declared in relation to the items for discussion in the closed session of the meeting.

**ITEM 2: MINUTES (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)**

2. The minutes of the closed session of the 83<sup>rd</sup> SNH Board meeting, held on 18 March 2003, were agreed as a true record.
3. The minutes of the 84<sup>th</sup> SNH Board meeting, held on 25 March 2003, were agreed as a true record.
4. The minutes of the 85<sup>th</sup> SNH Board meeting, held on 24 April 2003, were agreed as a true record.

**ITEM 3: CURRENT ISSUES (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)**

*Haskins Review*

5. It was rumoured that the Review would recommend that some of the current responsibilities of the Countryside Agency would be given to English Nature and other environmental bodies.

**ITEM 4: RELOCATION (SNH/03/3/7) (RESTRICTED)**

6. The Board considered papers prepared by Ian Edgeler and John Markland. Both papers set out proposals for the way forward and recommended that the Board should first seek to clarify the position with regard to comments made by the First Minister, identify any areas where there may be flexibility and restate its view that the decision would be bad for the natural heritage, the Executive, SNH and its staff. No specific compromise options should be offered at this stage.
7. There were three areas where flexibility could be sought. These were location, staff numbers and timescales. It was thought to be very unlikely that there would be any flexibility over the location but it was possible that a compromise on numbers and timescales could be reached. Until a meeting with the Minister had taken place and the position clarified, it would be pointless to produce different options or to speculate on what may be possible.

8. The Board agreed that:

- it remained unable to give the Chief Executive a 'Direction' to relocate SNH HQ functions from Edinburgh to Inverness;
- following a meeting with the Minister it would reconsider whether it would seek a ministerial 'Direction' to undertake the move.

**John Markland**  
**Chairman**