

Dr JAMES FENTON BSc (Hons)

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Date of birth: 19.3.1952

CAREER HISTORY:

2018-

RETIRED but still lecturing and writing on environmental issues

2013-2017

SELF-EMPLOYED ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT *Specialising in strategic conservation planning*

- Visited Azerbaijan at the behest of The European Azerbaijan Society, resulting in the report *Nature Conservation in Azerbaijan: Issues and Potential Future Support*. March 2014. Also help with setting up a project in Azerbaijan to create a breeding centre for endangered species.
- Work for the Scottish Gamekeepers Association on upland ecology, and including authoring their 2015 publication *A Future for Moorland in Scotland: the need for a location strategy*.
- Planning and running the field course *Nature Conservation: Principles into Practice*, in association with the Field Studies Council.
- Ecological advice to upland estates.

2011-2013

FALKLANDS CONSERVATION Chief Executive Officer, based in Stanley, Falkland Islands

- Overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of an NGO of six permanent staff and up to five contract staff, including recruitment and annual appraisals. The organisation carries out research, survey and monitoring and involves the community in wildlife activities; it runs an active Watch group for children and also has a small shop. See <http://www.falklandsconservation.com/>.
- Responsible for financial control, and for quarterly progress and financial reports to the trustees; producing the annual budget, work plan and the annual report to auditors. The annual turnover is of the order of £400,000. Falklands Conservation obtains funding from a wide range of sources: annual subvention, membership, UK grants, donations, fundraising events, shop, etc..
- Preparation of the annual subvention request to the Falkland Islands Government (Falklands Conservation gets an annual grant through a Memorandum of Understanding); and responsible for grant applications for project work (e.g. Darwin Initiative, JNCC, Defra, EU BEST) and reporting back to grant-givers.
- Liaising with all those organisations with an interest in or involvement with the wildlife of the Falklands, both in the islands and the UK, whether statutory, commercial, public sector or NGO.
- Advice to trustees on the strategic direction of the organisation. Scrutiny of oil industry Environmental Impact Assessments & Statements.
- Project Manager for eight UK & Falkland Island Government funded projects, including species monitoring, invasive plants control and reducing conflicts between raptors and farmers.

2005-2011

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE Policy & Advice Officer, Landscape

- Production of guidance on how to assess the special qualities of Scotland's National Scenic Areas.
- Coordination of SNH's work to identify the Special Qualities of Scotland's 40 National Scenic Areas and two National Parks, including managing the team that carried out the fieldwork. Editing of the final reports: SNH Commissioned Report 374: The Special Qualities of the National Scenic

Areas (2010); SNH Commissioned Report 375: The Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park (2010); SNH Commissioned Report 376: The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (2010).

- Coordination of survey of public attitudes to wild land, leading to SNH's Commissioned Report 291: Public Perceptions of Wild Places and Landscapes in Scotland (2008).
- Coordination of the production of *Scotland's Landscape Charter*.

1991-2005

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND Ecologist, Senior/Regional Nature Conservation Adviser

Appointed as NTS's first Ecologist, covering all of the Trust's landholding. Latterly Senior Nature Conservation Adviser at NTS Head Office, before moving north to become the Trust's Nature Conservation Adviser for the Highlands and Islands, based in Inverness.

- Giving advice on ecological and nature conservation issues across NTS's whole suite of properties, and providing the ecological elements to the property management plans; developing strategic policy documents, such as on woodlands and grazing.
- Setting up ecological survey and monitoring systems for the Trust's countryside properties, and carrying out Phase 1 habitat surveys of the NTS 75,000 ha landholding; managing contracts for specialist survey and monitoring work.
- Project work, including managing a £230,000 EU LIFE project, involving a partnership of NTS, SNH, James Hutton Institute (then Macaulay Institute), CEH (then ITE) & Scottish Wildlife Trust. This resulted in *Grazing Management Planning for Upland Natura 2000 Sites: A Practical Manual* (1998).
- On the Advisory Committee of the Wild Ennerdale project; on an educational panel of UHI (environmental science); contributions to Wilderness Britain seminars (Leeds University, Steve Carver) and Scottish Woodland History Discussion Group; organiser of conferences and seminars (e.g. the conference on the role of large herbivores in the uplands); contribution to Eurosite study visits (Jotunheimen, Triglav National Park).

1985-91

SELF-EMPLOYED AS SECO (ecological/environment consultant) wide variety of work, including:

- Production of a *Conservation Management Plan for the Forestry Commission's Kyleakin to Kinloch Estate* (1987), including Phase 1 mapping of the whole estate; Survey and Management Plan for Caledonian Pinewood Fragments and Other Native Habitats in the FC's Glenmore Estate (1988), including Phase 1 mapping of the whole estate; habitat survey of native woods on FC land in Inverness-shire (Glen Urquhart, Glen Moriston, etc) (1986-87).
- Phase 1 survey and advice for private woodland landowners in Kintyre and Strathspey and Phase 1 habitat survey for the then Nature Conservancy Council (in the then Central Region).
- A survey of a random sample birchwoods in Highland Region in conjunction with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Highland Regional Council's Woodland Survey. This resulted in the report *The State of Highland Birchwoods*, Scottish Wildlife Trust Publication, 1985.
- Phase 1 habitat survey; management planning system for the Central Scotland Countryside Trust.
- Planning and tutoring Edinburgh University Extra Mural course 'Nature Conservation in the 1980s' and Aberdeen University Extra Mural on 'Vegetation History of Scotland'.
- Assessing the effectiveness of the then Scottish Wildlife & Countryside Link.
- Naturalist, lecturer & Zodiac driver on small ship expedition cruising (primarily Lindblad Expeditions) in the British Isles, Iceland, Norway & Svalbard, and three months in Antarctica [continuing on an occasional basis up to 2011]; leader of four ski-touring expeditions to the Arctic (Svalbard).
- Launched & published monthly news digest *SCENES: Scottish Environment News*.

1980-84

BRATHAY HALL TRUST Ambleside, Cumbria. Tutor

- Planning & tutoring field courses in ecology & conservation, including extensive fieldwork on the full range of Lake District habitats.

- Tutoring development training courses for people in industry & commerce: group, social & leadership skills; personal development.
- Leading expeditions for young people: Scotland & Arctic (Svalbard).

1979

PENTLAND HILLS RANGER SERVICE, Edinburgh; **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND**

- Countryside ranger tasks.

1978

Assistant marine biologist on German research trawler to Arctic (Institut für Seefischerei, Bremerhaven).

1973-78

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY Antarctic & Cambridge

- Terrestrial ecologist, specialising in Antarctic peat: growth rates, age, distribution, comparison with UK peatlands, peat and climate change [5 published papers, including in the *Journal of Ecology* & PhD thesis].

SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES over the years

- Member of Council of Cumbria Trust for Nature Conservation.
- Coordinator of British Association of Nature Conservationists (BANC) discussion groups in Edinburgh & Inverness.
- Representative of BANC on the then Scottish Wildlife & Countryside Link's Cairngorm Working Group; and on the Forestry Working Group.
- Founder member of the Save the Cairngorms Campaign.
- Elected Member of Council, Scottish Wildlife Trust (1990-92) & on SWT's Conservation & Science Committee; committee member of SWT Lothians branch, Perthshire branch and Northern Advisory Committee.
- Set-up and chaired Scottish Wildlife Trust's Moray and Banff Members Group.
- Member of two Forestry Commission local consultative panels in the 1980s: Moray & Lochaber.
- Member of ECOLINC steering group (environmental network in Grampian).
- Botanical Society of the British Isles Vice-County Recorder, Wester Ross (2005-7).
- STEM ambassador (Highlands) 2009/10.
- Published *Svalbard: Portrait of an Arctic Summer* (1997), *A Field Guide to Ice* (2009), *Towards a New Paradigm for the Ecology of Northern & Western Scotland: A Synthesis of Issues* (2011), plus numerous papers, essays and articles.
- **Currently (2018)**: elected trustee of the National Trust for Scotland (September 2015); Secretary of the Lorn Natural History Group; Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland Argyll Members' Group; on the Steering Team of the Scottish Wild Land Group and editor of *Scottish Wild Land News*; on Seil Island Village Hall Committee. Occasional tutor on field courses at Kindrogan Field Centre.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS:

- 2011** Institute of Leadership & Management
Level 5 'Award in Management'
- 1985-2011** Chartered Biologist with Institute of Biology (now Society of Biology)
- 1975-78** Westfield College, University of London
Concurrent with BAS work below: PhD obtained
- 1970-73** University of Durham
BSc (Hons), grade 2.1, in Botany; Zoology & Geology also studied
- 1965-69** Glenalmond College, Perthshire
Physics, Chemistry, Biology 'A' levels; 10 'O' levels