

PhD Candidate: Heather Smith, PhD Supervisors: Alister Scott, University of Aberdeen, Kirsty Blackstock, Macaulay Land Use Research Institute

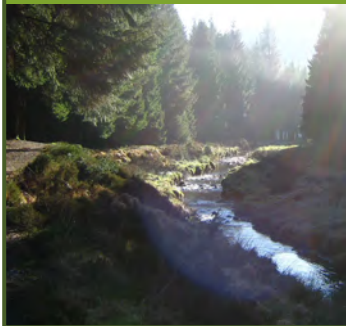
RESEARCH QUESTION

The purpose of this project is to critically analyse the interactions between the European Union's Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Scottish planning system.

CONTEXT

The connections between land use and water are well understood. Despite this, in the developed world water resource management and land use planning typically have entirely separate policy and institutional arenas. Decisions made in one may have little regard for the other.

Integration between the two fields may help achieve sustainability. However, bringing together two distinct academic traditions, policy regimes, and professional cultures is far from straightforward, and involves tradeoffs between inclusiveness and workability.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PLANNING

Spatial Planning – A broad-based, strategic approach to guiding development that emphasises the nature of places and seeks greater coherence in land use regulation, resource protection, and infrastructure investments.

Modernisation – This broadly refers to efforts to improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in planning systems.

Rural Development – Incorporates efforts to revitalise the countryside and stimulate the rural economy.



DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- Global
 - Sustainability
 - Climate change
 - International law
 - Implementation gap
 - Multifunctionality and complexity
 - Competing ideologies (balancing public and private interest)
 - Public participation and civic engagement
- European
 - Supra-national agenda
 - Streamlining environmental directives
- Local (UK and Scotland)
 - Rural change
 - Devolution
 - Joined-up planning and partnership building



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WATER MANAGEMENT

Integrated Water Resource Management – “a process, which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.” (GWP 2000, 22)

River Basin Planning – The practice of coordinating planning and resource management activities at the basin level has a long history.

Catchment/Watershed Management – Conceptually similar to river basin planning, but operating at a smaller scale and typically with a more grassroots approach.



CHALLENGES

- Lack of clarity on the nature and extent of integration has led to ambiguity in roles and responsibilities.
- The appropriate scale and scope of decision-making have yet to be defined.
- Little research on the subject is specific to Scotland, despite its distinct policies and approaches.
- Both fields highlight the need for a cultural shift within the implementing institutions.