

# The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland

## PRESS RELEASE

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### HOW WILL THE RURAL BORDERS BENEFIT FROM THE NEW RAILWAY?

The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS), the charity which promotes the care of **all** of Scotland's rural landscapes, is holding a Members' Day on Saturday 3 October in Galashiels.

Hugh Wark, Borders Railway Project Director for Network Rail will provide an expert overview of how the railway was rebuilt, including its design, procurement and construction. Samantha Smith, Economic Development Manager for Scottish Borders Council will discuss the impacts of this restored rail link on the economy, society and environment of the rural Borders. There will be an open discussion on the railway's potential impacts on the rural landscapes of the Borders and a brief meeting of the APRS advisory Council.

Those attending the meeting are encouraged to travel to the meeting by train to experience the new rail journey for themselves. A buffet lunch will be available for those who have booked in advance.

John Mayhew, Director of APRS, said: "The re-opening of the Borders Railway is one of the most significant events for rural Scotland this year. Will it bring benefits to the rural landscapes of the Borders, such as more sustainable tourism or reduced traffic on the A7? Or will it bring challenges, such as pressure for more housing on greenfield sites or concentration of public services? We are delighted to have two such knowledgeable speakers, and hope to encourage a lively debate on these issues at our Members' Day in Galashiels. I stress that the event is open to all local people and visitors as well as APRS members, friends and families".

The Member's Day will be held at Borders College, Nether Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HE, starting at 10.30 with coffee and chat available from 10.00. Everyone is welcome to attend, including all APRS members, friends and family. If you would like to join us on the day, please book in advance by Friday 11 September, to help us assess catering numbers. The cost is £10 per person, payable on the day, which includes coffee, lunch and a contribution towards room hire. To book or for any queries please email [info@ruralscotland.org](mailto:info@ruralscotland.org) or ring 0131 225 7012.

ENDS

### Notes for Editors

1 APRS is the charity which promotes the care of **all** of Scotland's rural landscapes.

We aim to:

- Protect and enhance Scotland's rural landscapes for future generations
- Promote effective planning and landscape protection systems in Scotland

- Encourage genuinely sustainable development in rural Scotland
- Raise awareness of the importance of Scotland's landscapes to its people and economy
- Promote the activity of land managers who care for Scotland's landscapes

We do this by:

- Working in partnership with individuals, other charities, local authorities, government and public bodies
- Active involvement in national policy development and advocacy
- Advising members of the public on how to respond to proposals which affect their local landscapes
- Publicising our work to our members and beyond through our website, *Rural Scotland* newsletter, regular email bulletins and social media

2 We are currently campaigning for:

- More National Parks for Scotland
- A Deposit Return System for drinks containers, to reduce litter and boost recycling
- Better protection for our Green Belts from housing sprawl

3 We welcome new members who share our aims – you can join on our [website](#).