

**THE  
BALFOUR WOOD  
DECLARATION**

I, John Home Robertson, MSP and Deputy Minister for Rural Affairs, hereby record formally on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

FIRSTLY, their endorsement of the Balfour Wood Management Agreement between Scottish Ministers, acting through the Forestry Commissioners, and Birse Community Trust;

SECONDLY, their commitment to the successful implementation of the Agreement, with its two core principles:-

- That the parties to the Agreement will manage the Balfour Wood together on the basis of consensus decision making over all aspects of management; and
- That the shared aim of management is to produce the economic, social and environmental benefits which sustainable forestry can provide for the inhabitants of Birse Parish and the wider community.

THIRDLY, their commendation of Birse Community Trust and Forest Enterprise for their lead in developing an agreement which provides a new benchmark for agreements with local communities.



Birse, 8th August 2000