



# HillPlan Newsletter #1

## July 2002



### 1. Welcome to the first HillPlan Newsletter

This is the first of what I hope will be a series of newsletters outlining developments in HillPlan for users and (for want of a better term) 'interested parties'. As the development process is not always a smooth and orderly one it is not expected that these newsletters will be produced on a regular basis, but will, rather, be issued as and when there is anything interesting to report.

### 2. HillPlan Workshop - Glensaugh 1st May 2002

Many thanks to Bill Brown, Joy Burns, Ken Smith and Sandy Tulloch for coming along to the HillPlan Workshop at Glensaugh on Wednesday 1st May. The objective of the Workshop was to gather some feedback on the potential use of HillPlan within the farming community. An enjoyable and free ranging discussion highlighted many relevant and interesting points for us to consider on the use and the future development of HillPlan.

### 3. ScotSheep - Blairgowrie 31st May 2002

HillPlan was presented at an educational exhibit stand at the ScotSheep show. Further feedback from the farming community was gathered while publicising HillPlan.

### 4. HillPlan Staff

A couple of long-time members of the HillPlan development team have recently left the Macaulay Institute for pastures new.

Alan Sibbald retired recently but is still keeping his hand in with involvement in the Agroforestry project at Glensaugh and will no doubt be keeping an eye on the progress of HillPlan. In fact Alan came along to the ScotSheep show to lend his considerable expertise to the proceedings.

Glyn Stanworth, who has worked for several years on the software implementation of the HillPlan models has also recently left the Macaulay Institute. Those of you who know him will not be surprised to hear that he has embarked on a 'pilgrimage' through Northern Spain on the León - Santiago de Compostela trail. We wish him well.

However, HillPlan development will not come to a halt as a result of these two departures.

### 5. HillPlan Developments

A revamped vegetation dynamics component has been developed and will shortly be undergoing parameterisation and testing. The new component takes account of the soil type on which the vegetation patches are growing and constrains the transitions that can occur when vegetation dynamics takes place. This should further improve the predictive ability of the tool.

Ongoing development of the HillPlan User Interface continues. Latest changes include: improved database performance and usability improvements in the Calendar component. An update version may be made available in the near future. Watch this space.

### 6. HillPlan Web Site

We are planning to develop a web site for HillPlan. It will contain descriptions and demos of HillPlan, archive copies of these newsletters and other (hopefully useful and relevant) items. Any suggestions for items gratefully received.

### 7. Contact

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