

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
SCOTLAND

# *From Land*



## FROM LAND

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY  
ACROSS SCOTLAND

From Land, the RPS Scotland book project for 2026, has officially launched, and we are delighted to invite you to be part of this significant creative undertaking. The full presentation behind this page outlines the aims and opportunities of the project, which we hope will become a meaningful celebration of Scotland, its landscapes, its people, and the stories that connect us. We extend our sincere thanks to the selection panel for their time and expertise in supporting this ambitious venture.

Throughout 2026, we will deliver a year-long programme of events, workshops, talks, and photographic opportunities. These activities are designed not only to help you create work for From Land but also to develop your own photographic practice—building your portfolio, exploring new directions, and creating images that may support future distinctions submissions. And importantly, you do not need to travel far to participate: your local area, nearby green spaces, or even your own garden can be a perfect source of inspiration. The project is intentionally limited to images made only in 2026. This deliberate choice will create a visual time capsule of Scotland—a record of a single year that future generations can look back on.

From Land will be a high-quality, hard-cover coffee table book, produced to give Scottish photography the presence it deserves. We are also exploring potential distribution routes, with Sam Events progressing discussions to broaden its reach. To move the project forward, we need your entries, as your participation directly influences the final publication and exhibition. To be transparent:

- The image entry fee will contribute to publication and exhibition costs.
- A final purchase cost for the book will apply, with the exact amount confirmed after production costs are established.
- Should overall interest be too low, the project may need to be adapted.

The exhibitions planned for 2027 will require selected images to be printed. Depending on funding, these prints may need to be paid for separately. Exhibition selections will not be limited to work chosen for the book, allowing the exhibition to stand independently and reflect the full breadth of creativity across the project.

No spoilers regarding selected images will be released during the year; all announcements will be made at the appropriate time.

To ensure a timeless and inclusive design, the final book will feature a contemporary embossed cover rather than a single image. The current working cover is used only for media and visualisation purposes.

Sam is actively exploring suitable gallery venues and will pursue options that help keep exhibition costs as low as possible.

Full submission details—including the entry process—are planned to go online around Christmas. Sam will be travelling in Europe at that time, so we kindly ask for patience should there be any small delays. In the first week of January 2026, the Events page will go live with a range of activities available to book. For those who missed it, the Annandale event was recorded and will be available soon.

Beyond the visual elements, we hope to present a sensory exhibition incorporating materials such as heather, natural sheep's wool, deer hide, and feathers, enabling audiences to connect physically with aspects of the Scottish landscape.

From Land offers a rare, year-long creative journey leading to a major publication and a multi-sensory exhibition reflecting Scotland as it is in 2026—no earlier, no later. We hope you'll join us in creating a record of Scotland that future generations can explore with pride and curiosity.

If you have any questions please contact [scotlandevents@rps.org](mailto:scotlandevents@rps.org)

# From Land Presentation

**Good afternoon everyone – and thank you for coming along today.**

I'm looking forward to taking you through the RPS Scotland project and what it means for the year ahead.

Today marks the launch of From Land – a year-long photographic project running throughout 2026, designed to capture Scotland's landscapes, communities, working lives, and the many ways we connect with the places around us.

We're launching here at Annandale Distillery for a very deliberate reason. The ethos of this distillery aligns beautifully with the heart of From Land. Annandale works in a full-circle relationship with the landscape – taking from local farms and giving back to them, sustaining the very ground that sustains the whisky. Professor David Thomson and his wife, Theresa, have invested deeply in this region, not only through the restoration of Annandale Distillery, but also through their stewardship of The Globe Inn in Dumfries – Robert Burns's own favourite tavern and an important cultural landmark. Their commitment to preserving heritage, supporting local employment, and strengthening community identity makes this an ideal place to begin. Starting our journey here, in the Borders, feels symbolically meaningful; it marks the beginning of a natural progression through Scotland's landscapes, communities, and ultimately to the isles as the project unfolds.

From Land is more than a theme or an exhibition. It's a collective record – a visual time capsule of Scotland in 2026, created through the eyes and everyday experiences of our members.

## **What From Land Is About**

At its core, From Land asks a simple but powerful question:

How does Scotland's land shape us – and how do we, in turn, shape it?

This question opens the door to so many stories – environmental, cultural, personal, social, and industrial. It encourages us to photograph the Scotland we know, not just the dramatic scenes we might normally seek out.

From Land recognises that land isn't only wilderness. It's worked land, lived-in land, shared land, and land shaped by generations of people whose lives are woven into it – gamekeepers, crofters, ghillies, gundog handlers, shepherds, farmers, foresters, conservation teams, rural workers, and community volunteers.

**That might be:**

- a community allotment waking up in spring
- a harbour in winter rain
- a moorland gamekeeper and his gundog at first light
- a crofter repairing a wall that's stood for generations
- weavers producing Harris Tweed
- a farmer checking fields after heavy weather
- a community project in the middle of the city
- or a familiar hill, seen in a new season

Just as importantly, From Land embraces Scotland's wildlife, flora, and fauna – from red deer on the hillside to seabirds along our coasts; from ancient Caledonian pine forests to machair meadows, heather moorlands, peatlands, and wildflowers that signal the turning of the seasons. Whether it's otters slipping through seaweed, mountain hares in winter coat, or the quiet biodiversity hidden in our city parks, Scotland's natural world is a vital part of our national identity.

This project welcomes every approach: landscape, portraiture, street, documentary, wildlife, drone, environmental, abstract – whatever reveals something unique about Scotland in this moment.

**How the Project Works**

From Land runs across the entire calendar year of 2026:

Winter – 1 January to 31 March 2026

Spring – 1 April to 30 June 2026

Summer – 1 July to 30 September 2026

Autumn – 1 October to 31 December 2026

Online submissions open on 1 February 2026.

The first image submission is free. Additional entries cost £4 each, or five for £18, and you may enter as many times as you wish.

All images must be taken in 2026, and Exif data must be included. After each season, a selection will be made by a panel and successful contributors will be notified.

All funds raised support the exhibition and photobook.



### **Accessibility & Opportunities**

The project is built to be accessible. You don't need to travel far — meaningful images can come from your street, your workplace, or the landscape outside your home.

We will be running a series of Camera and Coffee outings which will begin in January, running across Scotland from the Borders to the Shetlands. Workshops will also take place throughout the year, focusing on documentary storytelling, photographing people and place, wildlife, drone work, and more.

#### **The Panel**

Your images will be selected by a panel that collectively brings together artistic, technical and academic expertise. We are delighted to have:

Trevor Yerbury, FRPS — a renowned fine-art photographer with decades of experience in monochrome portraiture.

Shahbaz Majeed — an award-winning landscape and aerial photographer whose work is recognised internationally.

and

Dr John Post — a photographic practitioner with a PhD, bringing academic depth and narrative understanding.

Their combined experience will help shape the project with insight and integrity, and we thank them for their involvement.

#### **Exhibitions & Photobook**

From Land will culminate in:

- a photobook to be published in 2027
- an exhibition with sensory interpretation panels
- regional showcases
- and online galleries

Partnerships and outreach include HRH The Princess of Wales, Scottish Field, Amateur Photographer magazine, and the Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

#### **Why It Matters**

From Land documents a defining moment in Scotland's story — capturing environmental change, heritage, working lives, wildlife, and the people whose connection to land runs deep.

This includes gamekeepers, crofters, ghillies, shepherds, farmers, conservationists, and rural workers whose stories are often overlooked but form a vital part of Scotland's identity.

Your images will help create a historical record that future generations can look back on.

### **Looking Ahead**

In late 2027, the companion project To Water will launch, exploring Scotland's relationship with water such as canals, coasts, rivers, lochs, tides, and maritime communities.

### **Closing**

Today marks the beginning of something meaningful. I hope From Land inspires you to look closely, photograph thoughtfully, and see Scotland with fresh eyes. You can keep up to date and make bookings with events happening in 2026 on the RPS Scotland website and on the RPS Scotland Facebook page

Thank you for being here — and thank you again to Trevor Yerbury, Shahbaz Majeed, and Dr John Post for supporting this journey.