

## **ESRC Transdisciplinary Seminar Series: Sustaining Upland Landscapes**

### ***Debating Upland Futures***

Convened by Matt Lobley and Clive Potter  
Crossmeads Conference Centre, University of Exeter, February 28<sup>th</sup> 2006

#### **Background and Objectives**

Despite an active debate concerning the economic future of upland farming, there are still relatively few opportunities to debate the long-range threats and opportunities of agricultural restructuring for landscapes and biodiversity. While the process of CAP reform has until now been largely gradualistic, there is a view that much more substantial changes to the policy framing of upland agriculture are in prospect, bringing with them extensive adjustments to the way in which land is occupied and managed. Radically different landscape futures are available to be visualised and discussed, including those that imply a substantial decoupling of biodiversity provision from the practice of farming. The objective of this seminar will be two-fold: first, to advance discussion of the underlying drivers and processes of change in upland landscapes at a time of policy reform; second, to identify and debate the alternative landscape futures which these processes now bring within range for public policy consideration.

#### **Speakers Include:**

- Sean Rickard (Cranfield University): Farming Profitably in the Uplands: The Need for a New Mindset
- Rob Burton (Macaulay Institute): Social capital and public goods provision in the Cumbrian uplands.
- Georgina Dobson (Natural England Confederation): The future delivery of upland support
- John Waldon (independent consultant): A vision for the uplands

The seminar is targeted at practitioners, academics and policymakers with the aim of challenging people used to talking about these issues within their own 'community of knowledge' by presenting different viewpoints and perspectives.

**Spaces are limited. To register for the seminar (no fee) please contact Emily Grandis immediately [ecg202@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ecg202@exeter.ac.uk)**

