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2 September, 2004

Dear colleague:

**SUBJECT: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL TRANSDISCIPLINARY  
RESEARCH SERIES 2003-5**

The Economic and Social Research Council has funded a series of seminars to examine 'conflict and compromise in the British uplands'. The series as a whole is coordinated by the University of Sussex (<http://www.geog.sussex.ac.uk/britishuplands>), but the seminars are being held at various locations in the UK over the next year. We offered to host one at Bangor which would explore the extent to which ecological prerogatives can be meaningfully recognised through conservation or new forms of income generation.

Overall, the series is designed:

1. to facilitate discussions between researchers in several distinct disciplines who are concerned with the long-term future of the British Uplands
2. to explore the capacity of existing research approaches and sources of knowledge in providing the appropriate outputs for decision making
3. to investigate the performance of the current and likely future alternative institutional frameworks of governance in Upland areas and their contribution in policy advice and conflict management
4. to develop inter-disciplinary research networks combining academics and stakeholders, and to identify new research agendas that cross traditional academic and funding council boundaries.

More specifically, the seminars will highlight:

1. Cross-disciplinary awareness of common or conflicting research objectives
2. The specific informational requirements of policy makers
3. Cross fertilisation of new ideas appropriate to Upland areas.

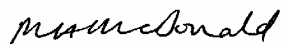
In particular, the objective is to provide accessible accounts of key ideas for those of other disciplines and non-academics, pointing to overlap an inconsistency of findings for a policy agenda.

The seminar is planned for 26th October, 2004 and accommodation is booked at Gregynog Hall in Powys for the previous evening. The afternoon of the meeting would incorporate a field trip to the Pont Bren project.

Pontbren is a 'grass-roots' initiative involving 10 hill farms and over 1000 ha of mainly agriculturally improved pasture along with areas of semi-natural and recently established woodland in the Welsh Borders. The overall aim of the project is to provide a more sustainable approach to farming and to improve economic returns. A unique strength of the Pont Bren study is its origin as a community-led initiative. As a result, it has the support of the local agricultural community, with its specific insights into the local natural environment, management practices and the socio-economic pressures associated with agricultural management in the uplands. The Pontbren project is also the focus of interdisciplinary research, combining biophysical and hydrological studies, with stakeholder participation and social analyses.

I hope that you are able to attend the seminar and look forward to listening to your views. If you would like to attend the seminar, please fill in the registration form and return by 30<sup>th</sup> September. There is no charge for accommodation, meals or attending the seminar.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'morag mcdonald'.

Dr Morag McDonald  
Lecturer