



Commission for
Rural Communities
Tackling rural disadvantage

Invitation

The state of
the countryside
7th July 2009



Commission for Rural Communities

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Our high-profile *State of the countryside* report has been published for the last ten years. It is the primary source of evidence on social, economic and environmental issues in rural areas. This year we want you to contribute your ideas and expertise to help us shape the 2010 report.

Whether rural people, communities and businesses are your main interest or you are involved with broader social, economic and environmental research and analysis, we want to invite you to the first *State of the countryside* conference.

Join us for a stimulating day debating the evidence, produced by CRC and many others, which underpins policy decisions at a national, regional and local level. Come along and take part in a variety of interactive sessions on a wide range of topics, from the Uplands to inequalities, from the impact of the recession to rural transport.

Our Chairman, Dr Stuart Burgess will host the conference and we have Professor Robert Watson, Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser; Professor Neil Ward, University of East Anglia and Carey Oppenheim from IPPR speaking. The event will end with an "Ask the Panel" session, chaired by the BBC's Jonathan Dimbleby.

The event is taking place on Tuesday 07 July 2009 at the Studio, Birmingham, just 5 minutes walk from Birmingham New Street station. Registration from 9.00am with refreshments, closing at 4.30pm.

To reserve your place (please bear in mind places are limited to 100) send an email with your details to crcadmin@ruralcommunities.gov.uk or call 01242 534078.

Commission for Rural Communities

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**We look forward to
seeing you there.**