

RURAL AFFAIRS FORUM No. 7 – JULY 2003

Date: Monday 14th July 2003
Venue: [Denman College](#), Marcham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Agenda (as at 9th July 2003)

10:15-10:55 Pre-meeting of regional Rural Affairs Forum representatives
[in the Seminar Room] : an opportunity to get together before the main meeting to discuss issues to put to the national Forum, and to share ideas and good practice (Alun Michael to attend)

Note: the meeting will take place in the Livingstone room

11:00-11:10 Co-Chairman's introduction
Marie Skinner, Chairman East of England Rural Affairs Forum

Health & Health Inequality in Rural Areas

11:10-11:40 Rural Health Forum
Presentation & discussion, inc. input on the health aspects of Defra's PSA target
Paper: Rural Forum (7)11 - Rural Health Forum report
Alec Kendall, Forum representative on health

11:40-12:00 The Balance Between Nature & Health
Presentation & discussion on how bio-diversity can contribute towards physical & mental well-being
see [Rural Forum \(7\)5: Addressing Health Inequalities in Rural Communities through Nature](#)
Dave Stone, English Nature

12:00-12:15 Stress in Rural Areas
Presentation & discussion on stress in rural areas & the Rural Stress Action Plan
Renny Wodynska, Rural Stress Information Network

12:15–12:35 Open discussion and action points.

12:35-13:00 Open Session
An opportunity for Forum members to raise any issues, to include:

- to review the role of the regional Rural Affairs Forums in taking forward the regional delivery plans from the Sustainable Farming & Food Strategy
Tony Burton, National Trust
- Countryside Agency's [Rural Proofing in 2002/2003](#) & [State of the Countryside 2003](#) reports
Sir Ewen Cameron, Rural Advocate

- The Countryside Agency's monitoring report on the Rural Services Standard
Richard Wakeford, Countryside Agency

13:00-13:40 Lunch

13:40-13:50 Chairman's introduction

Alun Michael

13:50-14:15 Business & Rural Enterprise

Sub-group's report & recommendations to the Forum
Paper: Rural Forum (7)9 - Supporting Rural Enterprise
[Richard Moreton](#), *Co-operatives UK*

14:15-14:30 [Learning, Skills & Knowledge Programme](#)

An opportunity to test ideas that will form the basis of an action plan on rural workforces' generic learning needs
Stephen Cane, Defra, Programme Manager

14:30-14:45 Rural Strategy – the way forward

To advise the Forum about the progress in producing a refreshed rural strategy
Tim Allen & Sarah Thomas, Defra

14:45-15:00 Open discussion and action points

15:00-15:10 Notice Board

Brief notification about:

- Feedback to the Forum on 30 April meeting between the Tourism sub-group, Alun Michael & Kim Howells
- Supporting the Voluntary Sector (see [Rural Forum \(7\)7](#) - Community Capacity Building & Voluntary Sector Infrastructure in Rural England)
- Forum papers not included elsewhere on the agenda

Other Papers:

Rural Forum (7)2	Forward programme
Rural Forum (7)3	Minutes of 7 th April meeting
Rural Forum (7)4	Rural Affairs Forum family
Rural Forum (7)5	Addressing Health Inequalities in Rural Communities through Nature
Rural Forum (7)6	Rural Children & Young People Progress Report
Rural Forum (7)7	Community Capacity Building & Voluntary Sector Infrastructure in Rural England
Rural Forum (7)8	Rural Delivery Review update
Rural Forum (7)9	Supporting Rural Enterprise
Rural Forum (7)10	ERDP update
Rural Forum (7)11	Rural Health Forum report
Rural Forum (7)12	Developing social capital sub-group report
Rural Forum (7)13	Reports from regional Rural Affairs Forums
<i>Rural Forum (7)x</i>	<i>Response to C&YP recommendations [paper expected from Adam Mitchell]</i>
<i>Rural Forum (7)x</i>	<i>Tourism & National Parks: report from conference on 13 June [paper expected from Martin Fitton / Roger Smith CYD]</i>
<i>also possibly:</i>	<i>Rural Forum (7)x - The role of regional Rural Affairs Forums in taking forward the regional delivery plans from the Sustainable Farming & Food Strategy [Tony Burton, National Trust]</i>

Papers for this and previous meetings of the Forum are available at:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/rafe/index.htm>

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Note: accommodation is available for the Sunday night if you wish. Please contact Jane Gibson at the college.

Getting from Oxford to Marcham

By Taxi

Public taxis are available at the station (about £20 for a single journey).

By Bus

Number 31 bus to Marcham (destination will be shown as Wantage) leaves Oxford at St Aldates (opposite the Post Office) at 10, 15 and 45 minutes past the hour up to 6 pm. St Aldates is about a 15 minute walk from the Coach Station. There is a bus service from the Railway Station to St Aldates/City Centre. Once on the 31 or 31x ask for the Marcham Post Office stop which is about a 5 minute walk from the College.

Getting from Didcot to Marcham

Didcot Parkway Railway Station is 10 miles from the College. A number of trains from Paddington and some from Waterloo as well as from other parts of the country stop at Didcot. There is no public transport from Didcot to Marcham. Taxis cost about £16 for a single journey.

Getting to Marcham by car

The College is 3 miles west of Abingdon on the A415 road from Abingdon to Witney and 8 miles south west of Oxford.

Travelling south from Oxford (do not take the Abingdon North exit from the A34) leave the A34 at the A415 slip road to Abingdon (marked Marcham Interchange). Take the third turning off the roundabout signed to Wantage and Witney. **DO NOT FOLLOW THE SIGNS INTO ABINGDON AT THE ROUNDABOUT.** Follow the A415 to Marcham.

Travelling north from Newbury on the A34, exit on the A415 signposted Marcham Interchange. At the roundabout take the first turning left to Wantage and Witney A415. **DO NOT FOLLOW THE SIGNS INTO ABINGDON AT THE ROUNDABOUT.** Follow the A415 to Marcham.

Travelling east from Swindon on the A420 or from Cheltenham on the A40 pick up the A415 and follow it into Marcham. At the junction of the A338 and the A415 you will see a Denman College sign pointing towards Marcham.

In the village of Marcham you will see a sign post to Denman College and to the Church. The College is a few hundred yards just past the Church. Follow the sign to Reception. Please observe the 5 mph speed limit on all road on the College site.

If you are in the Main House please park in the car park beyond the coach park once you have registered. Parking is not normally permitted anywhere on the grass. Cars are parked at owners risk. Please remember to remove all loose items from your car and ensure it is secure.