

THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

WHAT NEXT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE POST BREXIT?

HOSTED BY: **JULIE GIRLING MEP**

Friday 17th March 2017
Boutflour Hall, Royal Agricultural University
Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS



Conservatives
in the European Parliament



**European Conservatives
and Reformists Group**

WELCOME TO OUR ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE 2017.

Today I, and those who have kindly agreed to share their expertise and knowledge with you, will aim to answer many of your questions on the future for the South West, post Brexit.

We are now nine months on from the Referendum and beginning to get an idea of how Theresa May will begin her negotiations with the EU when Article 50 is activated.

As many of you will know, the Environmental issues are very important to me, as they are to you all, and today the aim of this Conference is to look at what can be achieved. How can we protect our countryside, ensure food security, enable our farmers to farm profitably and sustainably, maintain animal welfare, ensure continued water quality and improve air quality – and so the list goes on?

My work in the Parliament is centred largely on Environment and Agriculture legislation, both of which are hugely important to the South West and will be very important in the negotiation process. Much of the Environment legislation that goes through the EU will need to be upheld in UK law, typically the recent Air Quality Regulation that I led through the Parliament. Air circulates across boundaries; a lot of the air that we breathe in the South West comes from Europe on the prevailing winds. It is therefore vital that we continue to insist on high standards. It is in our interest to know that the whole of Europe must abide by the regulations.

It is not going to be easy, the EU will not make our exit straightforward, we will need to negotiate long and hard to get the deal we need. I am determined that our environment and agriculture industries should not suffer because we are leaving.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the short time we have.

Best wishes

Julie

Julie Girling

MEP for the South West & Gibraltar

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Committee on Fisheries

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Julie Girling

MEP for the South West of England & Gibraltar

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AGENDA

- 09:30** Registration with tea/coffee available
- 09:55** Welcome and Introduction by **Julie Girling MEP**
- 10:00** **Julie Girling MEP**
What has the EU Ever done for us? An overview of EU Environmental Legislation and Finances.
- 10:30** **Martin Lane, Director, Cotswold Conservation Board**
The Value of EU Environmental Legislation in Protected Landscapes and future Opportunities
- 11:00** Q&A
- 11:15** Break
- 11:45** **John Mortimer, South West Director, CLA**
BREXIT - An opportunity to reshape rural business.
- 12:15** **Nick Bruce-White, RSPB SW Regional Director**
BREXIT - Opportunities & Threats
- 12:45** Q&A
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:00** **Nick von Westenholz, NFU Director of International Trade**
BREXIT – Opportunities & Threats
- 14:30** **Richard Wakeford, Visiting Professor of Land Use and Rural Development at Birmingham City University**
BREXIT – how to use the opportunity to take control of agricultural policy.
- 15:00** **Panel Discussion** – an opportunity to question a panel of environmental and agricultural experts, including representatives from FWAG & CPRE.
- 15.50** **Closing comments from Julie Girling MEP**

Note: Agenda is subject to change, order of speakers may vary

JULIE GIRLING

MEP

Julie was born in London, educated at Twickenham County Grammar School followed by Liverpool University where she graduated in 1979 with a degree in History and Politics. She joined Ford Motor Company as a graduate trainee working on the shop floor in a supervisory role and later moved into retail management with Argos, Dixons/Currys and Boots before heading up Buying and Marketing at Halfords. She then spent several years living and working in Indonesia with her husband.

In 1999 Julie was elected as a Councillor on Cotswold District Council and became Leader of the Council in 2003. In 2000 she was elected to Gloucestershire County Council and became Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment in 2005.

Julie was delighted to be elected as MEP for the South West of England and Gibraltar in June 2009 and successfully re-elected for a second term in May 2014. With a keen interest in all environmental and agricultural issues she was very pleased to be reappointed to the Environment, Public Health & Food Safety Committee and was recently Rapporteur on Air Quality. Julie is also a member of the Agriculture Committee, Fisheries Committee and the Women's Rights & Gender Equality Committee as well as a member of the ASEAN Delegation for relations with South East Asia.

In her spare time Julie enjoys horse riding, gardening, walking her dogs, cycling and yoga. She lives in the Cotswolds with her husband.



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MARTIN LANE
Cotswold Conservation
Board

Martin Lane is Director of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, the lead body for the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Prior to moving to the Cotswolds he worked for the Countryside Commission in both regional and national roles, for the National Trust and local authorities on the Heritage Coast in Cornwall, for the Groundwork Trust in Merseyside and the Wildlife Trust in Durham. He is a Chartered member of the Landscape Institute, a trustee of Europarc Atlantic Isles, the UK and Ireland section of a European network of protected landscapes and a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellow.

John Mortimer has been Director South West of the Country Land and Business Association since 2002.

John graduated in Mining Engineering at Imperial College and has an MBA from Cranfield University. He previously spent 25 years working in the UK mineral industry where responsibilities ranged from front line production in the Cornish tin mining industry to estates management, environmental policy, external affairs and corporate communications, becoming Technical and External Affairs Director of Hanson's European quarrying and construction materials business.

In the mid 1980s, he was part of the team that built "fortress Falklands".

He was Chairman of the CBI Minerals Committee, Chairman of the Quarry Products Association Public Affairs Committee, served on the Board of the British Geological Survey 1998-2001 and was Chairman of the Board 2000-2001.

He is currently a member of the managing board of the South West Rural and Farming Network and in 2015 joined the board of the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, where he represents the interests of the rural economy and of small businesses across Swindon and Wiltshire.

In December 2016, he became Chairman of the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP.



JOHN MORTIMER
BSc Eng ARSM MBA

NICK BRUCE-WHITE

RSPB SW Regional Director

Nick is Regional Director for the RSPB, leading a team of 160 staff and 1,000 volunteers across South West England. He has worked for the RSPB for 15 years, previously in Northern England and London, where he specialised in nature reserve & operational management.

Nick has a particular interest in environmental leadership and aligning partners and the wider public around a common cause.

Nick grew up in Wiltshire, where his family have farmed for many generations. This has given Nick both an affinity with the farming community and a passion to make the farmed environment more nature-friendly. Having been blessed with a childhood in the countryside, Nick is also a strong advocate for providing opportunities to connect young people of all backgrounds with nature.

Nick now lives with his family in Exeter.

NICK VON WESTENHOLZ

NFU Director of EU Exit & International Trade

Nick von Westenholz was appointed Director of EU Exit and International Trade for the National Farmers Union (NFU) in October 2016, taking up the post in January 2017. He previously served as Chief Executive of the Crop Protection Association (CPA) from January 2013 to December 2016, representing the UK plant science industry and promoting the development and manufacture of a wide range of plant science technologies including synthetic and bio pesticides, seed and plant breeding and agricultural biotechnology.

Nick has enjoyed a varied career both within and outside agriculture. Prior to the CPA, Nick was Head of Government Affairs at the NFU, responsible for managing the organisation's political relations and heading up its London office.

He worked for a London-based public affairs agency for many years, advising companies and organisations across a wide range of sectors on media and political relations. He trained as a lawyer, being called to the Bar in 2007. He lives with his wife and two children on the family's arable farm in East Hertfordshire, which is managed in partnership with two neighbouring farm businesses.





Richard Wakeford – “Rural strategist”

Richard Wakeford is Visiting Professor of Land Use and Rural Development at Birmingham City University. He is currently chair of the European Commission's Advisory Group on Horizon2020 research priorities in food security, agriculture, forestry and marine issues.

Underpinning his work is his belief that governments do not use regulation, financial incentives and tax measures wisely enough to incentivise the best use of land. He saw great potential in a multinational research project designing a roadmap to deliver Europe's future land use – in which he served as policy adviser. A role exploring rural potential in the Russian Federation came to a halt for financial reasons, but remains an intriguing possibility.

Richard was previously Chair of the OECD Rural Working Party – the international forum reviewing and comparing best practice in rural development policy and delivery. In that role he worked on reviews of rural and environmental policy in many member and non-member nations, and led sessions at international conferences.

As Head of the Scottish Government's Environment and Rural Affairs Department for five years from 2005, he was responsible for all policy development and delivery across rural, marine, food and environmental programmes – as well as for leadership of Scotland's Climate Change Bill, among the most demanding in the world.

Richard was Chief Executive of the Countryside Agency in England from 1996 until 2004, following many years of Whitehall work on the environmental and land use planning policy and a spell in the Cabinet Office at the time John Major was Prime Minister. His international interests were stimulated by a year at Princeton University, leading to his book on American Development Control – published 1990; well reviewed on both sides of the Atlantic.

@Ruralstrategist

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Jenny Phelps MBE

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group,
Gloucestershire.

Jenny Phelps has over 30 years' experience in delivering practical environmental support for farmers and communities and developed the integrated local delivery framework www.ccric.ac.uk/ild. Jenny has delivered with her team over 200,000 Ha of Environmental Stewardship and 6,000 Ha of new Countryside Stewardship in the last 10 years. Jenny leads on: the Water with Integrated Local Delivery Project; The Upper Thames Catchment Partnership; The Cotswolds Payments for Ecosystem Service Defra pilot. She is also the Facilitator for Natural England's Farmer Guardians of the Upper Thames, Carrant and Isbourne catchments and a coordinator for Duchy Innovative Farmers. She is also the co-author of the national Community Guide to the Water Environment

<http://www.acre.org.uk/cms/resources/comm-guides/communityguidewater.pdf>
and a well received post Brexit Policy Paper.

http://www.fwagsw.org.uk/files/4814/8518/1586/Vision_for_UK_agri_and_env_policy_23012017.pdf



Cate Le Grice-Mack MBE

With a background in geography and economics Cate began her career teaching secondary level geography

In 1985 she established the Norwood Rare Breeds Centre producing meat and cereals on 340 acres in North Somerset, breeding and rearing traditional British farm livestock, open to over 24,000 visitors annually, allowing people to experience organic production methods, and the use of farm based renewable energy systems (wind and solar) first hand, and selling the farm's meat direct to local customers. Cate worked closely with the Soil Association (SA) as a member of the Editorial Board for the SA's producers' magazine 'Organic Farming' (1996-1999) before becoming a member of the SA's certification Board 'SACert' (2001-2003).

Cate has served as a Somerset County Councillor (1997-2001), chairing the Environment and Transport committee overseeing the Local Structure Plan and the Transport, Minerals and Waste local plans.

Alongside her local authority work, Cate pursued her interest in rural affairs and planning. She was appointed to the board of the Countryside Agency on its establishment in 1999, and chaired the SW Rural Affairs panel for four years up to 2010, receiving an MBE for services to the environment.

Cate has continued to work at a strategic level as an elected environmental partner on the South West Regional Assembly (2000-2009) and as a member of Sustainability South West (2000-2010). She also served as a member and chair of the Board of Trustees for the Bath sustainability charity 'Envolve' (2000-2010). She retired from active farming in 2007, but remains a judge for the Portland Sheep Breeders Society. She is chair of the Norton Radstock Regeneration Company.



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Protecting your future

"We'll be free to grow more, sell more and export more of our Great British food."

The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, speech to NFU Conference (February 2017)

"British hopes should not be set too high... in comes American beef. Out go European subsidies. That won't be an easy sell..."

Sir John Major, speech at Chatham House, London (February 2017)

"Over the next two years negotiations will take place which will have a massive impact on farming and Britain's ability to have a thriving food production system."

NFU President Meurig Raymond, speech to NFU Conference (February 2017)

Farmers and growers need the NFU more than ever before.

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