



# Communities on the Edge?

*Working together to sustain rural communities*

## An event for the Landowning Sector

18th November 2008 at Floors Castle, Scottish Borders

- **APPRECIATE**  
the potential of mutually beneficial relationships between local people and landowning estates.
- **CELEBRATE**  
the role of the local community in building a dynamic and resilient rural economy.
- **PARTICIPATE**  
in a unique learning experience at Floors Castle in the Scottish Borders.
- **SHARE**  
good practice and insights into the potential of people, skills, heritage and culture.
- **LEARN**  
about leading edge practice in community engagement and asset based development.
- **NETWORK**  
with colleagues and others involved in rural development.
- **DISCOVER**  
opportunity in a changing and challenging world.

This event will bring together landowners from across the UK to share ideas, best practice and to consider how to add value to rural assets and sustain communities. It will focus on the relationship between local people and the landowning estates which they border, examining how effective partnerships might lead the way to building a sustainable, resilient countryside fit to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future.

This event is being organised by the Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP), an independent charity operating across the South of Scotland.

SUP develops projects that address the needs of the Southern Uplands and which demonstrate new approaches and ideas. This is achieved through working with existing organisations - national and local agencies, businesses and community groups. One such project, 'Communities on the Edge', provides the context for this event.

Operating for over four years now, this initiative aims to build the capacity of local communities to secure sustainable futures for themselves. The project has supported the development of innovative relationships. As part of the Carnegie UK Trust Rural Action Research Programme (RARP), the project enjoys a high national profile.

At a local level, the development of a resilient rural economy becomes increasingly vital in the face of the challenges presented by climate change, food and energy security, the need for affordable housing and changes to the administration of structural funds. This event will address these key areas, bringing together a powerful mix of speakers from government, private and voluntary sectors. The event will provide a unique experience of great value to all those working to achieve and maintain a vibrant and dynamic countryside.

