

## **Richard Wakeford**

### **Rural strategist**

Richard Wakeford is **Visiting Professor of Land Use and Rural Development at Birmingham City University**. He is active as a research partner, conference facilitator and consultant - *internationally* on policies for land use and rural development; and *locally* in England helping rural communities improve their assets and services.

Underpinning his work is a belief that governments do not use research and evidence sufficiently in devising regulation, financial incentives and tax measures. As a result, land and other rural assets are not used to full advantage.

He served as policy adviser in a multinational research project designing a roadmap to deliver Europe's future land use. He continues to explore rural potential in the Russian Federation; and in Wales where tree planting potential is not being delivered on the ground.

As **Chair of the OECD Rural Working Party** until 2012 he worked on reviews of rural and environmental policy and led sessions at international conferences. More recently he chaired the **European Commission's Advisory Group on Horizon2020 Societal Challenge 2**, advising on research priorities in food security, rural development, agriculture, forestry and marine issues.

As **Head of the Scottish Government's Environment and Rural Affairs Department** for five years, Richard was responsible for all policy development and delivery across rural, marine, food and environmental programmes. Before that, he was **Chief Executive of the Countryside Agency** in England, the government funded body that researched rural development needs, piloted new initiatives and recommended government action.

Richard is an Honorary Life Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, and Chair of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Research Trust. He is a local Town Councillor and active attempting to apply OECD lessons in county level organisations.

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