



REPORT ON EK'S 2007 CONFERENCE

***CORNWALL'S FUTURE:
LAND USE, RESOURCE DEPLETION AND CHANGING CLIMATE***
held on Friday Nov 16TH 2007 at Duchy College, Rosewarne

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Aim – identify key challenges to creating a sustainable future for Cornwall & IOS.
- Key speakers – Colin Campbell, David Strahan, Patrick Holden, Rob Hopkins.
- Strategic Issues – oil depletion, climate change, demography.
- Key Challenges – identified by speakers, discussion & breakout session.
 - 1) Sustainability of communities and/or resources.
 - 2) Behaviour change and education.
 - 3) Responsibility (i.e. taking ownership of problems), re-localization and leadership (at all levels).
 - 4) Audit of resources and challenges followed by planning.
- Delegates – 90 from NGOs, statutory bodies, business, Transition Towns, local and regional government.
- Funded by Cornwall Sustainable Buildings Trust & supported by Duchy College.

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SUMMARY

Background

- The aim of the conference was to help identify the key challenges in creating a sustainable future for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. It was also an opportunity to start to develop new thinking and instigate the collaborative working that will be integral to the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreements.
- The conference title - *Cornwall's future – land use, resource depletion & changing climate* – was chosen to highlight the many conflicting demands on Cornwall's land and begin discussion on how they can be accommodated in a time of depleting resources, demographic shifts and climate change.
- There were 90 delegates, representing NGOs, statutory bodies, business, Transition Towns, local and regional government.

Strategic Issues

Talks by three key speakers set the scene.

- Colin Campbell (petroleum geologist and founder of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil & Gas www.peakoil.net) began with a sobering assessment of oil depletion, concluding that demand is likely already to be outstripping supply, driving oil prices inexorably over \$100 per barrel and ending the era of cheap oil.
- David Strahan (journalist, documentary film-maker and author www.lastoilshock.com) looked at what sources of energy were available to fill the widening gap between supply and demand (predicted to be 2-3% year on year), concluding that there was no obvious candidate in the near term and that many alternative sources would exacerbate climate change. He also pointed out that both climate change and peak oil highlighted the need to manage our economic and social systems differently.
- Patrick Holden (Director of the Soil Association and organic farmer) considered how these themes would affect agriculture and food security. He also emphasized that business as usual – socially and economically – is not an option.

Discussion

The discussion of the strategic issues developed several related themes (transcript in Appendix I).

- One commonly expressed theme was a wish to “get back to the land” re-localizing food supplies, re-establishing connections between people and engaging the public in the problem. This theme linked to questions about the availability of skills, perceptions of those who currently work the land and the time available to bring about behaviour change.
- A second common theme was the role of sources of renewable energy and the planning issues that affect their deployment.
- There was also discussion about the puzzling apparent lack of interest in oil depletion from many major NGO / environmental groups.

Breakout Session

This session posed the question: *What is land for? How can we manage it with increasingly scarce resources and a changing climate?*

- Each of the 10 groups was asked to identify 3 critical issues for land use in Cornwall over the next 30 years that need to be considered now. These issues were grouped into 8 themes (Fig. 1, detail and rationale shown in App. II).
- There was considerable agreement between groups. This is shown by the fact that three themes contained half of the issues (Sustainability of communities and/or resources, Behaviour change, and Responsibility / Re-localization) and four further themes accounted for most of the remaining issues (Leadership, Audit of resources & needs, Education and Planning).

- A further indication of the level of agreement is the linkage between themes. For example, Behaviour change is closely linked to Education, because education is often a prerequisite for behaviour change. Responsibility (in the sense of taking ownership of the problem) & Re-localization are linked to Leadership and leadership at all levels was referred to in many issues. Audit and Planning are linked since an audit of existing resources and challenges would seem an obvious prerequisite for planning. This grouping of themes is listed in the Executive Summary.

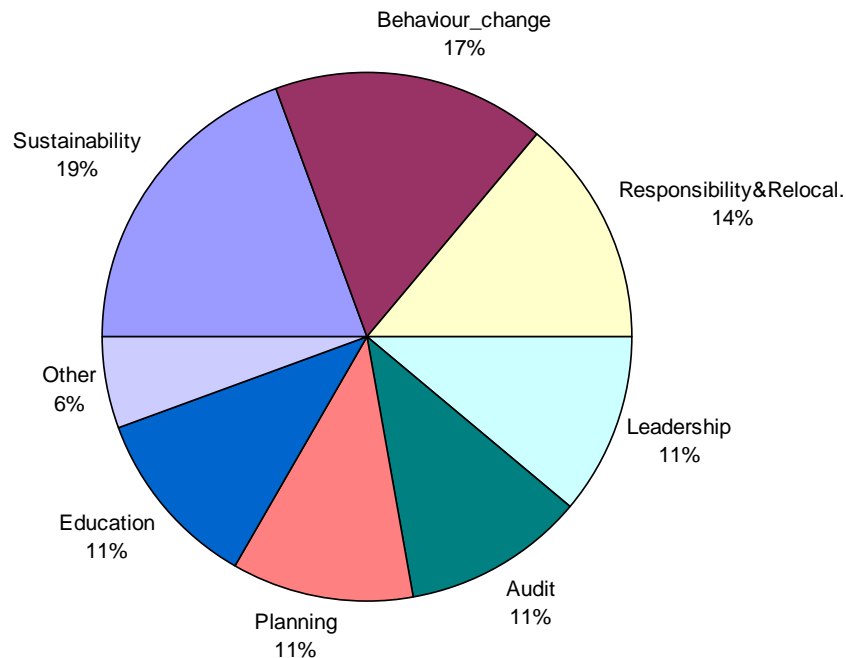


Figure 1. The eight critical themes of future land use in Cornwall. Percentages indicate the number of issues per theme (details in App. II).

- Groups were also asked to indicate whether their issues were strategic headlines or practical actions; however, many issues were both (see App. Iii). Most groups categorized the urgency of addressing all of their issues as *red* (on a scale of red, amber, blue). Few groups indicated who should take the issues forward and what deadlines should apply. This information has not been analysed further.

Cornwall's Future

Bill Holliday (Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership) and David Rodda (Cornwall Agricultural Council) presented innovative solutions being developed in the land-based sector (e.g. local production, cooperation, minimising energy use and generating energy) and how rural communities are developing social enterprises to provide local services. Delivery against the post oil agenda in rural areas has already started in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly.

Concluding Key Speaker

Rob Hopkins (founder of the transition movement), emphasized the linkage between the issues identified over the day (by both speakers and delegates) and offered some hope for the future. His vision is based on experience of a community moving towards re-localization, with lower fossil fuel energy dependency - Transition Town Totnes.

Closing Tale

The conference closed on an uplifting note with an impromptu tale from Will Coleman of Brave Tales that incorporated elements from the day into a bold hope for Cornwall's future.

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Appendix I: Strategic Issues Discussion

Key Points Transcript

Brett Jackson, Chyan Eco Study Centre

How do we get young people back onto the land? This is an important planning and council issue.

Jackie Carpenter, Trelay Farm

We are setting up a sustainable community; older people with capital have bought land with the aim of bringing young people back to the land. Our issue is getting planning consent for the workforce.

Also raise the issue of food storage (availability of suitable agricultural buildings) to return to less reliance on central, national food distribution networks.

Rose Barnecutt, Farmer

In response to previous comments. In recent times young people have been leaving the land in droves – through lack of respect for farmers and the struggle for small family farms to exist. How do we retain the skills to grow food?

Alan Dyer, Centre for Sustainable Futures, University of Plymouth

The connection between children and the environment needs to be re-established. Schools need to explore the links between land, food and happiness.

Traci Lewis, Organic Southwest

An organic apprenticeship scheme has been started with Duchy College: participants (farmers and young people) are sought. Funded by Objective 1 at present.

Charmian Larke, Atlantic Energy

To generate 50% of Penwith's current energy use will need 60 3MW wind turbines and £100M spent on storage. How do we decide to enable such schemes?

David Strahan, speaker

Wind turbines are particularly prone to NIMBYism – especially onshore turbines. People have to decide what they want.

Colin Campbell, speaker

I have recently heard of a Dutch wave generator – what about using wave power in Cornwall?

Charmian Larke

Wavehub is an important Cornish development but it is not enough on its own and it won't be available fast enough to fill the energy shortfall David described.

Mark Murray, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

Could Colin Campbell, as a geologist, comment on the promise of geothermal energy sources?

Charmian Larke

The Hot Rocks project in Cornwall was halted because of geological problems (leakage into surrounding rocks)

Colin Campbell

There are working European examples; volcanoes in Italy and gravel beds under Geneva. It probably comes down to local geology.

Jackie Carpenter

Problem with planning applications for wind turbines is that although they are supported by most people a vociferous minority ensure applications fail.

David Strahan

Have to be careful judging support from opinion polls; in general people may think wind generation is a good idea, but they won't support turbines in their backyard.

Ben Mead, Pengreep Farm

These decisions show the effects of vested interests; if solutions go against the vested interests then their powerful lobby groups ensure they don't proceed.

Oliver Baines, Groundswell Cornwall

I am wary of high tech solutions. Is the key issue to find a way to break dependence on an ever-expanding world economy?

Will Coleman, Brave Tales

On wind power: it has the potential to split communities down the middle (sometimes locals v. incomers). Part of the problem is that while the landowner may get a benefit from siting the turbine, everyone roundabout suffers a perceived "cost" such as a fall in house prices. If parish councils accept responsibility for their own power generation then the local community have ownership and things would be different. The issue is about scale and local responsibilities.

John Mills, Chair

Ashton Hayes in Cheshire has gone down this route.

[Note: Ashton Hayes is investigating feasibility of developing a renewable energy micro-grid as part of becoming England's first carbon neutral village. www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk]

Colin Campbell

In response to Oliver Baines: the current system is that tomorrow's expansion is collateral for today's debts. I see no real hope for changing this with current investment policy.

David Strahan

Yes. It's a bit like a chain letter – and I can't see a nice way of adjusting it.

Manda Brookman, Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project

Why are leading NGOs not engaging with the peak oil, energy deficit issue?

David Strahan

This lack of engagement is very peculiar, but real. Particularly as a lot of the NGOs members get the issue but the organisation won't engage. Perhaps it is because the NGOs can't deliver a message in a way that will not turn people off. Perhaps it is because they think peak oil will fix climate change (which it is unlikely to for reasons I explained in the talk). But it could also be because NGOs are rubbing shoulders with politicians and are doing things for the right political reasons with the agenda set by politicians. The truth is just too unpalatable, so NGOs risk losing the ear of politicians. But NGOs are missing a trick; peak oil is a great recruiting sergeant for climate change.

Colin Campbell

Many oil companies are contracting, so they are engaging, perhaps unconsciously, with peak oil.

Nick Taylor, Duchy College, Rosewarne

How do we cause the necessary cultural shift? How much time can we buy ourselves by changing behaviour in order to advance the cultural shift?

Colin Campbell

Oil is not suddenly going to run out; supply is declining at 2-3% year on year.

David Strahan

The boss of Total (world's 4th largest oil company) has said peak oil will occur in 2020 and he also asked governments to depress demand so that the peak is extended. If countries agreed to reduction in use, then we could buy maybe a decade.

Colin Campbell

We need to change the tax system so that energy is not a deductible. That will depress demand by raising prices.

Lindley Owen, Cornwall Primary Healthcare Trust

Perhaps DS is not right that politicians don't want to be a Cassandra – opposition politicians may do (e.g. Winston Churchill).

David Strahan

But it seems that the willingness to be a Cassandra decreases the closer a politician gets to power.

Colin Campbell

Sweden will wean itself off oil in 20 years. This should be possible in Cornwall.

Brett Jackson

Economists (Chicago School) are clear that big change (war, famine) benefits some economies. Is localization an economic cushion? Give more power to our communities and reduce the dependence on the state.

Julie Tamblin, Transition Lostwithiel

It is 6 years since a petition signed by 50,000 Cornish people was sent to London – we are still waiting for a reply.

Will Coleman

Unitary authorities will have powers of an assembly. Is this a way to devolution?

John Mills

Jersey is devolved by virtue of its history, yet it has a whole series of complex dependencies.

Phil Ulgalde, Proper Cornish

In relation to young people and farming; one way of reengaging with the land is for every settlement to have thriving allotments – allowing people to take responsibility for the land and food production

Rob Hopkins, Transition Town Totnes

On devolution: it's a key part of Transition, allowing engagement and responsibility.

Discussion ended 12.20

Appendix II: Breakout Session: Issues, Themes & Transcript

This session posed the question: *What is land for? How can we manage it with increasingly scarce resources and a changing climate?*

Each of the 10 groups was asked to identify three critical issues for land use in Cornwall that need to be considered now for the next 30 years.

The critical issues were reported on a standard sheet (App. Iii).

This exercise generated 31 issues (one group identified 4 issues) (App. Iiii)

These were grouped into 8 themes (the grouping of issues into themes is shown in App. Iiiii).

Grouping issues into themes is necessarily subjective; however, some confidence can be placed in this grouping because it also used detail from the table discussions (App. Iiiv) to attribute issues to themes where attribution was not immediately apparent. I

Transcriptions of groups' flip charts are shown in App. Iiiv.

Appendix IIi: Reporting sheet

Group number/name:					
Question for discussion:					
<p><i>What is land for? How can we manage it with increasingly scarce resources and a changing climate?</i></p> <p><i>What will be the critical issues we need to consider in the next 5 and ten years?</i></p> <p>Don't fill this form in yet. You need to have agreed the 3 most important issues from your discussion. You have 1 hour to discuss; then 15 mins to decide on the 3 most important points.</p>					
You may wish to consider the following areas in answering the question:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to markets for farmers ▪ Access to food for residents ▪ Amount of food sold to visitors, and their importance to or impact on the land, and amount of food ▪ Reliance on energy ▪ Food v crops v biodiversity in terms of land use ▪ Growing enough, but growing healthy food ▪ Land use (incl. growing food) as a means of improving physical & emotional wellbeing ▪ Housing and economic development ▪ Transportation of people and goods, access to services 					
What are the 3 main issues that you think need to be taken forward and fed back today (note that all the scribe comments will be considered fully also) and are the points strategic aims or practical actions?					
MAIN ISSUES	Strategic or Action? Tick one		Urgency Indicate by assigning to red, amber or blue	Who might take this forward?	Deadline for action?
1.	strategic headline aim	practical action			
2.					
3.					

Appendix Iii: Issues

Transcribed from reporting sheet (App. Iii). Group 1, issue 1 is identified as 1.1 etc

- 1.1 Sustainable local food
- 1.2 Energy generation
- 1.3 Community responsibility for resources

- 2.1 Understanding where we are (can Cornwall be self-sufficient? Food, land & energy requirement), needs research
- 2.2 Leadership: unitary authority + community areas; sustainable activity & different well-being concept; lead on Transition model; one planet living
- 2.3 Reduce gap between consumption & production: lifestyle change (business as usual not an option); walk the talk; green peninsula

- 3.1 Protect quality of land – public awareness of importance of land
- 3.2 Leadership & vision to allow adapting to low energy economy peacefully
- 3.3 Change public value system/expectations; move from materialistic to cultural

- 4.1 Importance of personal & strategic community behavioural change – convert one more
- 4.2 Leadership & good governance through engagement – clarity & cohesion of message
- 4.3 Commit to shifting 10% of your expenditure to local – ask where it's from

- 5.1 Resource audit at county level to decide needs/prioritization
- 5.2 Scenario modelling after 5.1
- 5.3 Re-localization as a strategic aim and a process to allow resilience & deal with these issues

- 6.1 Land / water use – audit land use
- 6.2 Energy use – audit of energy use, use local supplies
- 6.3 Sustainable communities – planning sustainably for Cornwall

- 7.1 View land from non-human centred standpoint, consider environment holistically with humans as one of the elements
- 7.2 Education: at all levels, life-long learning
- 7.3 Sustainable communities: devolution – will it assist sustainable communities?

- 8.1 Fit for purpose planning system
- 8.2 Invest in achieving ownership & cultural value change
- 8.3 Living within environmental limits

- 9.1 Engagement with land holders and local population
- 9.2 Planning (land-use, review)
- 9.3 Dissemination of Transition information & energize those involved in Transition in Cornwall – through a Festival of the Future (localized)

- 10.1 Planning – sourcing & distribution policy
- 10.2 Subsidiarity / politics – educate elected members; national & local relationships
- 10.3 Ownership – small holding, education, inverse taxation, culture, corporate
- 10.4 Education – holistic, balance, inclusive, systems

Appendix Iliii: Themes –grouping of issues

The 31 issues identified by the 10 groups were grouped into themes for the summary figure (Fig. 1). The contributions of the issues (listed in App. Ilii) to the 8 themes are shown below (1.1 indicates Group 1 issue 1). The number in square brackets after the theme title shows how many issues were grouped into the theme.

Some issues appeared in more than one theme (e.g. 2.2), leading to a total of 36 contributions to the pie chart.

Some issues partially coincided with the theme, these are shown as (?x.x) in the issue list and as [+ N] in the total.

The themes were ordered by number of issues contained, e.g. Leadership [4 + 3] appears before Audit [4 + 2].

1. Sustainable communities / resources (food, energy) [7]

- 1.1 Sustainable local food
- 1.2 Energy generation
- 2.2 Leadership: unitary authority + community areas; sustainable activity & different well-being concept; lead on Transition model; one planet living
- 3.2 Leadership & vision to allow adapting to low energy economy peacefully
- 6.3 Sustainable communities – planning sustainably for Cornwall
- 7.3 Sustainable communities: devolution – will it assist sustainable communities?
- 8.3 Living within environmental limits

2. Behaviour change [6]

- 2.3 Reduce gap between consumption & production: lifestyle change (business as usual not an option); walk the talk; green peninsula
- 3.3 Change public value system/expectations; move from materialistic to cultural
- 4.1 Importance of personal & strategic community behavioural change – convert one more
- 4.3 Commit to shifting 10% of your expenditure to local – ask where it's from
- 8.2 Invest in achieving ownership & cultural value change
- 9.3 Dissemination of Transition information & energize those involved in Transition in Cornwall – through a Festival of the Future (localized)

3. Responsibility / re-localization [5 + 2]

- 1.3 Community responsibility for resources
- 2.2 Leadership: unitary authority + community areas; sustainable activity & different well-being concept; lead on Transition model; one planet living
- 5.3 Re-localization as a strategic aim and a process to allow resilience & deal with these issues
- 8.2 Invest in achieving ownership & cultural value change
- 10.3 Ownership – small holding, education, inverse taxation, culture, corporate
- (9.1 Engagement with land holders and local population)
- (4.3 Commit to shifting 10% of your expenditure to local – ask where it's from)

4. Leadership [4 + 3]

- 2.2 Leadership: unitary authority + community areas; sustainable activity & different well-being concept; lead on Transition model; one planet living
- 3.2 Leadership & vision to allow adapting to low energy economy peacefully
- 4.2 Leadership & good governance through engagement – clarity & cohesion of message
- 10.2 Subsidiarity / politics – educate elected members; national & local relationships
- (1.3 Community responsibility for resources)
- (3.3 Change public value system/expectations; move from materialistic to cultural)
- (5.3 Re-localization as a strategic aim and a process to allow resilience & deal with these issues)

5. Audit of current position [4 + 2]

- 2.1 Understanding where we are (can Cornwall be self-sufficient? Food, land & energy requirement), needs research
- 5.1 Resource audit at county level to decide needs/prioritization
- 6.1 Land / water use – audit land use
- 6.2 Energy use – audit of energy use, use local supplies
- (1.3 Community responsibility for resources)
- (8.3 Living within environmental limits)

6. Planning [4 + 1]

- 5.2 Scenario modelling after 5.1
- 8.1 Fit for purpose planning system
- 9.2 Planning (land-use, review)
- 10.1 Planning – sourcing & distribution policy
- (3.1 Protect quality of land – public awareness of importance of land)

7. Education [4]

- 7.2 Education: at all levels, life-long learning
- 9.1 Engagement with land holders and local population
- 9.3 Dissemination of Transition information & energize those involved in Transition in Cornwall – through a Festival of the Future (localized)
- 10.4 Education – holistic, balance, inclusive, systems

8. Other [2]

- 3.1 Protect quality of land – public awareness of importance of land
- 7.1 View land from non-human centred standpoint, consider environment holistically with humans as one of the elements

Appendix IIiv: Flip chart transcripts

Group 1

What is land for, critical issues for now and the next 20 years

Generic; biodiversity, for people to live on, energy use, food for humans and animals

Issues that came up are:

Land is for food and to live on

Need of Communities for shared power and shared responsibilities

Networking

Sharing energy and food

Sense of belonging

Shift in culture

We need to manage transition

Water usage is a big issue

Best is mixed cropping organically

Learn agriculture through mentoring

We are dependent on the Sun and Wind for energy

Legislation is a main issue

Strategic Planning on a local level

Group 2

What is land for?

Exploitation (=/-) balance needed

Land to be used not abandoned

Wildlife

Cultural

Physical basis for ecosystem

Include beneath land (drinking water)

Food and energy production

Sustaining life

Managed for one planet living (stewardship)

New ways of working (business as usual not an option)

Public v. private ownership?

Can Cornwall be self-sufficient? Food, land & energy requirement), needs research

New technology, energy generation, food production carbon neutral farms

Land for living (houses work and connections)

Need to help other areas as well as Cornwall – outward looking

Keep the money in

Access to markets local sourcing

Travel makes outsourcing too easy

Doing things differently sometimes makes it harder to achieve the right results

Over-indulgence needs to be restricted

Bring back village shops

Skills/knowledge how to utilize local produce – parents and schools focus (recycling as an example)

Direct farms subsidies in slightly different directions (energy generation)

Food production v. energy use including fertilizer consideration

Awareness/knowledge – raising of issues and actions

Energy audit? Has it been done?

Redundant barns brought back to add value for employment space and food storage

Land for energy generation

Single payment scheme – awards for more sustainable produce (incentive structure) (recognize global market issues)

Switch off street lights at certain times

Housing and employment space – brownfield v. greenfield sites find the balance

Reduction, reduction, reduction – method of production

Low impact development policies in rural areas

Heritage, World Heritage Site Status impacts +/-

Different concept of well-being – security, sustainability and survival

Transition Cornwall

Ask new Unitary Authority to lead on sustainable activities

Leadership – can we wait?

Community networks – positive opportunities and the will is there

Close the gap between consumption and production:

Group 3

Energy, food, wildlife, leisure, homes, resource extraction, employment → life (protection)

Cultural understanding, nurture

Management

Sustainable

Long term planning

Knowledge of sustainable / organic farming

Energy balance

Local conditions

Diversity – synergy

Community engagement with food producers

Sharing skills and knowledge of local conditions

Valuing farmers

Farmers to reconnect with public

Group 4

Scarce resources

- Principles of sustainable development

- Make the most of new technology & different ways of doing things

- Bring back old skills

- Behavioural change

- Ownership of the problem (shared responsibility)

Changing climate

- Better use of existing land (unused/managed)
- Adaptation/mitigation
- Carbon accounting
- Individual carbon allowances

Critical issues for next 20 years

- Population & displacement
- Food security (to what boundary?)
- Apathy (loss of engagement)
- Securing the capacity to produce
- Lifestyle
- Behavioural change (assessment of values)
- Energy security
- Localization of supply chain
- Political power (governance)

Group 5

1. Diversity of land access – e.g. urban and rural farming main issue will be proximity. Need: re-skilling, education, publicity

2. What is land for?

Food/social/health/clothing & construction materials. How self-sufficient do we need to be? Do we have to pre-empt imposition of self-sufficient trade? Is the key word resilience? Does what it can provide equate to what we need? What do we need and do we measure it?

Minimum needs: cannot be assessed until we decide to have a resource audit (i.e. start with supply rather than demand – unlike the usual economic models)

To do a triple bottom line resource audit first (with sue in scenario modelling)

Then as part of that define our size of communities

Importance of backcasting

Does the question come after the resource audit?

Maximise edge of crops for high biodiversity

High biodiversity and older mixed methods better than allegedly high yield mono-culture

Less trade = better diversity (big economic cultural shift)

Re-localization = need for more proactive and less reactive planning

Schumaker principle (small is beautiful)

3. How do we do a resource audit?

i. land ownership, land use e.g. livestock/crops/development/income e.g. tourism

ii. energy

iii. reliance of outside income (e.g. tourism)

iv. suitability e.g. aesthetic value

v. relevant skills/knowledge/wisdom especially skills and knowledge that might die out (use a variety of models of e.g. agricultural methods and costs)

BASELINE ASSUMPTION: land is for the successful living of its residents

GM – can be avoided if we develop skills and preserve genetic variety

Trade

Population → engagement and education, demographic structure, move towards balance, build up smaller rural areas rather than expand bigger urban areas

Re-localization

Pre-empt future threats e.g. GM

Social freedom

Slow food zone None-GM zone

Small areas might allow better assessment of triple bottom line – Gross Value Added / Gross

Domestic Product of a village for example. Trials of as local currency

Unitary?

Group 6

What is land for?

Food, energy, recreation, housing, transport, health, education, economic well-being,

Strategic Overview – to drive everything

Sustainability of Cornwall

- study of land use, can it sustain residents and visitors? Education of visitors to act in the most sustainable way, support local produce

- tourism

- sustainable housing: affordable, 2nd homes issues, growth

- health medicine - crops - process + manufacture

- materials

- industry - process local products and materials

- storage - food

- urban/rural

- regeneration of traditional industries

- diversity of land use (not dispersed but mixed land use and communities)

- energy: small scale local cropping, small scale waste recovery, reduce use first, biofuels – ethics?

Renewables and storage of power, small local nuclear power stations

- urban agriculture: allotments, gardens, horses

- land fertility: rebuilding natural states, returning nutrients, humus content through waste human and animal, tree crops, forestry, climate change crops

- forestry: shelter belts

- horticulture: farmers, education/school-based/training, where will they live, local land use training centres, increase in rural population to support food needs

- employment land (local)

- natural space/recreation - biodiversity

- conservation issues

- water: use, storage of potable, treatment of waste water

Group 7

What is land for?

Food, energy, wildlife, recreation, natural resources (renewable & non-renewable), habitation, industrial, PR (?public resource)/ identity, agriculture, carbon sink, economic/wealth, dump for waste

Pressures on land

Housing – gardens being lost / not being use

- meeting transport needs

Tourism

How to manage land and sea

Needs to be a balance between how we use the resources on land and sea

Sustainable communities: decisions made by the community; identifying local sources for food, energy, recreation; ownership of energy

Need to use resources in localized areas rather than across county e.g. wind in Penwith, biomass in Caradon etc

Realistic expectations for the next 20 years

Currently there is a lack of connection, change needs to come from bottom up, community to government

Structure of local government
planning

Need to bring back "connection" young people aren't connected to world around them.

Need a new social contract between people and the government

Need to ensure the whole community is engaged and has ownership

Where should funding come from?

Need to look away from Europe

Community banks, LETS schemes etc

Need to create and keep wealth (wealth retention)

Where should leadership come from?

Building on strengths of individuals from community groups

Dialogue between current government and future leadership

Shared best practice from other countries, communities, initiatives

Need to take an holistic approach leading to air land sea are interlinked

Need education at a grass roots level

Education, communication, community and sustainability are all inter-linked

Need to monitor and measure our population, energy requirements in order to plan

The group would like a follow-up to this event – to readdress issues, be a shame if it was all talk and no action

Group 8

What is it for?

For future generations' use

Grow food

Natural resource for collective use to live in a sustainable way

Means for production

Humankind is the custodian of the land → stewardship – does this preclude ownership? (to include marine resource)

Management

Learn to live more sustainably

Can we produce enough food ourselves (yes, but diet will change: seasonal organic & local)

Our age of predictability is over

Need to value food at true value – current prices are unsustainable

Need community engagement to provide local markets for farmers

Time is a big issue – changes in labour (women working) has changed habits/lifestyles

Supply side needs to be more demand-led and flexible – planners are resistant to the opening of farm shops

Tourists: some outlets benefit from tourism; eateries marketing on local distinctiveness can benefit food producers

Change infrastructure e.g. reduce parking charges to encourage local consumerism
Farming is currently very energy intensive – will require huge change to adapt – highly mechanized
GM is part of the technology, use with a precautionary principle
Green belt for housing?
Moving towards smaller fields as a reduction in mechanisation requires move away from monoculture
Landscape – amenities / perception are the current planning systems fit for purpose?

Planning

Make it more fit for purpose (strategic aim) fed through to local institutions
Appropriate use of agricultural / forestry resources e.g. best quality land for food crops, marginal land for energy production
Are biofuels suitable land use, land better used to grow food?

Group 9

Land is for:

Food production, shelter, biodiversity
Energy production
Sustain life
Sustain the planet
Absorb rising sea level
Allow spirit to fly
Water
Material supply

How to manage land:

A re market driven forces the right way to manage land?
Global markets cease – local markets flourish
Land management is tightly controlled
Hard to get enough food from land available
End up with no biodiversity as all land needed for production
Will gain some benefits (e.g. biodiversity) from organic farming
Transition will be difficult
Farmers market (small beginnings)
Big institutions won't move until big crash, must be local
Land owners locally transition movements must have links to farms
Marine resources
Could use land for fish ponds
Prepare for rapid change – will prepare for anything
Engage farmers in issues
Wider variety of crops
Multiple land use and multiple landownership
Engage land owners in use of land for energy production
Increase local food and energy production –need big investment to do this
Housing development upwards (?)
Second home issue - deal with this
Closer knit families – more living together (intergenerational)

Group 10

4 quadrants: food, energy, recreation & biodiversity, water

Media

Climate change

Value population

Squeeze as much into land

Population decrease

Immigration

City and urban environment

Role of families-management

Forest usage

Land lost to sea

Mining industry land

Tax reform

Politics election 09 both national and local

Type of products

GM crops

Resident permits

Leisure / culture

Self-sufficiency

Elected members

Lower input agriculture less food

Water and food storage

Workforce and skills

Link up natural habitats – manage

Transportation

Biofuel use

Carbon allowances

Innovation from community

Poorer communities

Fuel quota / poverty

Silo working

Size of farms – allotments and ownership

Devolution

Use of ocean

Appendix III: Conference Programme

CORNWALL'S FUTURE
*LAND USE, RESOURCE DEPLETION
AND CHANGING CLIMATE*



Friday Nov 16TH 2007
Duchy College, Rosewarne

- 9:00 registration
- 9:15 **Scene Setting: John Mills**, conference chair
- 9:30 **Strategic Issues: peak oil, climate change, land use & farming:**
Colin Campbell, Association for the Study of Peak Oil & Gas
David Strahan, Journalist & Author
Patrick Holden, Soil Association
- 11:00 coffee & networking
- 11:30 **Strategic Issues Discussion**
- 12:15 **Introduction to Breakout Session**
- 12:25 lunch: traditional folk menu using local seasonal organic food
by The Vintage Cook
- 13:15 **Breakout Session: What is land for? How can we manage it with
increasingly scarce resources and a changing climate?**
- 14:30 **Cornwall's Future:** short film on land use & current examples
- 15:00 **Themes from Breakout Session:** Chair & speakers report back
- 15:20 **On the Future: Rob Hopkins**, Transition Town Network
- 15:50 **Conclusion:** panel discussion
- 16:20 **Closing Tale: Will Coleman**, Brave Tales
- 16:30 depart



Funded by Cornwall Sustainable Buildings Trust and supported by Duchy College

Appendix IV: Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

Cornwall's future – land use, resource depletion & changing climate.

The current and forecast demands on Cornwall's land are many and varied – how can they be accommodated in a time of depleting resources, demographic shifts and climate change? This was the wide-ranging strategic question posed at Environment Kernow's 2007 conference, funded by Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust and held on November 16th at Duchy College, Rosewarne.

The 90 delegates represented NGOs, statutory bodies, business, Transition Towns, local and regional government.

Three prominent guest speakers introduced the key issues of resource depletion, climate change and land use, with each speaker emphasizing the inter-linkage between the issues.

Colin Campbell began with a sobering assessment of oil depletion, concluding that demand is likely to be already outstripping supply, driving oil prices inexorably over \$100 per barrel and ending the era of cheap oil.

David Strahan looked at what sources of energy were available to fill the widening gap between supply and demand, concluding that there was no obvious candidate in the near term and that many alternative sources would exacerbate climate change. He also pointed out that both climate change and peak oil highlight the need to manage our economic and social systems differently.

Patrick Holden, a practising organic farmer, considered how these themes would affect agriculture and food security. This set the scene for lively discussion in which key themes were how to engage people with the issues, re-engage with the land and change lifestyle.

The discussion continued over lunch, with food provided by The Vintage Cook embracing the conference's aspirations by being local, seasonal and organic.

In the afternoon breakout session, delegates were asked to identify key challenges in using land to create a sustainable future for Cornwall:

- How will we generate energy, grow food, create employment, distribute services & goods?
- How will we support young & elderly people?
- How will we build the necessary infrastructure to make our communities sustainable?

It was widely appreciated that the decisions we make now, will shape how our communities can function in the future.

The key speakers helped collate the themes identified in the session while the delegates were shown examples of some of the innovative solutions being developed in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that integrate people, environment and economy.

After discussion of the themes emerging from the breakout session, the final guest speaker, Rob Hopkins (founder of the transition movement), emphasized the linkage between the issues identified over the day and offered hope for the future. His vision is based on experience of a community (Transition Town Totnes) moving towards re-localization, with lower fossil fuel energy dependency.

The conference closed on an uplifting note with an impromptu tale from Will Coleman of Brave Tales that incorporated elements from the day into a bold hope for Cornwall's future.

To receive further information on the conference talks and outcomes, please contact Emma Richards (erichards@cornwall.gov.uk)

Notes for Editors

1. **Environment Kernow (EK)** champions the importance of a quality environment to the present and future well-being and livelihood of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. EK does this by providing strategic advice on opportunities, activities, policies and knowledge & skills requirement affecting the environment at all levels, from local to international. We operate at both strategic & delivery levels and seek to influence & engage other partnerships in environmental matters. EK is the partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's environment; providing a forum for the public, private and community / voluntary sectors. EK works through and on behalf of a network of existing partnerships. EK is a thematic group for the Cornwall Strategic Partnership, who oversees Cornwall's Community Strategy. EK is the partnership lead for the Sustain theme of Cornwall's Local Area Agreement. www.environmentkernow.org.uk
2. **Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust** a charitable company committed to making building design and construction as sustainable as possible, with minimal negative impact on the environment, both locally and globally www.csbt.org.uk
3. **Duchy College, Rosewarne** Duchy College (part of the Cornwall College group) is '*Cornwall's College of the Countryside*' and prides itself on being one of the leading land-based colleges in the country. The Rosewarne campus is in the west of the county near Camborne. www.cornwall.ac.uk/duchy/
4. **Colin Campbell** is a retired petroleum geologist and the founder & honorary chair of ASPO – the Association for the Study of Peak Oil & Gas. ASPO began as an informal grouping in 2000 and has grown to have organizations in 20 countries and has seen the term “peak oil” enter the lexicon www.peakoil.net/
5. **David Strahan** is an award-winning investigative journalist and documentary film-maker who has reported and produced for the BBC's Money Programme and Horizon. He is the author of *The Last Oil Shock: A Survival Guide to the Imminent Extinction of Petroleum Man*, published in April this year. www.davidstrahan.com www.lastoilshock.com
6. **Patrick Holden** is Director of the Soil Association; the UK's leading campaigning and certification organisation for organic food and farming. He farms near Aberystwyth. www.soilassociation.org
7. **Rob Hopkins** is founder of the Transition Town initiative and now lives in Totnes. The initiative is growing rapidly, also encompassing cities (Bristol & Nottingham) and is included in the Environment Agency's list of 50 things to do to save the planet. www.transitiontowns.org/Totnes/
8. **Will Coleman** is an author, film maker and educationalist and the leading light of Brave Tales, a Cornish group specializing in using the power of story telling in several contexts. <http://www.bravetales.com>
9. **The Vintage Cook** www.seriously-good.co.uk

Appendix V: Feedback

Comments on the EK2007 Conference 16th Nov 2007

I. Unsolicited emails

I am certain you will receive many similar messages; thank you, the rest of the EK team and CSBT for a superb day on Friday, it was truly inspirational and totally absorbing. The calibre and quality of the speakers was exceptional and it is to your collective credit that you were able to assemble such an impressive and well informed set of presentations at the conference. The event clearly demonstrated the role that EK has in Cornwall and, from various conversations that I have been party to in the last day or two, the event has created a real 'buzz'.

Once again Many Congratulations, I'm sure that we, and many others there on Friday, look forward to an emerging strategy, real action, meaningful outcomes and some positive leadership in Cornwall!

Very best regards,
Jim Cooper (delegate)
Projects Consultancy Manager, Cornwall Enterprise

Thanks for having me down. It was an excellent conference and I enjoyed taking part and was glad to be involved.

All the best,
David Strahan (speaker)
Writer, producer, director
www.davidstrahan.com

I am so sorry not to have been able to stay [for the whole conference]. It was a great atmosphere and I was really happy to be there.

All the very best and good luck
Patrick Holden, CBE (speaker)
Director, Soil Association

I think indeed it was a good conference and the subject of Peak Oil seemed to attract a lot of interest. I was especially interested to hear of the move towards greater independence for the Duchy of Cornwall which makes a great deal of sense, and will likely occur as the depletion of oil bites in earnest in the years ahead.

Best regards
Colin J Campbell (speaker)
Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas

Thank you very much for a very good conference - one of the best I have been to lately.
best wishes,

Jackie Carpenter (delegate)
Trelay Farm www.trelay.org

Just to say thank you for organizing such an informative and interesting conference last week. Excellent speakers who all gave us an insight into the problems of Peak Oil, without making us come away feeling totally scared and unable to do anything.

Resilience and localisation must be the way forward.

Kind regards
Jilly Whitaker (delegate)
Calize Country House

I meant to add my thanks for the conference last week so am now doing so a bit belatedly! It was really good - especially Colin Campbell. The group work was excellent.

Liked the food too!
best wishes
Lindsay Southcombe (delegate)
Transition Truro

Thank you so much for such an excellent conference, full of substance and passion, expertly organised, a day to remember (and for me in particular seeing [speaker] deep in debate with [delegate] was a memorable sight).

Oliver Baines, OBE (delegate)
Groundswell Cornwall

Just to say well done to the EK bods who put together Friday...what a feat. A fantastic line up of speakers...and the CoaST team certainly enjoyed themselves! Thanks to all who put the work in!! Here's hoping the message was taken on by all....

Manda Brookman (delegate, EK member, group facilitator)
Director, CoaST: Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project

... well deserved positive feedback, I thought the conference went really well also.

Cheers
Heidi Morgan (delegate, group facilitator)
Environmental Skills Coordinator, c/o Natural Environment Service, PT&E, Cornwall County Council

Just wanted to say thanks for the efforts you and others put in to make Friday so successful. Others have already commented on how stimulating the day was which is down to you and others.

The challenge is now to find the solutions I guess!!
Thanks again.

Steve Crummay (delegate, Chair of EK)
Natural Environment Service, PT&E, Cornwall County Council

... just wanted to let you know that we had the smallest amount of food waste ever from any event - I wonder if this is because the conference audience is tuned in to good food, carefully sourced and appreciates that waste is an issue.

We really enjoyed the job. Many thanks for asking us.
Angie Dodd (the Vintage Cook, caterer)

Many thanks for inviting me to the conference, I should have thanked you before sorry. I thoroughly enjoyed the day, the speakers were excellent and very informative and it was a great opportunity to talk to like-minded people who I would otherwise not have met.

Best wishes,
Gemma Draper (delegate)

II. Web / Blogs

Rob Hopkins (speaker) on Transition Culture website accessed 27/11/07
<http://transitionculture.org/2007/11/27/what-i-did-last-week/#more-807>

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Transition Culture
An Evolving Exploration into the Head, Heart and Hands of Energy Descent

**Tue 27
Nov
2007** **What I Did Last Week.**
Posted by Rob under [Transition Initiatives](#), [Climate Change](#), [Education for Sustainability](#), [Community Involvement](#), [Peak Oil](#)

Up again on Friday and off to Cornwall for a day organised by **Environment Kernow** (Cornwall in Cornish), at Duchy Agricultural College on the theme of peak oil, climate change, food production and land use. Due to the limitations of public transport, I missed Colin Campbell's talk (unfortunately), but was able to hear David Strahan and Patrick Holden before the first tea break. Nothing particularly new for **Transition Culture** readers there, but very thought provoking for those assembled, who came from a range of NGOs, local authorities, and so on.

After the break was a World Cafe style discussion on what peak oil might mean for land use in Cornwall. The discussion was far reaching and went into some very interesting areas. The group I was in consisted of people from CPRE, local colleges and the County Council, and they all appeared to take peak oil as read, and to be keen to discuss what could actually be done.



After this, the delegates gathered back in the hall, where the findings from the Cafe sessions which had been gathered in and analysed were discussed, both by the speakers and by the audience. The final session was my talk, which looked at the Transition model and also at what the land use of the future might look like, a combination of walnuts, fish, cob blocks and hemp (I'm joking, but they were some elements of it). It was a conference that had successfully gathered together many of the leading doers and thinkers in the sustainability field in Cornwall, although it was those from organisations rather than those from communities, but with Colin Campbell and David Strahan they had the best introduction to the subject of peak oil that they could possibly have.

Then I was off again, in an electric car to the station! Although it is too much if every week is like this, sometimes it is great to have a week where there is lots going on and one gets to see what is happening in different places. By the time the weekend came about though, I was more than ready for it!

Archived Entry

Post Date :
Tuesday, Nov 27th, 2007 at 7:48 am

Category :
[Transition Initiatives](#) and [Climate Change](#) and [Education for Sustainability](#) and [Community Involvement](#) and [Peak Oil](#)

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Jason Cole on [Why I Won't Be Buying Vernon Coleman's 'Oil Apocalypse'](#).

Jason Cole on [Is Peak Oil Pessimism a Generation of Men Coming to Realise How Useless They Are?](#)

Lisa on [Why I Won't Be Buying](#)

Appendix VI: Themed lunch, based on traditional folk menu using local seasonal organic ingredients


THE VINTAGE COOK

MENU ENVIRONMENT KERNOW CONFERENCE

BUFFET LUNCH CREATED WITH AND INSPIRED BY HERITAGE RECIPES

Traditional sausage rolls
Platters of Cornish Air Dried Coppa Ham and Salami with Evia Greek Star figs
✓ Milleens cheese and Potato Omelette (like tortilla)
✓ Roasted Red Onion and Chard Potato omelette
Raised pork and chestnut pie with pickles with spiced prunes
✓ Beetroot and crème fraiche sippets

Bridge Rolls with a selection of fillings including:
✓ Date, Celery and Trenance soft cheese
Minced chicken, truffles and chopped walnut
Egg and Smoked Cornish Pilchard
✓ Plain egg

Apple Plate Pie
Mini Strawberry Pavlovas
Strawberry Stone Cream (like Panna Cotta)
Eton Mess
Cumberland Courting Cake fingers


Cheese Course
Potted Cornish Blue and Port; Keltic Gold & Cornish Yarg
Served with oatcakes, celery and chutneys

Soft drinks to include (as well as tea and coffee):
Cornish Orchards Apple Juice, Luscombe Lemonade & Ginger Beer, Water for Just Water

Suppliers: Cornish Deli Farm, Primrose Herd Rare Breed Pork, Trevalon Organic Veg Box, Lizard Leaves organic onions, Trewithen Dairy, Roskillys Organic Milk, Toppenose Dairy Cheese (milk from their own herd), JM Bolton free range chickens, Penquite free range and Landrake Organic eggs, our own apples, Whalesborough Farm cheese. Drystone ingredients (organic where possible) from the Granary. We buy cutlery and crockery (mostly) from bio-ware and juice cups and dessert containers are cornstarch. We recycle all waste wherever possible and food waste goes to our local pig co-operative.



Recipe cards were also available to delegates



Environment Kernow Conference
RECIPE #1

Potted Cheese

INGREDIENTS: Cheshire, Cheddar, Gloucester or North Wiltshire cheese (the very best) 3 lb.; best butter ½ lb.; sherry a large glass; ground mace nearly half an ounce.


METHOD:

1. Pound the cheese and butter together in a mortar.
2. Mix the sherry in gradually.
3. Add the mace.
4. Mix well, pot it; and pour over it clarified butter.

A little made mustard may be added if preferred instead of the sherry or in addition to it. The addition of a little curry powder, or cayenne will also vary it. With stilton cheese a little port wine may be added instead of sherry. This probably is one of the most individual cookery preparations we have, as so much depends on the cook's palate.

"Good Things in England" by Florence White, 1932

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Environment Kernow Conference
RECIPE #2

Cumberland Courting Cake


Courting cake exists in difference forms all over the North of England. This particular recipe is from Maryport.

2 oz butter, 2 oz flour, 2 oz castor sugar, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 egg, apple puree, pastry

Cream together the butter and sugar, beat in the egg, then fold in the sieved flour and baking powder. Line a flat tin, about 6" x 8", with pastry and cover with the apple puree. Spread the creamed mixture over this and bake until firm in a moderate oven, about 35 minutes. When the cake is cooked and has cooled, cover with glaze icing or butter cream and cut into fingers.

"Old Northern Recipes" by Joan Poulson, 1975

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Environment Kernow Conference
RECIPE #3

Savoury Green Butter


"Sandwiches of thinnest gruyere between biscuits, or bread spread with green butter are excellent, and this is easily made and welcome in winter and summer, giving variety to the cheese course."

A quarter pound of good fresh butter. A couple of handfuls of spinach, boiled, drained and passed through a hair sieve, the pulp obtained saved in a bowl. Bone and wipe off the oil of 6 anchovies, pass through sieve and save pulp. Mince finely a tablespoonful of curled parsley, ditto a teaspoonful of capers.

Colour the butter first by working in the spinach greening, then add the other ingredients and turn into a block or an attractive small mould, or use for sandwiches after hardening in the ice box.

"Kitchen Essays" by Lady Jekyll DBE, 1922

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Environment Kernow Conference
RECIPE #4

Pork & Chestnut Pie

INGREDIENTS: 12 oz. Flour, 4 oz. Butter, 2 oz lard, ½ teaspoon salt, 3 fl.oz. water. FILLING: 12oz. Pork fillet, chopped roughly, 12 oz. Tinned whole chestnuts, chopped roughly, 12 oz. Cranberries. 1 small onion, finely chopped, 1 tablespoon cooking oil, 1 teaspoon chopped thyme, 1 teaspoon chopped sage, 3 eggs, beaten. Salt & pepper

In a bowl, rub the fats into the flour and stir in the salt. Mix to a dough with the cold water, wrap in cling film and chill for 1 hour. Set oven to 400°F or Mark 6. Heat the oil in a pan and cook the onions until soft but not browned. Place the pork and chestnuts in a large bowl and add the onion. Stir in the herbs and seasoning to taste and mix well. Beat 2 eggs and add to the bowl with the cranberries, stirring thoroughly to combine. Roll out two thirds of the pastry on a floured surface and line a loose-based 9 ½ inch flan tin. Fill with the pork mixture, smoothing it out evenly. Roll out the rest of the pastry to make a lid, cover and seal the edges with water. Beat the remaining egg and brush over the pie to glaze. Bake for 40-50 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

"Favourite Christmas Recipes" by J Salmon

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