

MEETING OF THE RURAL ENGLAND STAKEHOLDER GROUP WITH HEI SECTOR

Online via Zoom

Wednesday, 29th October 2025, 10:00 – 13:30

Agenda

NB: For Information - [Notes of the last meeting](#) held on 5th March 2024

1. Chair's Welcome & Introductions

Graham Biggs – Chair of Directors, [Rural England CIC](#)

2. Apologies for Absence

3. 10.15 – 11.15: Rural England CIC Research presentations.

Each circa 30 minutes including 5 minutes discussion

10.15 – 10.45 Research Presentation 1: **Professor Martin Phillips**, Research Director,
Rural England CIC. [The State of the Rural Services Report 2025](#)

10.45 – 11.15 Research Presentation 2: **Professor Matthew Reed and Dr Natasha
Stonebridge, CCRI [The Challenges for Rural Electrification](#).**
(Report Commissioned by Rural England CIC and NICRE)

OTHER RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS:

Each circa 30 minutes including 5 minutes discussion

**4. 11.15 – 11.45 Research presentation 3: **Dr Jane Atterton, SRUC – Scotland's Rural
College****

*Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review project for the Scottish Government in which they are
reviewing Community Led Local Development (CLLD), Scottish Rural Action and the Scottish Rural
Network in order to inform the shape of future funding and support for rural communities in Scotland*

5. 11.45 – 12.15: Research presentation 4: **Professor Mike Woods, Aberystwyth University**

An update on the work of the Rural Wales Local Policy and Innovation Partnership, including Innovation Labs and Community-led Action Research projects and a survey of community resilience. By October they will also have completed several of their Responsive Research projects, including on 'Perceptions of Growth in the Rural Economy', 'Women and Farm Diversification', 'Achieving Co-Benefits from Net Zero Initiatives', 'The Use, Management and Potential of Community Spaces', and 'Community Food and Wellbeing in Rural Wales'. Michael will cover highlights from all as part of a general presentation

6. **12:15 – 12.45:** Research presentation 5: **Aoibheann Walsh of Rural Support**

Their 2023 farmer survey and the evaluation data from their services under the title of 'Supporting Northern Ireland farmers'. Rural Support is the farm support charity for Northern Ireland- what they deliver and how it supports farmers, and their families demonstrates need, engagement, and impact very well.

7. **12.45 -1.30:** General Discussion

8. Any other business and close

Rural England CIC