Farming for people and nature

Which way forward for UK agriculture now?

2nd February 2017



Our vision for farming

The challenge? How to create a food and farming system that is good for people and nature

Sustainable systems of farming across the UK that:

sustain and restore farmland biodiversity as well as producing safe, healthy food; protect natural resources of soil, air and water; provides income and employment for farmers and other workers in rural areas; and, contributes to a diverse rural economy.



Agricultural change and nature



Agri-environment and the CAP

The main tool we have worked to influence

Emerging signs of success





Done right, it works

HLS farms – FBI birds up 61% Control squares – FBI birds down 4%







Golden opportunity or existential crisis?





The CAP comfort blanket?

CAP set art of the possible – so what now?





Early thoughts on policy

Back to first principles – what is public policy for, and how can we build on successes of the past?

- 1. A countryside for food, wildlife and people
- 2. Nature should be abundant everywhere
- 3. Public payments and new markets working hand-in-hand
- 4. Unacceptable to harm nature, and easy to help it
- 5. Coherence with wider policy and delivery



Farming at a crossroads

Trade policy will have a significant impact on the effectiveness of other policy levers

The range of tools at our disposal is unconstrained – markets, regulation, fiscal policy, incentives

Divergent policies across the UK?

Importance of transition – but we need to know where we're going first



