

**Land Use Brexit Roundtable Sub Group  
18 October 2017**

**Attendees:**

WG 1 Chair  
CAAV  
Confor  
FUW  
Wildlife Trust  
Dwr Cymru  
TFA  
NFU  
Woodland Trust  
Wales Adventure Tourism  
Afonydd Cymru  
NSA  
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust  
WLGA  
CLA  
Bangor University  
RSPB  
CADW  
WG 2  
WG 3  
WG 4  
WG 5  
WG 6  
WG 7  
WG 8  
WG 9  
WG 10  
WG 11  
WG 12  
WG 13  
WG 14

**Apologies**

Animal Health and Welfare Framework  
Coed Cymru  
National Trust  
Cardiff University  
Amaeth Cymru

**Introduction**

WG official 1 welcomed the group to the meeting as the new chair as previous chair (WG) has moved onto the Wylfa Project. WG official 1 confirmed his approach would be to build on the work the group has already done and start

looking at practical options for the future of land management in Wales post Brexit.

## **Presentations**

### WG official 12 –Natural Resources Policy – NRP

The NRP supports the Well Being of Future Generations Act as it is about the contribution of Wales' natural resources across all the well-being goals. Together with the WFG Act and the Environment Act it supports meeting international commitments. EU commitments still apply. There are three national priorities for managing natural resources sustainably in the NRP, these are:

- Delivering nature based solutions
- Increasing resource efficiency and renewable energy
- Taking a place based approach.

Together, these national priorities both tackle the challenges facing Wales' natural resources and realise the many opportunities they provide for our well-being.

WG official 12 confirmed that groups such as this one are key to informing the implementation of the NRP.

### WG officials 9 & 4 Land Use Modelling

Agricultural land capability modelling is being developed to understand and map the potential of agricultural land on a national basis. It will allow informed choices to be made about how agricultural land is used in Wales and assist in supporting business development, responsiveness and resilience.

It is the first major update since the Agricultural Land Use maps were developed in the 1960s. The resulting Predictive ALC Map has shown that the national view of agricultural land potential has greatly improved in Wales. It is used in the planning system to identify and conserve Wales' best land and can be used to support advice to farmers on crop, system and environmental choices for their land. The agricultural land classification system behind the Predictive Map also takes account of seasonality in its climatic assessments. Further work is being done to develop a national frost model, something which hasn't been done before.

The modelling system uses the National Soil Map which is the coarsest data set. Significant work is being done to refine the base soil data. A targeted survey and visual validation programme has identified and addressed some inconsistencies. Although the map is a predictive product it has been found to perform well against existing field survey data.

The Predictive ALC Map will be launched on 27 November at the Winter Fair with the online viewer being made available a couple of months later. Plans

are being finalised to submit for approval a programme to refine the existing soil map and underlying data; this is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2019. A forward climate scenario map is also included in the programme and is scheduled to be finalised towards the end of 2020.

Wales is the only country in the United Kingdom undertaking this type of modelling and mapping work.

The Predictive Map is already supporting NRW activities - opportunity mapping, area statements and SoNaRR. It also has the potential to support the Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme. (ERAMMP).

WG official 10 – Glastir Modelling and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) and ERAMMP

GMEP was an ambitious project designed to review Glastir and model simultaneously. It looked at Glastir and non-Glastir farms to report on national trends over the last 20 years. The data was collected by field surveys, data modelling, evidence gaps, socio-economic surveys, focus groups, 10,000 land photos and interviews from 600 farmers. Results showed:

- Peat was greatly improved
- Top soil carbon is stable in woodlands
- Top soil carbon is stable in arable farms
- Decline in pond quality
- Decline in farm birds
- Decline in top soil PH
- Soils are not at optimal quality for agricultural potential along with environmental decline.

Some of the results were due to trade offs, e.g. one positive environmental measure having a negative result on others. The full results can be viewed at the GMEP website.

ERAMMP is the system for monitoring (will possible have a name change before publication). It considers all aspects of environment including Welsh Government departments and how they are impacted. A broad consortium of academics, consultancies, Public Health Wales, National Parks and more will now consider new funding bids for land use. It is currently looking at the consequences of leaving the EU across all sectors including legislation and the NRP. This is in year 1 of the process and not yet finalised.

PES was briefly discussed, with a reduction in subsidies this could be something that can replace some income on farm but more work is needed to build confidence in the system and build further markets. It is a challenging area as it is difficult to judge the monetary value of biodiversity.

Comments from the group as follows:

- Current PES markets for carbon are non-existent as the Carbon Code only allows for payment as costs incurred and not enough income for the farmer.
- Any new scheme will require intervention, and modelling should show this.
- The challenge is around looking at economics in a different way, this would include the social and public goods the land is providing.

### **WG official 13 - Doopoll Update**

Following from the pilot at the 14 July meeting a short presentation was given to show the results of the Doopoll app. The app was used at the Royal Welsh Show, regional agricultural shows and the Eisteddfod. Respondents were asked to indicate if they considered themselves or their immediate family as being involved in farming, forestry or land management. As such the answers on the attached summary are grouped for 'land managers' or 'non-land managers'. Of 1100 responses analysed, 414 were from those who identified as non-land managers and 686 who identified as land managers.

We wanted to differentiate the results so that we could identify if we were reaching people who are not considered the 'usual suspects'. Results were reasonably in line with what we expected.

The group suggested the poll was used in future by the same focus groups used in The Wales We Want as this gave a broad range of people. It was also suggested the data was compared with the farmer segmentation survey. The Group asked to see the breakdown of the data.

### **ACTION 1 – Circulate the data report to the group.**

### **Context of workshops – WG official 1**

WG official 1 explained the workshops would look at the current resource efficiency for the sector and future opportunities to improve. The group made the following comments prior to the sessions starting:

- We need to look more long term than focussing on Brexit. Delivery of this is everyone's duty; if all homeowners planted 1 or 2 trees it would make a huge difference.
- Best practice needs to be defined before we start.
- Farmers who are not making a profit need some guidance on what they could do. How do we encourage them to look at more economic models?
- Other sectors rely on farmers e.g. vets, hauliers, shops etc.
- We need stats which separate income from those who own the land and those who rent. 99% of tenancy agreements say that the land can only be used for agricultural use and no diversification is permitted, this needs to be looked at to protect tenants, and allow them to exploit the same opportunities as owner occupiers. A tenancy reform group is currently looking into this issue.

- The New Zealand example should be discounted due to the environmental damage intensification has caused.
- The Wales National Observatory looked at the multiplier effects of farm incomes and its effect on other businesses in 2010. This should be updated.
- The Group needs to map out what skills each member has so it can ensure the correct people contribute to the discussion.

## **ACTION 2 – Data on income for tenant farmers needs to be explored (WG)**

### **Workshop 1 – How do we achieve resources efficiency in land management?**

WG official 2 facilitated this workshop and asked the group to consider where resource efficiencies could apply and the pathways to achieve this. The group had a general discussion and the feedback is as follows:

- Simply working differently can breed more efficiencies
- More input is needed in technology such as drones which apply fertiliser to the specific areas it is needed.
- Improving operator skills and competency will have a positive impact
- More research into what the purchaser wants to buy
- Intensification is not always a bad thing as long as it is sustainable, we need to look into this more.
- Reduce food wastage
- Encourage less lamb production as consumption is falling
- Government intervention in new technology is essential otherwise only the most profitable farms will be able to improve.
- Injection of funds into innovation
- Land owners must be able to make their own choices for their land, however, inertia could be an issue for some
- National Capital Accounting needs to be explored more, big companies will make environmental changes if they are compensated for the loss of income.

## **ACTION 3 – Share the farmers segmentation model and discuss at a future meeting (WG)**

## **ACTION 4 – Share the presentations delivered (WG)**

## **ACTION 5 – Set up an online sharing presence for the group's work/papers/presentations (WG)**

### **Workshop 2 – Opportunities to deliver public goods**

WG official 14 facilitated the second workshop, this looked at WG's current commitments and asked the group to consider what further work we needed to do to meet these commitments. The comments raised are below:

- A neutral person is sometimes the best person to suggest change or collaborative working
- A facilitators fund would help, we currently have one for forestry.
- Current SMS projects have been rejected after months of work, this is disheartening for farmers and makes them less likely to try again. Schemes need to be simpler in the application process then if it is declined they still feel like they could apply again fairly easily.
- Communication needs to be improved, we need to make it clear why change is needed.
- Regulation and planning is a barrier in some cases and when this is required more help and support is needed to guide applicants through the process.
- WG should have more trust in land managers with less regulation.
- The NRP uses sustainable management principles around managing risk, this will help.
- The Game and Wildlife Trust (GWCT) held a cluster farmer event in October and this focused on landscape scale and collaboration.

**ACTION 6 – Circulate the papers from the GWCT event to the group ( CAAV official ) to circulate to secretariat)**

**Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 6 November in the Welsh Government Pavilion at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells. Papers and agenda will be sent prior to the meeting.

**AOB and close**

NFU official asked for the principles paper to be a living document as there are parts which need to be added to/amended. This was agreed.

**ACTION 7 – Group to update the principles paper as required. This paper has been reclassified as a living document**

The size of the group was discussed again; it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting as it may be more effective to split down into smaller groups to discuss specific issues.

**ACTION 8 – Discuss the current membership of the Group and the skills the group needs moving forward at the next meeting (WG)**

WG official 1 thanked the group for their attendance and closed the meeting.