

Farming in the Cotswolds after Brexit

Example Cotswold special quality/key characteristic	Problem/principal threat	Example Incentive/area for action
Cotswold dry stone walls and other stone structures such as stone stiles and clapper bridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walls have no function in an arable enterprise • Cost of construction, repair and maintenance • Abandonment – in part due to cost of stone. • Use of cheaper alternatives e.g. wire fence • Structural damage from self-sown trees and ‘volunteer’ hedges. • Scale of problem for some farms • Decline and loss of Cotswold key characteristic 	<p>FARM – retain and maintain existing dry stone walls including annual cut along base of wall.</p> <p>FARMRD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repair of dry stone walls - new dry stone walls - feature in wall e.g. stone stile <p>Variable competitive intervention rate depending on fit with criteria.</p>
Hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedges have no function in an arable enterprise • Poor, inappropriate or no management leading to gaps, grown-out hedges and lines of trees • Browsing by livestock depleting base of hedge • Loss of views from grown-out hedges, particularly the large open landscapes on the high wold, valley slopes and from roads. 	<p>FARM – retain and maintain following agreed hedge management plan (to include for birds and bats etc where identified)</p> <p>FARMRD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gapping up - Coppicing - Laying (in local style) - New hedge <p>Variable competitive intervention rate depending on fit with criteria.</p>

<p>Unimproved flower rich limestone grassland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of grazing leading to loss of species, scrub and secondary woodland, fragmentation and loss. • Sub-division for horse paddocks • Loss of livestock enterprises e.g. due to Bovine Tuberculosis • Wrong livestock breed being used • Reluctance to moving to more extensive systems • Barriers to grazing such as lack of fencing, water and reasonable length of grazing agreements. • Designation as SSSI and/or common • Lack of sufficient numbers of animals 	<p>FARM – retain and manage (recognising previous achievement) following agreed management plan</p> <p>FARMRD</p> <p>Re-introduction of grazing</p> <p>Fencing, walling, water</p> <p>Scrub/tree management</p> <p>Restoration by seeding/green hay</p> <p>Survey/monitoring of restored sites</p>
<p>Ancient semi-natural woodland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline and loss of characteristic woodland, particularly beech woodland and oak/ash woodland. • Loss of native species • Inconsistent and inappropriate management • Development of even-aged canopy • Fragmentation of ownership resulting in differential condition and management approaches. • Inappropriate replanting/restocking • Lack of commercial incentive to manage woodland. • Cost of extraction on steep and/or remote sites • Lack of skills and equipment to manage and utilise woodland • Pressure from grey squirrel and deer • Impact of disease – ash dieback • Pressure from recreation activity 	<p>FARMRD</p> <p>Woodland Management Plan</p> <p>Woodland Management Grant</p> <p>Top-up for difficult sites to aid extraction</p> <p>Support deer management and control of grey squirrel</p> <p>Training and skills development for woodland managers and contractors</p> <p>Support for equipment e.g processing machinery and deer larders</p> <p>Support for woodland products</p>
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diffuse pollution from farmland notably nitrates, metaldehydes and silts • Use of permanent fencing alongside rivers to prevent access by livestock 	<p>FARM – margins alongside water courses £m</p> <p>Nitrate Vulnerable Zone measures</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable potential for Natural Flood Management (NFM) to slow the flow and help reduce flooding within Cotswold communities and further downstream including Oxford and beyond 	<p>Reduce metaldehyde use</p> <p>Change direction of cultivation to reduce soil run-off</p> <p>FARMRD</p> <p>Improve slurry storage and handling</p> <p>Improve silage clamps</p> <p>Improve yard and farm track drainage</p> <p>Silt traps</p> <p>NFM interventions e.g. leaky dams and low bunds</p> <p>Temporary flooding of land</p> <p>De-compaction of pasture</p> <p>Temporary fencing alongside visible and accessible stretches of river</p> <p>N.B. opportunity for contribution from water companies</p>
Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of organic matter • Damaged soil structure • Silting of water courses 	<p>FARM - Cover crops, green manures and rotational leys £/ha</p> <p>FARMRD</p> <p>Support move to minimal tillage</p> <p>Support move to long-grass grazing</p> <p>Composting from grassland and woodland</p>

<p>Local food and produce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to support local produce and producers • New business opportunities • Promote better understanding of farming and forestry and they produce 	<p>FARM - Certification and access to branding (e.g. Cotswolds Choice)</p> <p>FARMRD</p> <p>Support for new and expanding local food and produce enterprises.</p> <p>Woodland harvesting, extraction and processing machinery and equipment</p> <p>Deer larders and local slaughter and processing facilities</p> <p>Training and skills development</p> <p>Tapered support for new jobs</p>
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