
Landscape
& Access
NFU
NFU SUPPORTED BY
NFU Mutual

Landscape & Access

Seen from the air, our countryside is a farmed landscape. Internationally recognised for its dense patterns of interlocking fields, hedges and small woods, the character of the countryside is shaped and maintained by the actions of farmers, whether they be growing crops, keeping livestock, or engaged in other types of land management. The dense network of public rights of way give access to this 'farmscape' offering a unique and critical infrastructure used by large numbers of visitors who appreciate it at close range.

The NFU wanted to develop our understanding of farming's role in maintaining the landscape and providing access to the countryside in England and Wales. We commissioned Rural Focus to provide an evidence-based and objective report drawing on the latest data and information to describe how agricultural land use and management, and the decisions made by farmers, have shaped our landscape and its accessibility. This report follows on from the NFU's 'United by our environment, our food, our future' report published in December 2018.

Rural Focus's work highlights that:

- The work done by farmers is what gives our countryside its distinctive appearance: full of productive, working landscapes that are dynamic and constantly changing.
- The agricultural sector manages around 70 per cent of the land in the country, producing high quality, safe and affordable food while playing an integral part in protecting, maintaining and enhancing the countryside.
- Upland areas are often recognised for their iconic landscapes. These are created and maintained by farming and to keep them we need to have viable farm businesses in these areas.
- The farmed landscape is the source of many benefits to society. Engagement with nature, which the countryside provides for free, is being shown to provide people with significant mental and physical well-being.

Future agricultural and trade policies will influence and change our landscapes, as much as any policies to support environmental land management.

NFU policy asks

Farmers will continue to play a pivotal role in maintaining and enhancing our dynamic landscapes for future generations and in providing access to the countryside so it can be enjoyed by everyone. We want to work with Government and other stakeholders to create a policy environment which enables them to do this. Reflecting on the report by Rural Focus, the NFU's policy asks are:

1. Every farmer has a contribution to make: future environment land management schemes (ELMS) must be open and accessible to all farmers, simple to access, with fair reward for maintaining and improving landscape features (e.g. stone walls or traditional farm buildings) and access (e.g. permissive access and engaging/ educating the public) across the countryside.
2. Where landscape scale impact is desirable, Government must ensure projects are developed and led by farmers to harness their local knowledge of what works, where.
3. To help deliver agriculture's net zero aspiration incentives should be offered for the conservation of our carbon resources as well as their enhancement. This can be achieved through the provision of bigger hedgerows, more woodland and especially carbon rich soils.
4. Considering the Glover review recommendations, the NFU calls on protected landscape bodies to actively recognise and enable the thriving, viable farm businesses that manage the landscape.
5. The development of a modern and adaptable public access network that meets the needs of users and farm businesses.

Landscape

Agriculture has always had a dynamic influence on the landscape, involving an ebb and flow of changing land use and management practices and leaving an historic mark on the varied character of today's countryside. Continuing change in agriculture is inevitable and can be desirable - provided it reinforces people's sense of place in the landscape and the characteristics and qualities they recognise as important.

The last 80 years have seen huge changes in our rural landscapes, most of them driven by government policy, new technology and the economic forces affecting farming. During the 1940s to 1970s, pressures to modernise and increase agricultural productivity saw dramatic reductions in many landscape features such as hedgerows and flower-rich grassland and the wildlife that use them. Since the 1980s, the pace of agricultural change has slowed in most areas and other factors, such as Dutch elm disease (during the 1980s and 1990s) and non-farming land uses such as ponies and solar farms, have become significant forces of change.

After the primary influences of geology and topography, it is the agricultural function (both past and present) of the landscape that contributes most to its form and character. It follows that the distinctive characteristics of the English and Welsh farmed countryside will continue to evolve as living, working and dynamic landscapes.

"We farm in a beautiful part of the country that is appreciated and enjoyed by visitors from near and far. The landscape has been shaped and maintained by farming over a long period and provides a home to a wide range of plants and animals. As farmers, we strive to ensure we work with nature and the landscape for the benefit of the public – not just through the production of high-quality food, but by providing other public goods through encouraging biodiversity and helping provide solutions for climate change."

Caroline Knox, arable farmer
Arreton Valley, Isle of Wight

Individual landscape elements on farmland

Farming has always required its own infrastructure of boundaries, tracks, ponds and buildings for efficient cropping and livestock production. These common place features are quintessential elements of our landscapes and many are vital habitats for farmland biodiversity throughout the countryside. Some of these features – hedgerows, trees and woodlands – also have a key role to play in helping farming in its quest to achieve net zero by 2040. Their protection and enhancement will depend on the future viability of the farming systems that maintain them.

Farmers maintain 411,600 km of hedgerows in England and Wales,
a length which is enough to wrap round the earth's equator more than 10 times

- **Hedgerows**, created as stockproof boundaries, are the classic feature of the UK's lowland countryside, contributing to its visual, cultural and ecological fabric, and providing a significant store of carbon. Farmers maintain 411,600 km of hedgerows in England and Wales[1], a length which is enough to wrap round the earth's equator more than 10 times. Greatest densities of hedgerows are found in the East Midlands (4 km of hedge in every km^2), West Midlands (3.8 km/km^2) and South West of England (3.4 km/km^2)[2].

There are around
95,000 km
of stone walls
on farmland in
England and Wales

- **Stone walls** take the place of hedges in many of the uplands, built of local stone they are unique to each area. There are around 95,000 km of stone walls on farmland in England and Wales[3].
- Both hedges and walls retain some of their original agricultural functions as livestock boundaries, but are now also recognised as habitats for insects which control crop pests as well as corridors for wildlife, insects and birds to move around. However, post and wire fences are now more cost-effective in purely monetary terms and maintaining traditional field boundaries therefore represents a net cost to farmers.

Across Great Britain there
are estimated to be
500,000 ponds

Of the total area of
woodland and forestry
in England and Wales
(1.6 m hectares)
around 28%
occur on farms

- **Trees** and **woodlands** on farms are another principal feature which, together with large hedgerows, give a strong sense of nature and wildlife in the landscape. Of the total area of woodland and forestry in England and Wales (1.6 m hectares)[7] around 28% occur on farms[8], mostly as relatively small broadleaved or mixed woodlands. Outside woodland, there are 13.3 million lone trees with a total canopy area of 37,000 hectares in rural England and Wales, occurring in hedgerows and fields[9]. Unlike hedges, which if regularly cut will continue to live for centuries, trees have a limited lifespan (and can be a useful source of timber and firewood) but need replacing with new saplings if their contribution to landscape character is to be maintained.

- **Ponds**, ditches and small lakes can be found in all landscapes and by their very nature are highly varied in all aspects. Across Great Britain there are estimated to be 500,000 ponds[4]. Across England and Wales the number of ponds increased by 44,000 between 1998 and 2007[5]. In a way they reflect history as many ponds are artificial and were originally dug for marl (a lime-rich clay spread on fields to reduce acidity) or to provide a water source for livestock. Some ponds have formed in bomb craters from the Second World War while others are ornamental or have been created specifically for wildlife. Ponds surprisingly support a larger proportion of freshwater biodiversity than lakes or rivers – and are especially important for uncommon freshwater species[6].

"Hedgerows are a very important wildlife habitat and landscape feature and we've planted approximately two-and-a-half kilometres of hedge on the farm over the past 30 years. Other habitats on the farm include a 15-year-old woodland and several ponds that have been established where ancient field drainage has collapsed. Since planting the woodland we've seen an increase in the number of bird species on the farm from 45 species to 60. A permissive right of way through the new woodland ensures that our whole community enjoys our farm, the wildlife and landscape."

Saya Harvey, arable farmer
East Midlands

Click here to see and hear more from Saya

- Traditional **farm buildings** are heritage assets which make a significant contribution to landscape character and local distinctiveness. Over 70% of traditional farmsteads which were in existence at the beginning of the 20th century have retained some or all of their historic form. Although there are around 38,000 farm buildings or groups of farm buildings in England that are protected by listed building status[10], such statutory designations protect only a small proportion of the farmsteads that contribute to local character.
- Most traditional farmsteads are no longer suitable for modern agricultural uses (for instance they are too small) and it is often difficult for farmers to find alternative uses, so that buildings fall into disrepair. Sensitive conversion, that preserves the historic form and vernacular characteristics of the building, to residential or light industrial uses can be the best way of ensuring their long-term preservation. Well-designed new buildings that reflect local styles can make a positive contribution to landscape character.

Hedges, stone wall, trees and traditional farm buildings are important elements within farmed landscapes that contribute to the sense of place and locality. However, increases in the scale and intensity of agriculture mean that many of these features have lost their original purpose and/or have become a net cost to the farming business. Their ongoing management will rely on these businesses being willing to justify these ongoing costs on the basis of the public benefits they provide.

Around 38,000
farm buildings, or groups of farm buildings,in England have listed building status

Landscape management costs and payments

As already noted, maintaining high quality farmed landscapes carries a cost. Hedges require regular cutting (annually beside roads and every two to three years elsewhere) and benefit from periodic laying or coppicing to rejuvenate them. Maintaining other important landscape features, such as flower-rich grassland or traditional farm buildings, also carries significant costs.

It is hard to quantify landscape management costs as they vary by location, soil type and farming system. Stone walls are one of the many landscape features managed on farm. Across the Peak District National Park the value of the ecosystem service benefits from stone walls has been calculated to be £669 million. For every £1 of investment in dry stone walls the value of the benefits is £4.91. The majority of benefits were for cultural services like tourism, the provision of habitat and contributions to biodiversity[11]. These are all benefits for which the farmer obtains no reward.

Environmental regulations mean that many of the landscape management costs borne by farmers are unavoidable. Most farmers also accept that maintaining the landscape is a responsibility that comes with managing land and looking after the countryside.

Hedges require regular cutting
and benefit from periodic laying or coppicing to rejuvenate them

The need to fund landscape conservation work has been recognised by successive agri-environment schemes which have been available to many farmers in England and Wales since the 1980s as part of EU Rural Development Plans. The current schemes – Countryside Stewardship (which started in 2016) in England, and Glastir in Wales – do not reward the maintenance of these boundary features which are so integral to the local character of our landscapes.

These schemes have a range of objectives, including biodiversity, water quality, cultural heritage and landscape, and so not all of their budget is directed to landscape maintenance or enhancement. However, several years of monitoring for Natural England have shown that in 70% of the areas surveyed, the Environmental Stewardship scheme was successful in conserving and, importantly, maintaining the local landscape character (supporting features which would otherwise have declined) and in 13% it positively enhanced this character[12].

Farmers who maintain important landscape features such as hedgerows, trees and flower-rich grassland incur costs which can be significant. Publicly funded schemes are available to offset some of these costs.

Agricultural function and the form of landscapes

- **The Cotswolds** are known for their rolling open vistas, much cropped with permanent grasslands on steeper slopes, all bounded by honey-coloured stone walls and barns created for 19th century sheep farming.
- **The Snowdonian Massif** consists of extensive blocks of open moorland grazed by hardy sheep breeds, surrounded by seasonally grazed enclosed rough pasture known as ffridd.
- **Kent's** reputation as the garden of England is being maintained with a modern twist due to the planting of vineyards and bush orchards and increase in fields of salad crops.

"The farm's original woodlands have expanded since the 1990s with the farm planting several hectares of trees which are now over ten metres tall. They are a mix of native broadleaves and conifer species such as spruce and larch. The tree plantations are used commercially, for stakes and binders used in hedge laying and biofuel which heats the headquarters and the eco-built visitors centre. There are permissive footpaths with information boards created to increase public knowledge about the environmental habitats."

Phil Jarvis, arable farmer
East Midlands

Agri-environment scheme uptake

In England, the area of farmland covered by agri-environment agreements rose gradually during the 1990s so that by 2004 they covered around 14% of all farmland. From 2005, the introduction of the Entry Level of Environmental Stewardship, which could apply to all farmland, increased the area covered considerably to a peak of around 72% in 2013. But the area covered since the introduction of Countryside Stewardship has fallen and is unlikely to rise significantly in coming years at the same time as the Basic Payment Scheme that supports farmers' incomes is withdrawn. Defra plans to introduce a new Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme from 2024.

Agri-environment schemes, and other programmes such as the Landscape Partnership Projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, often aim to operate at a 'landscape-scale'. This involves collaborative approaches over many landholdings and could reinforce the distinctive character of defined landscapes. The borders of these 'landscape-scale' approaches can be defined by upland areas, water catchments, landscape designations or administrative boundaries. Groups of farmers sometimes take a key role in delivering these projects, such as the Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area. In others, farmer-driven clusters are created in which farmers act together to adopt coordinated measures. The Government objectives for extensive nature recovery mean that such landscape-scale planning approaches will be increasingly important.

The high uptake of agri-environment schemes in 2013 demonstrated the benefits of a voluntary, simple scheme that integrates effectively with productive landscapes. Going forward ELM must deliver sustainable, productive food and farming systems. Coordinated 'landscape-scale' approaches in which farmers plan and act together will be increasingly important in future.

Farming in our finest landscapes

Since the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, a steadily increasing proportion of countryside in England and Wales has been designated as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These are recognised internationally as areas *"where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value".* In contrast to 'wilderness' national parks in countries like the United States, the role of farming and other human activity is recognised and valued as being an inherent part of what makes the area special, contributing to its natural beauty and cultural heritage.

18%
of the total farm labour force in England

The Glover Landscape review recognised that without farmers the natural beauty would be lost. The review valued the role of vibrant communities and the need to strengthen the link with economic activity. As such it recommended that National Parks and AONBs had a purpose to 'foster the economic and community vitality of their area in support of the first two purposes'. The review also recognised the need to work with farmers and land managers saying 'farmers sometimes feel that conversations with their local National Parks and AONBs are tokenistic'.

28%
of the breeding beef herd

37%
of the sheep flock

Our protected areas of National Parks and AONBs now cover 24% of England and Wales (13 National Parks occupying 11% of the land and 38 AONBs covering 13%). In England, National Parks and AONBs hold 18% of the total farm labour force in England, 28% of the breeding beef herd and 37% of the sheep flock[13]. These protected areas are reliant on farmers to maintain and manage the distinct character of these landscapes. The Lake District is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site specifically because its landscape was created and is sustained by its upland farming.

Sustainable farming and food production systems play a critical role in maintaining the natural beauty and cultural heritage of our finest landscapes, designated as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Farmers need to be actively involved in the landscape discussions for their area.

"We're privileged to live in the area that we farm. Sometimes we take the environment we work in for granted, but a lot of people who visit this area complement us on how the landscape looks and how our farm looks. The acknowledgement that people see what we see and appreciate what we've done is a great boost. It's recognition that farming provides all this additional benefit alongside the farming activity."

Thomas Binns, livestock farmer
Pendle Hill, Lancashire

Click here to see and hear more from Thomas

Transforming landscapes

There are voices from within Government, the conservation sector and the farming industry arguing that large-scale change in our farmed landscapes, of a kind not seen since the Second World War, is both inevitable and, if properly planned, desirable. There are different and potentially conflicting calls on future land use, from more rewilding to more tree planting and new land uses to deliver net zero, which will change our future landscapes.

The NFU's goal for agriculture in England and Wales to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 underpins our future environmental ambitions. Achieving this goal will involve improving land management and changing land use to capture more carbon through the provision of bigger hedgerows, more farmland woodland, and more carbon-rich soils. It will enable us to deliver more fertile soils, more productive soils, increased flood management and better biodiversity. Producing 'green' energy as part of this ambition could also see land use change for the production of bioenergy crops or siting of solar panels.

Increasing woodland is also a political priority. In its 25-year environment plan, the government committed to increase woodland cover in England from 10% to 12% by 2060[14]. It also made a manifesto commitment to increase tree planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025[15].

There are calls for 'rewilding' across large-scale landscapes to aid biodiversity recovery and safeguard ecosystems[16]. There are relatively few landscape rewilding projects taking place in England and Wales, but examples include the Knepp Estate in West Sussex[17]. These areas are managed. Total abdication of management would not necessarily have positive outcomes e.g. scrubbing up of uplands damaging existing priority habitat.

Current woodland cover in England is

10%

The NFU's goal is for agriculture in England and Wales to reach

net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040

In terms of its effect on landscape character, rewilding and large areas of forestry would tend to scrub out the existing fabric of fields, hedges and tracks with larger scale patterns of scrub, woodland and wetland, giving the countryside a less ordered and wilder feel. These will change or lead to the loss of the sense of place. Long term land use change is a threat to the future of many tenant farmers who know the land.

Ours are living, working and dynamic landscapes and they will constantly change and evolve. There needs to be positive decisions about how we choose to manage our landscapes. People are at the heart of these landscapes providing the local knowledge and management, supporting local communities. Future land uses need to retain these people through land management based around economic activity.

"Farming has shaped our iconic upland landscapes and created one of the most important managed environments in the country. This landscape brings millions of people to the countryside every year, supporting local jobs in tourism and other local businesses. I believe I have an important role in helping manage and look after our beautiful landscape and countryside. Over the past 20 years we've rebuilt over 1,000 metres of dry stone walling. We've also carried out around 400 metres of hedge laying and restoration to provide habitats and food sources for wildlife."

Robert Brunt, livestock farmer
Peak District National Park, Cheshire

Access and engagement

Farmland is the destination of 48% of visits to the natural environment in England – around 4.1 billion visits every year boosting rural and local economies[18]. At a time when many people have no first-hand experience of how their food is produced, instructive visits to farms and engaging with farmers is a vital way of improving their understanding of where the food they eat comes from and helping them to make informed choices as consumers.

Access to rural landscapes and the farmed countryside also has a wider social, as well as economic, value. There is a growing body of research showing that people gain both physical and mental health, and a wider sense of wellbeing, from being close to nature. This can come from active pursuits, like walking, or from looking out across attractive greenspace from homes, workplaces and while travelling.

One of the key lessons learned from the COVID-19 outbreak was the importance of people adhering to the Countryside Code when they visit the countryside for exercise or recreation. Farmers want people to engage with where their food comes from. But it is important that this access and engagement is achieved in a responsible way and the fact that much of this land is a working environment is recognised, and respected, by the public.

Farmland is the destination of 48% of visits to the natural environment in England
– around 4.1 billion visits every year boosting rural and local economies

Public Rights of Way

The public has access to more than 225,000 kilometres of public rights of way in England and Wales[19], including tens of thousands of kilometres of footpaths and bridleways, the large majority of which run through farmland, on green lanes, around the edges of fields, or across fields. These rights of way are a historic legacy of centuries of use as people moved between their homes, places of work, villages and market towns. It was not until the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 that local authorities were required to prepare a definitive map of existing rights of way.

The practical implications of a public right of way on land use and management depend on the type of land. The owner or occupier of the land is responsible for ensuring the route is visible and not obstructed. For example, arable farmers must adapt their cropping to accommodate public rights of way: field-edge routes must not be cultivated (a minimum width of 1.5m for footpaths and 3m for bridleways) and cross-field routes must be reinstated within specified times if they are cultivated (1m width for a footpath and 2m for a bridleway). Cattle farmers cannot keep bulls of certain breeds over 10 months old in fields containing public rights of way. And recreational access creates real problems in some places: livestock worrying by dogs, transmission of parasites from dog faeces and leaving gates open are issues frequently faced by livestock farmers.

The public has access to more than
225,000 km
of rights of way in England and Wales

Open Access Land

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land in England and Wales. The granting of these new rights of access has been accommodated successfully in most areas, although farmers in the most popular areas have experienced problems such as livestock worrying by uncontrolled dogs and inconsiderate parking in gateways and on road verges. The NFU and other farming and landowning organisations continue to encourage wider promotion of the Countryside Code, setting out the public's responsibilities while accessing the countryside. The NFU is actively working with organisations such as the Kennel Club (in relation to responsible dog ownership) and Duke of Edinburgh Awards (on awareness among young people of the Countryside Code).

It is important people abide by the
Countryside Code

"We host between 25 and 30 different visits or open days a year. There is one kilometre of permissive footpath, with three kilometres of disabled access pathways on the farm. While these are always open, we hold disabled access open days which help to promote these access opportunities. With the support of local council 'trampers' (all terrain mobility scooters) visitors are free to explore the farm using the pathways. This access to the outdoors and new experiences is really popular, and I believe people take a lot away from these days and get a true sense of achievement, which is rewarding for me too."

John Alpe, livestock and dairy farmer
Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Lancashire

Permissive access

The public rights of way network in England and Wales has ancient origins, providing free access on foot, cycle and horseback across the large majority of the countryside. The network was not designed with today's needs in mind and there is an opportunity to create a modern and adaptive rights of way network that is fit for the 21st century, meeting the demands for more access, or safer access, alongside rationalisation of the current network to ensure its fit for purpose.

Landowners are free to grant rights of permissive access to the public on linear routes or across larger areas. This can be on an individual basis, under a permissive agreement with the local authority or as part of an agri-environment scheme. Access can be provided subject to conditions such as periods of closure to suit farming activities. Farmers often provide permissive routes through agreements with the Parish Council out of goodwill to local residents. The landowner can benefit practically where a permissive route provides a route that is more convenient (both for them and users) than an existing public right of way (for instance avoiding a farmyard).

Public engagement with nature

A national survey undertaken annually since 2010 by Natural England (the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment or MENE) provides valuable data on how the public in England engage with nature. The latest report, covering the 2018/19 survey[20], shows that there is a sustained upward trend over many years in the number of people visiting nature, with 65% of adults doing so at least once a week in 2018/19.

The survey found that people gained more enjoyment and positive wellbeing from visiting the coast and countryside than from urban parks. Improving health by taking exercise is people's top motivation for visits and has been increasing in recent years, followed by dog walking.

A negative aspect of public activity is the careless littering of the countryside whether through a thoughtlessly dropped sweet wrapper or other rubbish left by visitors. Walkers not sticking to designated footpaths, failing to clear up after their dogs or leaving behind bags containing dog waste are a particular concern. These actions can be harmful to both livestock and wildlife, as well as damaging the wider natural environment.

Educational visits to farms

There have been programmes to improve public understanding of farming and food production through visits to farms for many decades, including the Countryside Commission's Demonstration Farm programme in the 1970s, City Farms set up from the 1980s onwards, and the Open Farm Sunday initiative started in 2006. During its 14 years, Open Farm Sunday has welcomed over 2.2 million people onto 1,600 farms. The event in June 2019 saw an 8% increase in the number of visitors from urban areas compared to 2018[21]. The value of educational visits to farmland across the UK is estimated at £1.86 million[22]. By engaging with the next generation there is an opportunity to create a lifelong appreciation of the wonderful farmed landscapes where our food is produced.

During its 14 years, Open Farm Sunday has welcomed over
2.2 million people
onto 1,600 farms.

A growing proportion of the population are regularly visiting the natural environment for activities such as physical exercise and dog walking. People associate visits to the coast and countryside with higher levels of enjoyment and wellbeing than visits to urban greenspace, although some groups such as BAME communities and people in deprived areas experience barriers to accessing these areas. Farming and rural organisations are welcoming increasing numbers of people on visits to learn more about food production and the countryside and are facilitating the use of the farmed environment as an educational resource for schools.

I'm involved in hosting and arranging school visits to farms in the county. We've had more than 2,000 school children out on visits, showing them how environment benefits can be integrated into, and delivered on, commercial farms. The farm visits that we organise are invaluable at reconnecting children with farming, food and our vibrant environment. This can only be good for the farming sector and for the education of our children but also their health and wellbeing."

Mark Pope, arable farmer
Blackdown Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Somerset

References

1. **Tree cover outside woodland in Great Britain,** National Forest Inventory, Forestry Commission, April 2017. Table 23
2. **Tree cover outside woodland in Great Britain,** National Forest Inventory, Forestry Commission, April 2017. Table 22
3. Carey, P.D.; Wallis, S.; Chamberlain, P.M.; Cooper, A.; Emmett, B.A.; Maskell, L.C.; McCann, T.; Murphy, J.; Norton, L.R.; Reynolds, B.; Scott, W.A.; Simpson, I.C.; Smart, S.M.; Ullyett, J.M.. 2008 **Countryside Survey: UK Results from 2007**. NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, 105pp. (CEH Project Number: C03259).
4. Williams, P., Biggs, J., Crowe, A., Murphy, J., Nicolet, P., Weatherby, A., Dunbar, M. 2010 **Countryside Survey: Ponds Report from 2007. Technical Report No. 7/07** Pond Conservation and NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, 77pp. (CEH Project Number: C03259)
5. Williams, P., Biggs, J., Crowe, A., Murphy, J., Nicolet, P., Weatherby, A., Dunbar, M. 2010 **Countryside Survey: Ponds Report from 2007. Technical Report No. 7/07** Pond Conservation and NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, 77pp. (CEH Project Number: C03259)
6. **Small water bodies**, Freshwater Habitats Trust website
7. **Tree cover outside woodland in Great Britain,** National Forest Inventory, Forestry Commission, April 2017. Table 1
8. **June Agricultural Survey 2017**, Defra (2018a), and **Survey of agriculture and horticulture: June 2018**, Welsh Government (2018)
9. **Tree cover outside woodland in Great Britain,** National Forest Inventory, Forestry Commission, April 2017. Table 18
10. **Historic farm buildings: constructing the evidence base**, Gaskell P and Owen S (2005). Report by the University of Gloucestershire's Countryside and Community Research Unit for English Heritage and the Countryside Agency.
11. **Developing an ecosystems approach – dry stone walls**, Research report series 43/2018, Powell, J et al, Historic England, 2018
12. **Monitoring the impact of Environmental Stewardship on Landscape Character and Quality. Rapid Field Survey 2014-16,** LUC 2016
13. Analysis of data from **June Agricultural Survey 2017**, Defra
14. **A green future: our 25-year plan to improve the environment**, Defra, 2018
15. **Consultation launched on the England Tree Strategy,** Defra website, June 2020
16. **Rewilding Britain** website
17. **Knepp Wildland** website
18. **The future farming and environment evidence compendium**, Defra, September 2019
19. **Advice note no 9, Rights of Way Section, 11th revision,** The Planning Inspectorate, April 2019
20. **Monitoring of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) Headline Report 2019,** Natural England/National Statistics
21. **Open Farm Sunday** website
22. **The future farming and environment evidence compendium,** Defra, September 2019

Produced by:

NFU, AGRICULTURE HOUSE
STONELEIGH PARK, STONELEIGH, WARWICKSHIRE CV8 2TZ
October 2020

NFU

NFU SUPPORTED BY NFU Mutual