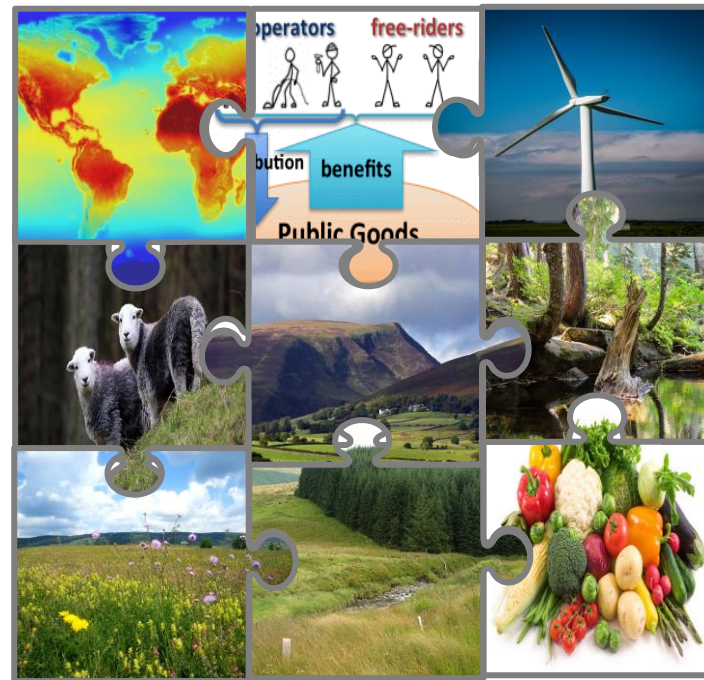


“All things to all people”

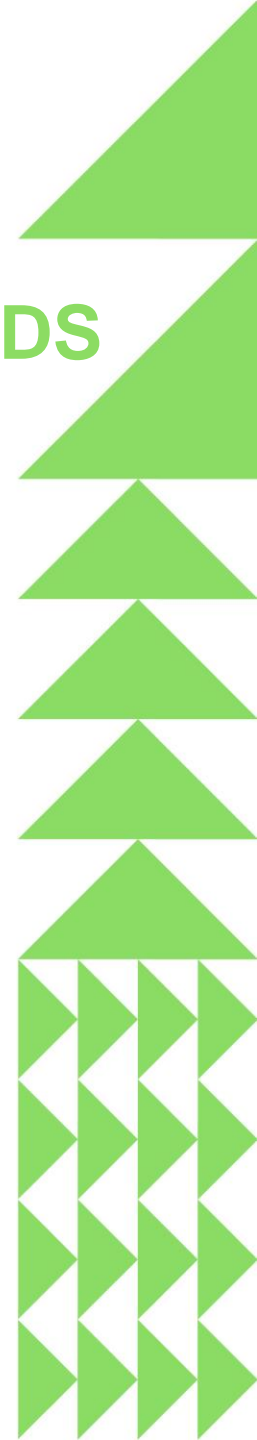
CURRENT ISSUES FOR LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE UPLANDS



Lois Mansfield, Professor of Upland Landscapes

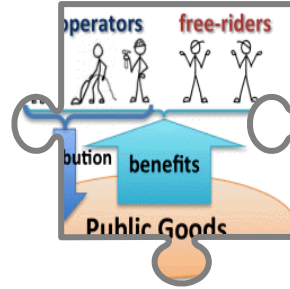
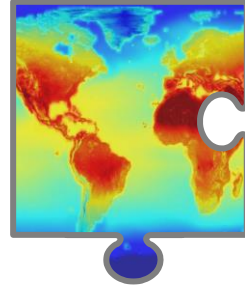
Director of Centre for National Parks & Protected Areas, University of Cumbria

‘Rural Natters’ ACRE Network, 14th July 2022



'All Things to All People'

Climate Action
& Net Zero



Public Goods



Renewable energy

Farming
for food (!)



New visitors



Health & well
being agenda

Cultural
landscapes

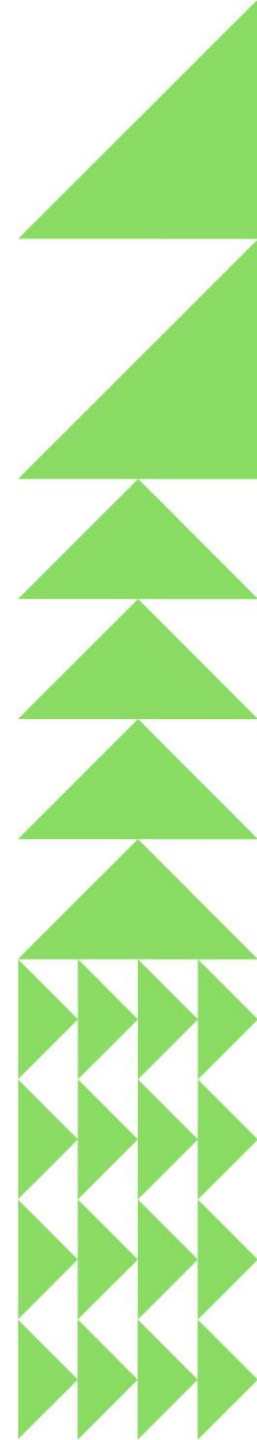


Changing dietary
demands

Biodiversity net gain
Rewilding



Biodiversity offsetting



Challenges: vulnerabilities & constraints

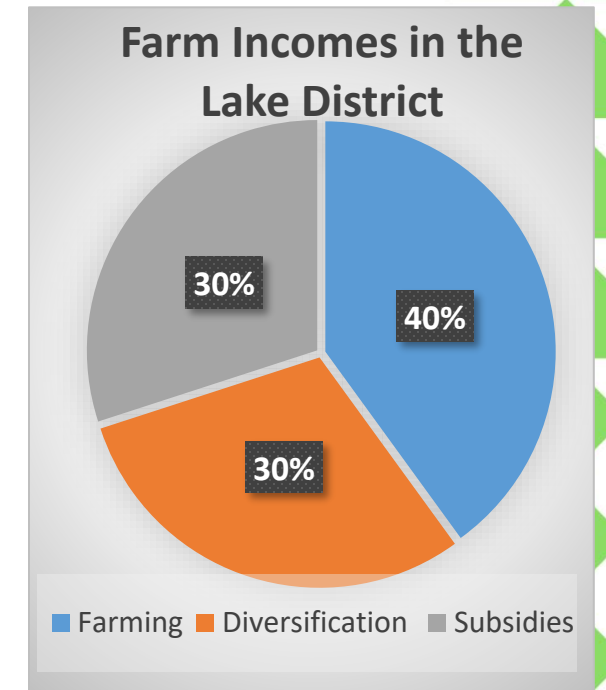
VULNERABILITIES – something outside our control to which we have to adapt

Eg Climate change - flooding
Brexit (yes)
Change in Government support
Catastrophe – pandemic
Cost of fuel and inputs
Geopolitical unrest
Public perception



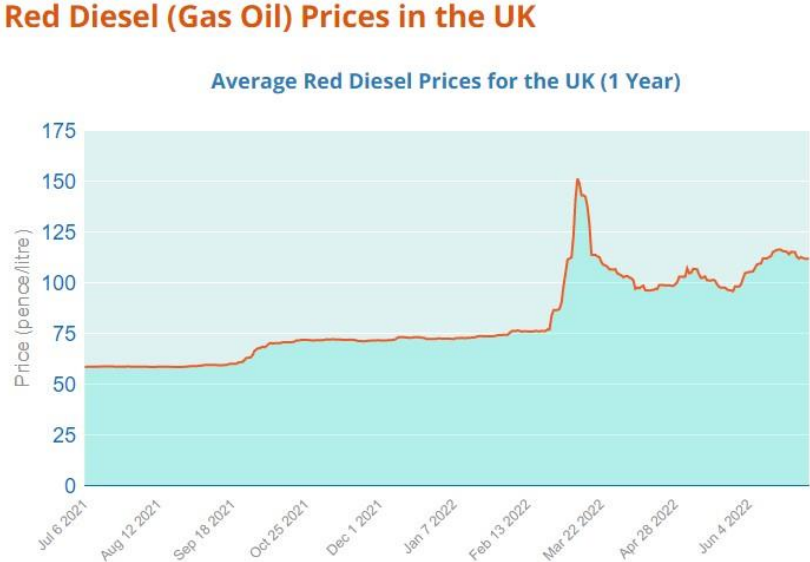
CONSTRAINTS – a localised challenge related to our situation

Eg Income
Aging workforce /Succession
Job availability
Rural Housing crisis
Public perception
Silo management
Administrative attitude
Multifunctional land use conflicts
New skills needs
Loss of land-based colleges

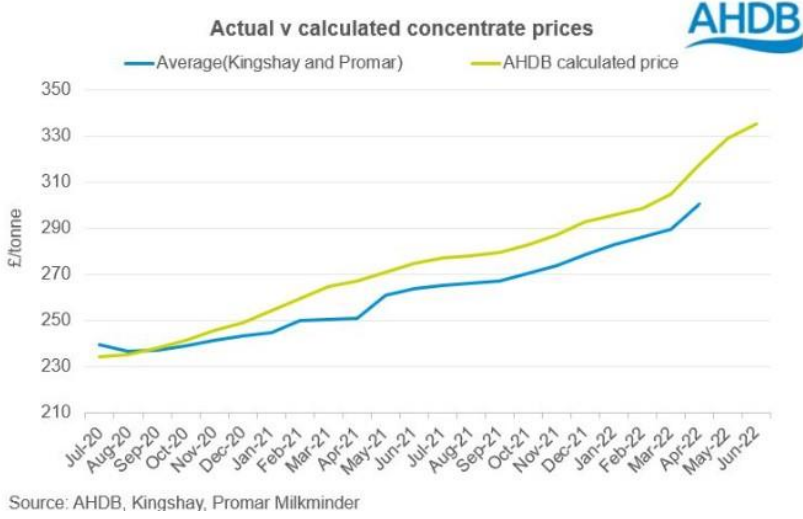


Energy Crisis: three 'F's [fuel, feed and fertilizer]

Source: <https://www.boilerjuice.com/red-diesel-prices/>



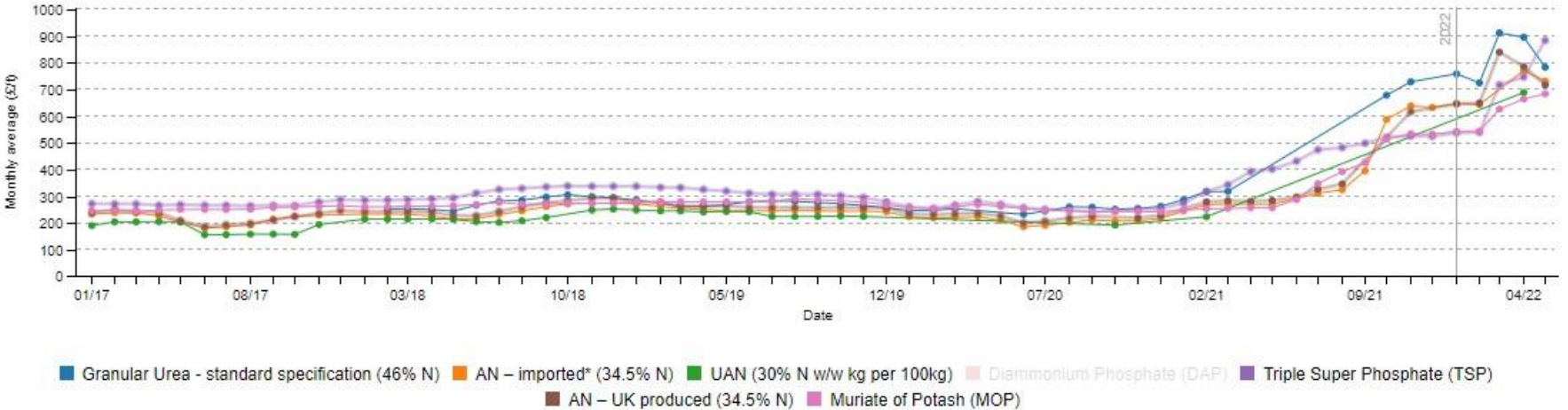
Jul 21 to Jul 22 UP by 93%



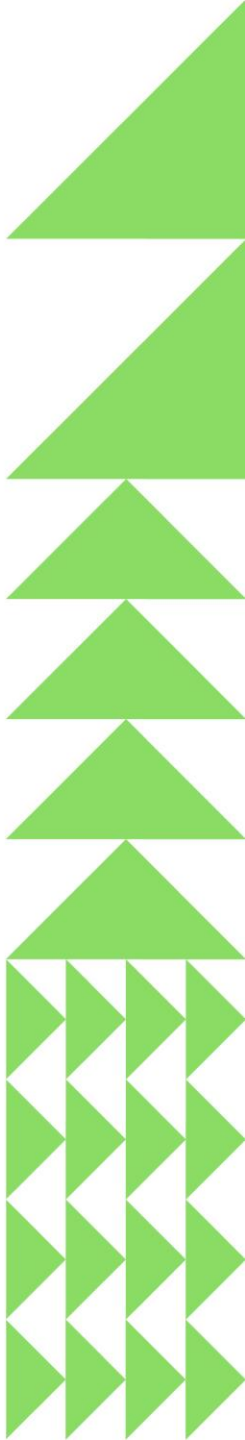
Jul 21 to Jul 22 UP by 45%

<https://ahdb.org.uk/dairy/feed-prices-and-markets>

<https://ahdb.org.uk/GB-fertiliser-prices>



Jul 21 to Jul 22 UP by 182%



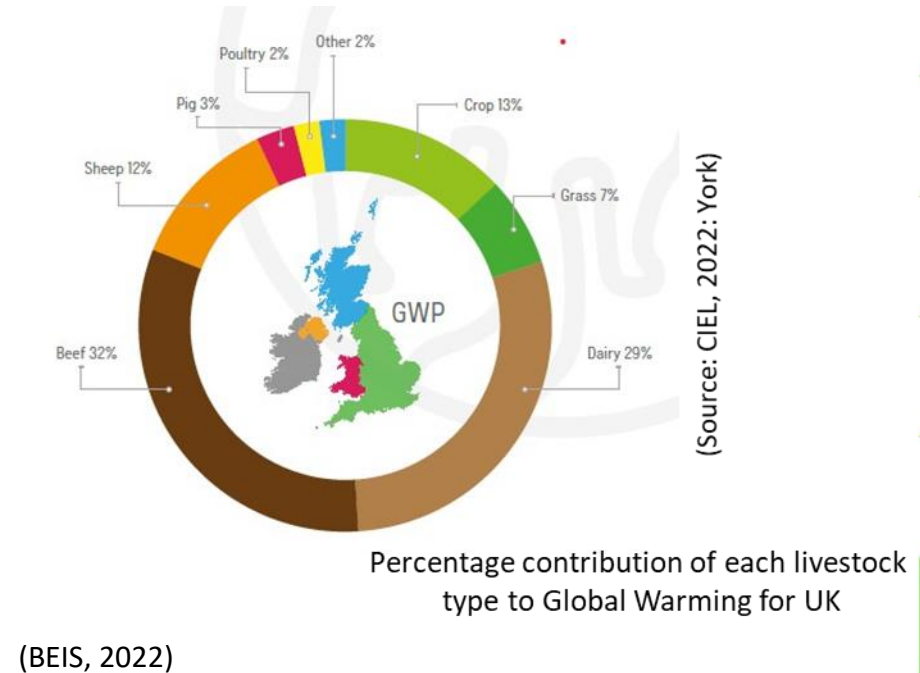
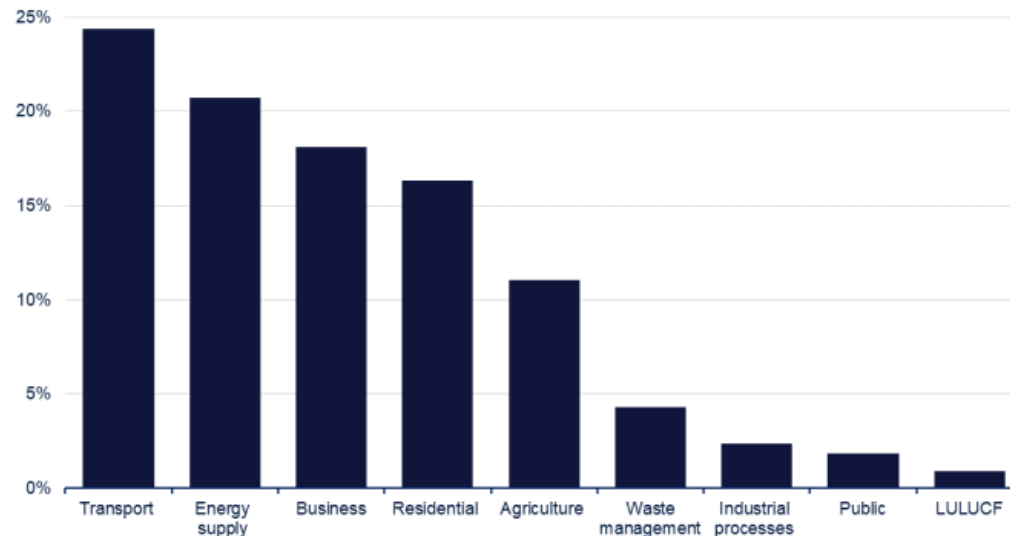
Biodiversity & Climate Crises

Key Trends

Protected Areas and Priority species are declining in their condition [a long term trend not being halted]

Increase of farmland in environmental management schemes to 2020

Problematic trend in Greenhouse Gases from agriculture



Priorities

International agreement 2022: 30% of land & seas are protected by 2030 (30 x 30)

England: Nature Recovery Network to link up protected sites – Counties will have own LNR plans

A desire to use transition farming to move to Net Zero and use Biodiversity offsetting

Public Goods Agenda

What are they ? Clean air and water, public access, management that helps cultural and/or natural heritage, mitigation & adaptations of climate change, environmental hazards management, health& welfare of livestock, native livestock & genetic resources, health of plants, conserving plants and their wild relatives and quality of soil (Agriculture Act 2020).

Desired Change
A shift from farming subsidies to public goods provision.



Drivers:
COP26 pledges (30x30)
Agriculture Act 2020
25 yr Environment Plan
Changing public views
Vulnerabilities

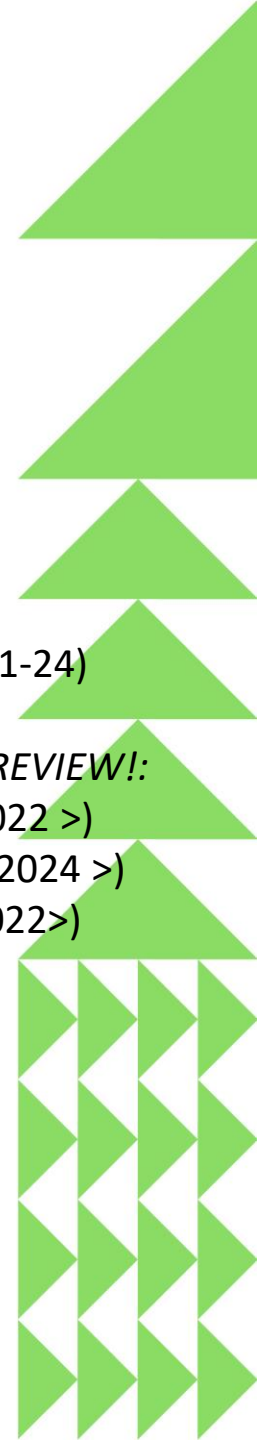


Observable Activity:
Farming in Protected Landscapes (2021-24)

New Agri-environment schemes (UNDER REVIEW!:
Sustainable Farming Incentive (June 2022 >)
Local nature recovery (clusters of farms 2024 >)
Landscape recovery scheme (pilots 2022>)

Eg. the Government has committed to increasing tree planting to 7500 ha per year by March 2025 to increase cover to 12% by 2050

Aided by corporate carbon offsetting.
In the uplands, whole farm planting is threatening communities.



Food Crisis

Key trends

- Limited range of enterprises: beef, lamb and dairy
- Focus on health: eat less red meat
- Rise of more vegetarian and vegan foodstuffs (only 2% but loud voice)
- Food security & self sufficiency in 2021 60%, in 1984 it was 78%, and varies by product (eg lamb 100%, beef 75%, cheese 58%)

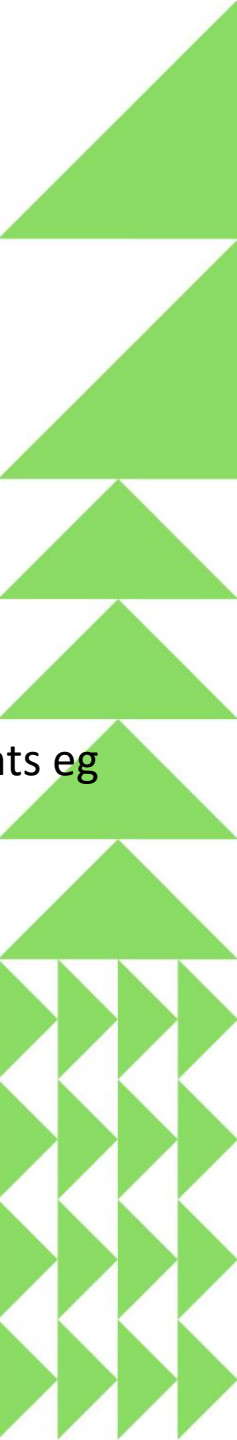
Priorities

- *England's National Food strategy*: food security, sustainable production, healthier and sustainable eating, the UK & global food system [big on ideas, *thin on How*]



What does all this mean for upland land managers?

- Land managers are struggling to fully understand the pragmatic DETAIL of what they are being asked to do.
- Land managers cannot plan for businesses with 18 month lead in times.
- Things are very fragmented, with no joined up thinking - different government depts. are offering different grants eg BEIS vs DEFRA.
- There are time gaps between grants now and then new ones which threaten livelihoods
- What support is available seems to change weekly eg reduction in Landscape NR grant cash to just £50m



Where next?

There is a tendency for the Government and the public to look to the uplands to **solve society's ills**.

There are many opportunities for all types of upland land managers, but:

1. We need ***joined-up policy*** across different government depts. [like in Japan]
2. Government and agencies need to fully grasp that every upland massif and area *within* each upland is different and thus we need to embrace a ***place-based approach*** eg trees vs biodiversity vs agriculture.
3. An understanding that ***land management underpins the rest of the rural economy***, those who live there and the services they need.
4. England ***needs a rural land use strategy*** (let alone the uplands), so we have a cohesive vision
5. We need to remember that ***our uplands are rich cultural landscapes***, not natural ones, and we need to find a balance

