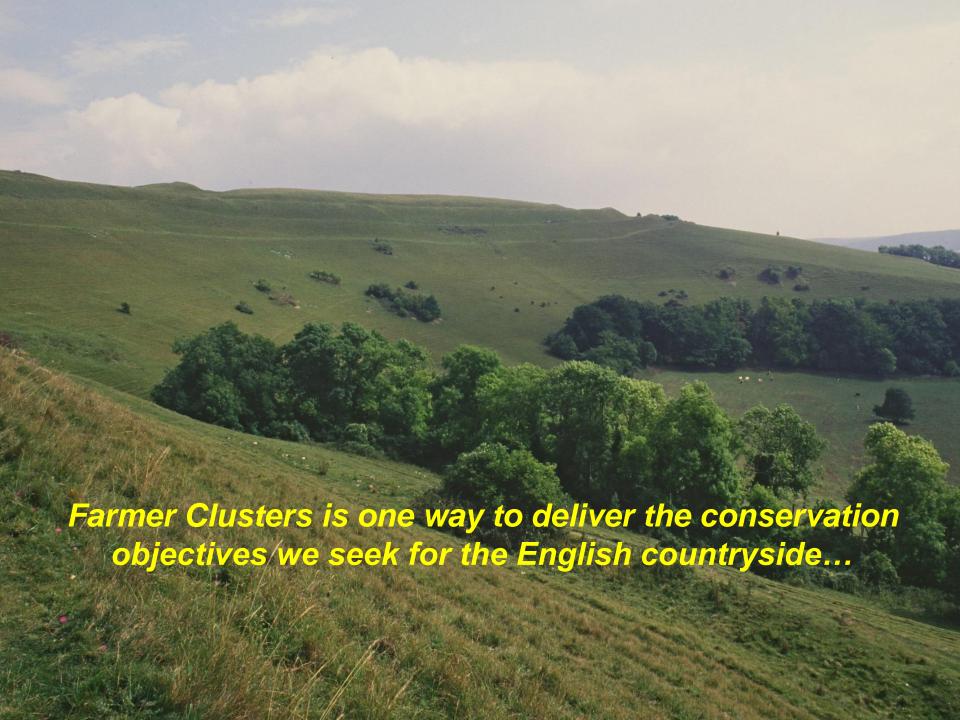




Farm Clusters: Reflections on an approach and implications for environmental delivery post-Brexit

James Phillips Natural England





People at the heart



The key to Farmer Cluster success is people and building relationships....

- We talk about resilient landscapes, but Farmer clusters allows for a true resilience of approach because local people, farmers, landowners have engaged with it, own it and feel empowered
- ➤ The Cluster approach allows farmers to see clearly the importance of their farm in the wider landscape
- Favour a "bottom-up" approach rather than "top-down" process
 famers want to come up with ideas/solutions that work best
 for their farms
- ➤ Any ask needs to be about what wildlife farmers want on their farms this is just as important as what we want to achieve
- Recognition really matters



Natural Capital















What Next?



- ➤ Having come this far already, important we don't lose the momentum we have built around this now
- Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund has been well received
- Local communities also now leading the way they are feeling empowered
- They are coming up with creative and innovative new ways of working

Helping to shape the future



- ➤ It is farmers and land owners that are key to putting back the habitats, helping farm wildlife, farmland birds, wild pollinators, to protect soils and water
- We need to work with farmers and land managers to help shape future Environmental Land management tools to make these as effective as possible
- ➤ Looking forward, Defra and Natural England see farmers and landowners as central to this

Farmer clusters are now helping to shape this agenda



