



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

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Farmer Clusters is one way to deliver the conservation objectives we seek for the English countryside...



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 – farmers 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

What wildlife would you like to see on your farm?



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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

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