

Actions 12/07/2022 [\[added 19/07\]](#)

Attendees: [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]to share SFI Moorland Test and Trial proposal with [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]to share evidence on moorland/upland definitions. [REDACTED]to keep building picture from Defra side
- [REDACTED]to look into upland breakdown for HLS/ES/CS for HL9, HL10 and UP3
- [REDACTED]share the slides from today's meeting (**attached**)
- **All – review project spec and feed comments back to [REDACTED]**
- **All – provided a steer on next meeting (26/07) and review suggested dates (Weds 10th, Thurs 11th or Tues 16th August) – letting [REDACTED] know your preference**

Notes

1. SFI 2022 launch reflections

- [REDACTED]reflected on the SFI22 launch. SFI Moorland not open for Commons yet. Lacking functionality at the moment. Aren't many options available. Easy to use, but the amount of money on offer not actually there yet. Glitches – some fields available when they're not available
- Common land applications open latejr this year – Foundation for Common Land awarded a test and trial last week to road test SFI on Moorland (3 locations, Dartmoor, Shropshire, Cumbria). Exciting development – hope to have early results by the end of Sept, 9 month project. [REDACTED] to share the proposal to see what the test and trial will be doing.

2. Defining the uplands

- [REDACTED] asking the group about definitions for the uplands, particularly re the moorland line. [REDACTED] – Defra definition focusses on whether you're in the DA or SDA - ignores the moorland line. Bundled DA's into Lowlands. DA farms do not get SDA BPS entitlements. DA farms were not eligible for the previous uplands subsidy (HFA) – squeezed between not being upland farms but not quite lowland. Moorland line does not affect DA farms
- [REDACTED]What portion of those fall out of the moorland standard? [REDACTED]- UA use SDA, there may be some predominantly SDA that use DA land. We have how much moorland is SDA and DA.
- [REDACTED] – is there land that isn't moorland in the uplands, and what proportion? [REDACTED] – the majority of land isn't moorland - 780,000 ha, 12% of England is moorland SDA. [REDACTED] to share evidence and [REDACTED]to keep building picture our side, from Defra side. [REDACTED]– all SDA, moorland is a top sub set of that and DA bottom fringe

3. Uplands – core facts and figures

- Slide 3, Diversification. [REDACTED]– agri contracting, traditionally thought of diversified, is not included in that measure. Agri-contracting is under the agri cost centre not under the diversified income cost centre. [REDACTED]– highlights the real challenges. Every time moving to SFI/LNR comes up diversification potential in an uplands scenario is so much more limited. In most cases, the diversification will have already happened – next stage would be to stop farming
- Slide 4, Tenants. [REDACTED]. Most farms that are tenanted are tenanted to be run as a livestock farm, or as a beef and sheep farm etc. – not run/let to stop carbon, or slow the flow. Constraints farmers choices going fwd. cant plant trees for example. [REDACTED]– a lot of farm tenancies have specific restricted towards that certain agri activity. Inc., FBTs have specifically restricted towards that agri activity – newer FBTs have removed the opp in most cases to take diversified income
- Slide 5, Size. [REDACTED]surveys on Exmoor have shown farm sizes getting bigger, average age of farmer getting lower, labour on farms getting less – extra work contracted rather than

employed. [REDACTED]– nature of the land, less productive – more likely to be a large farm (low input)

- Slide 6, Incomes. [REDACTED] Problem is you can't access the released money – if you're in AES already, 40% in AES 60% aren't – if you're already in, can't be in it twice. Limited options to access the released funds (ref to Defra blog). This is why we're doing this project. [REDACTED]– transition to be the biggest hit, likely to be carrying the same stocking levels initially – can't just drop straight away. A lot of people stuck in the status quo in the short term looking for ways to fund it – bleeding from the uplands, current SFI standards available are not showing a corresponding increase in the level of payment over and above what they're currently picking up in HLS or CS. Rapid shortfall in the early stages. More productive farms suggesting they can see a bigger return – short term hit for upland farms. These upland businesses don't have capacity to post a loss for long. [REDACTED]– being able to take new opportunities is limited
- Slide 7, 8 & 9, Profit.
- Slide 9. Upland area in CS/ES. [REDACTED]– vast majority involved in ES/CS over the years have land in the highest level they think they can manage it. Some agents said they had the highest number of people registering interest in CS than they'd ever had. When more info came out about how they would be paid and what they'd have to do for it – “dropping like flies” – people looking at the costs of engagement. First thing they do is call an agent. Complexity of the app process switched farmers off. [REDACTED]– interesting to see with the SFI22, what % move from looking at the application process to pressing submit. **Is it possible for RPA to give breakdown of what's above the moorland land – HL10 and UP3 (in terms of HLS/CS/ES).**