

## 17/05 Actions & Notes: Pathways to Success Steering Group

Attendees: [REDACTED]

### Actions

- [REDACTED] to share the Project Specification and Project Plan for final comments – which will contain delivery milestones
- [REDACTED] to reflect on today's 'what if discussion' and start working on the FBS data for each
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to work up a suitable timeframe for us to return to this with outcomes
- **All** to reflect on the 'what ifs' which the FBS does not cover as well, to see if there are other sources to cover these
- **Next meeting:** 31/05/2022

### Introductions

- Confirmation that this will be [REDACTED] last Steering Group meeting as she moves to the Woodland Trust
- [REDACTED] will be taking this work forward from Defra's perspective. [REDACTED] works part-time, usually Monday mornings, Tuesdays and Fridays. [REDACTED] is on leave w/c 30 May, but welcomes bilateral chats/intros which we can put in the diary when she's back in

### Update on actions from last meeting ([REDACTED])

- We have a number of outstanding actions which we ran through. We are looking to develop an action log to share with the group for visibility – several are dependent upon key milestones around data gathering

### Data discussion, 'what ifs' ([REDACTED])

- The discussion largely focussed on the 'What ifs' and the draft matrix (attached) that [REDACTED] scoped out as a draft for [REDACTED] to consider.
- When we're looking at the what ifs, we want to look at how each affects farm profitability
- 'Livestock' – FBS (Farm Business Survey gathered from a representative sample of farmers across the UK) has access to this.
- 'Type' – cattle, sheep. FBS again has access.
- '~~Breed~~' – not within the FBS, don't have a robust alternative – might need to be qualitative. [REDACTED] - Perhaps more about the categorisation of the breed? [REDACTED] – once you get to breed level, you've reached the next stage for businesses to go. If you take sheep out of the equation in an upland scenario, knock on effects of business changes are considerable. Whether upland farms keep cattle/sheep or not. [REDACTED] – **take out breed, can be covered by another 'what if' e.g. 'type'**
- 'Health' – challenging, combination of FBS and other indicators – such as farm expenditure on vet services. [REDACTED] – agreed, difficult to quantify. Important to not stray from FBS data as we'll struggle for continuity. [REDACTED] – trying to link in with AHW pathway, mental note to say 'if you do this, it can do this' [REDACTED] – second order issue to look at for the next level
- 'Feeding' – looking at whether people look at pasture based systems or bring concentrates/supp feeding. [REDACTED] – can pick this up through FBS
- 'Grassland' – 'inputs' – fertiliser costs. Imagining a minimal spend here but can look into it. [REDACTED] – would we end up with liming wrapped up in fertiliser, can we distinguish? [REDACTED] – **to check**

- 'rotational/set' – behavioural approach, but FBS wouldn't cover it. [REDACTED] – second order issue to look at for the next level
- [REDACTED] – even if FBS doesn't cover some of these, good to find research papers or something similar – try and build in these points now, if we can. [REDACTED] – **action to take away, finding research/evidence on 'what ifs' not covered under FBS**
- 'Land use change' – looking at interaction with aspects of E.L.M. 'If you move to tree planting/wood pasture/bog restoration' – effectively moving away from farming, 'conservation grazer'
- 'public goods' – [REDACTED] – not sure how we can talk about it in terms of profit. Might end up double-counting things when looking at E.L.M already. [REDACTED] – logging that we want it in somewhere, question as to where we have it. [REDACTED] – another tricky one with FBS, but can look into what we can draw on. [REDACTED] – not at a stage where we can quantify the public goods. Important subjective value – levers that drive people's engagement. objective – how much is it worth to me, much harder. Understanding its there in the background, but not yet ready to quantify. Peatland and Woodland code are active markets to look at currently. [REDACTED] – challenging to look at how that's affecting farmers in the FBS
- Want a product that allows farmers to look at what the regards for engaging with certain aspects of E.L.M are

What data do we have, what are we missing?

- [REDACTED] - Missing the next step, FBS data takes us so far, projecting forward about implications is the next stage. [REDACTED] – on projecting fwd, FBS baseline then super-impose assumptions on top of that to give a fwd look. Challenge is we might be making some uncertain forecasts – previously not well received at a senior (Defra) level