

Opportunities to integrate trees into farming systems.



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yfer Ddiabhyso Gwledig
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.llyw.cymru/cyswlltffermio
www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

*Farming Connect:
is a Knowledge Transfer programme
that provides farm and forestry
businesses in Wales with support,
advice, guidance and training on both
one-to-one and group basis.*

*Many services are fully funded, others
are subsidised by up to 80% for eligible
businesses.*



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Farming Connect offers farmers and foresters:



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**Advisory Service / Training /
Surgeries /
One to one clinics / Demo network
/ Knowledge Exchange Hub /
Discussion Groups
Agrisgôp Groups / Mentoring
Support on Joint Ventures**



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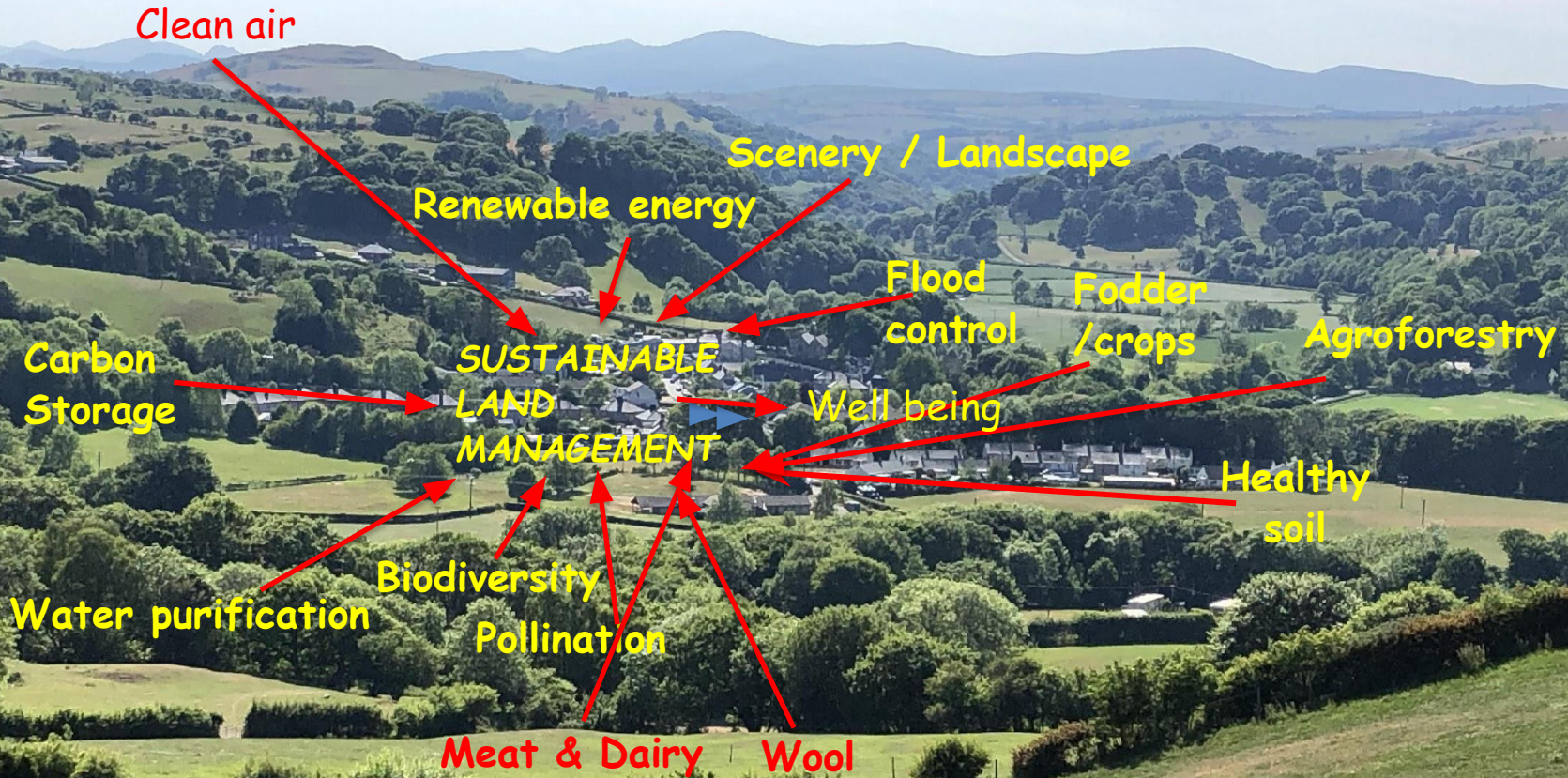


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Planning for the future... providing a vision to benchmark against



It's about understanding & Identifying the economic value of trees and woodland to the farm business both in *environmental and economic terms.*

Issues..... Open access to watercourses leading to erosion and poaching of banks leading to dilapidation of the banks and sediment loading in the channel.











Before.....



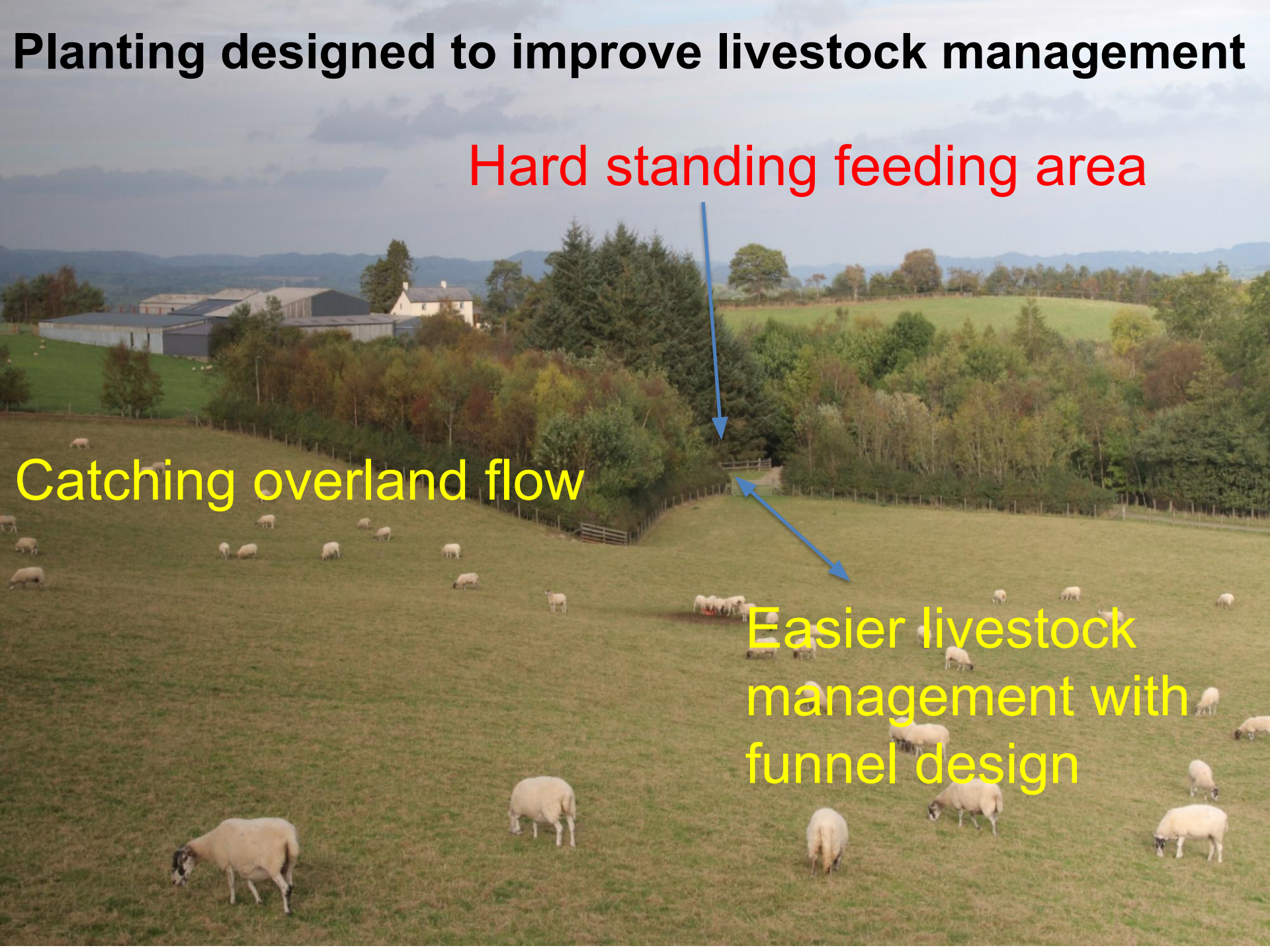
After...
Buffer zone is defined...

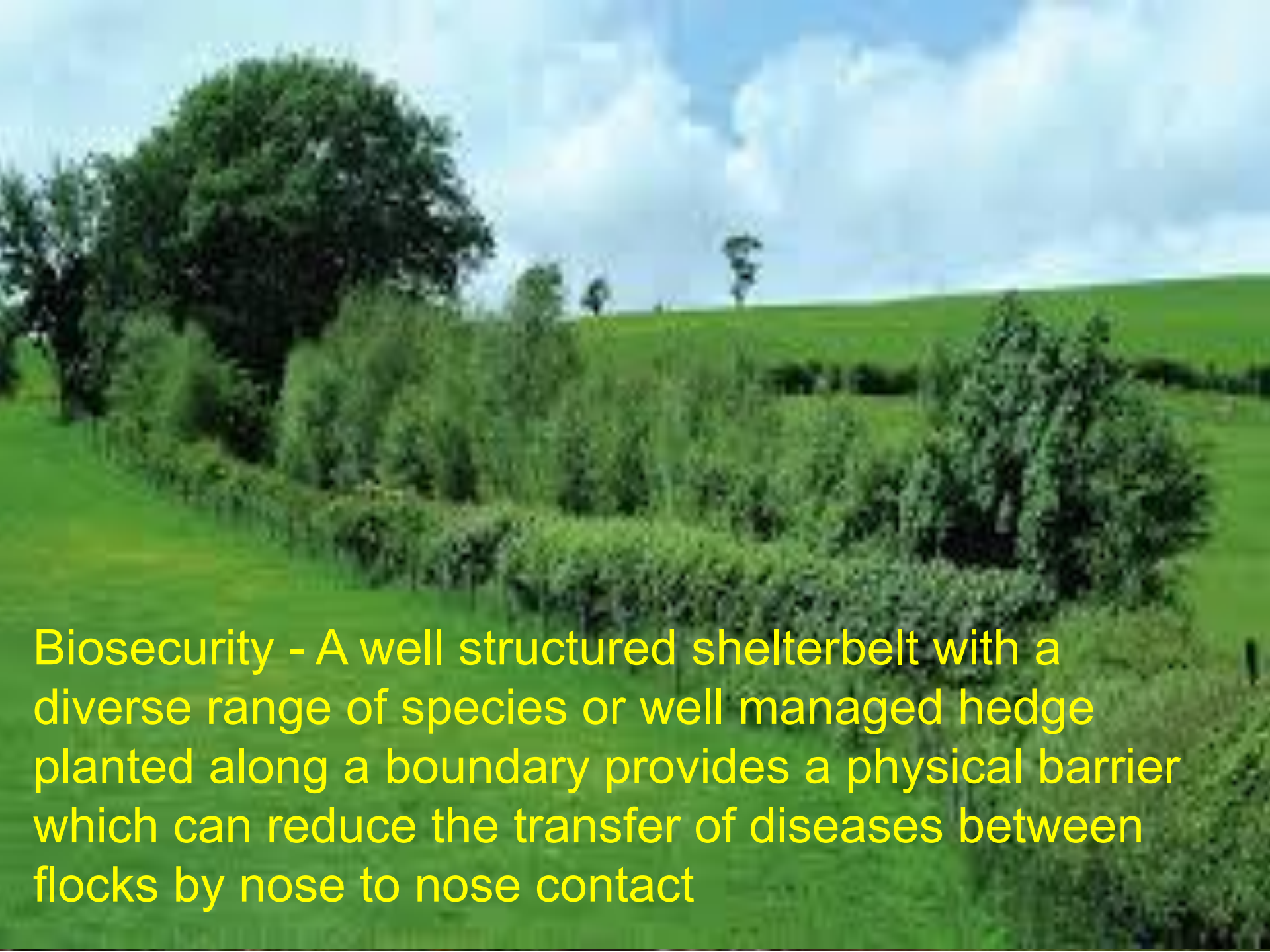
Planting designed to improve livestock management

Hard standing feeding area

Catching overland flow

Easier livestock management with funnel design





Biosecurity - A well structured shelterbelt with a diverse range of species or well managed hedge planted along a boundary provides a physical barrier which can reduce the transfer of diseases between flocks by nose to nose contact



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- *Strengthen the farm's green infrastructure for future resilience.*
- Deliver nature-based solutions to improve environmental and business resilience

Opportunities?

- Increase woodland cover and woodland management / hedgerows / shelterbelts on the farm.

It's imperative that farmers have the knowledge to decide what the real advantages and disadvantages of implementing a program of work to achieve objectives

But also.....

- To translate and communicate those objectives into outputs in economic terms.
- Tree planting to improve soil management, water quality, biosecurity, productivity and carbon storage.

Benefits of such a system?

- improving the environmental performance of the farm and the economic performance of the business.
- Resilience for the business against climate change increasing matrix of woodland and hedgerow cover that provides so much definition to our landscape.



















Protect and enhance
existing resource







SIDA

Short rotation coppice system with an arable crop "SIDA" grown in the alleys between the trees



Addressing knowledge gaps:

- Farmers will need advice on which species to grow and suit their objectives
- Design will vary with farming system
- Trial and error – schemes needs to be flexible
- Better information on the ‘economics’
- Better understanding of trees potential and multifunction – a key factor.
- There needs to be better decision support to help farmers design and manage woodland and agroforestry systems if they are to provide both *in situ* benefits to their farming systems and supply wider public benefits.



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Fit for purpose - fit for the future



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- ethos of looking at a holistic approach for the whole farm and integrating all areas of the farm including woodland, shelterbelts, hedgerows, trees, specific habitats and designations into the farm business
- there needs to be a shared vision and an understanding that food production runs hand in hand with good environmental performance for the farm.
- All the elements and objectives of any scheme need to be looked at as a whole package along with food production and this needs to be systematic and flexible in terms of meaning and in relation to each other
- there cannot be a fixed definition for all that are linked to these elements that contribute to the concept of a whole farm approach and objectives for the scheme.

Diolch yn fawr / Thank you
cwestiynau?/ questions?



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[https://businesswales.gov.wales/
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