

Sustainable Uplands Workshop Discussion Notes: Peak District National Park Wednesday 2 June 2010

Profitability of hill farming: Restructuring financial support so majority of payments are linked to provision of ecosystem services (as per Policy and Practice Note)

(taking into account the lack of new farmers and its knock-on effects for future adaptation: causes and solutions)

- Important to incomes to maintain payments
- Getting more difficult and selective
- Farmers doing what they want to do
- People like what they are doing (value)
- ESA worked
Minimum payments kept people going – consequences of no minimum
Now – lots of people want a say
- People need security to stay on the land
- Total levels need to be profitable
- Long term security
- Tenancies getting shorter
- Separate payments
Risk of squeeze on prices
Landscape payments
- Should we be trading in these goods and services?
- Payments (UELS) can be very small – is it worth it? Uptake 10%
- UELS
Need the money
Rates of payments (per ha) compared to work required (e.g. walls) not worth it for many
Baggage and too much followed (forms etc)
Too much in administration
- Margins are too tight
- Payments – rent
Harder to make investments
- Snowball to deterioration
- ESA – ELS – money going down all the time, food prices unrealistic
- Spending cuts? – on ELS?
- Depends on what you have to do to achieve payments – where are the compromises and what must stay?
- Rewilding is the worst option for wildlife, heritage, livelihoods, tourism
- Management needs to be recognised

Options for the effective management of increased recreation (with specific reference to reducing risk of damage from wildfire)

- New visitors to National parks
- Lack of understanding of upland heritage (does this matter?)
- Education –
With messages specific to country code
In MLTE qualifications
- If climate change increases risk in future, what should we do on education?
- Not going to happen on 'what if?' scenarios
- Trend spotting
Next recreation growth? E.g. disposable BBQs
Predicting what happens next is difficult
Not a prescriptive approach – adaptive
- Target efforts into fire-risk areas
- Need to work with the user groups (local access forums) – before authoritarian approach
- Voluntary arrangements – often as useful as statutory
- An increase in wild camping