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Agroforestry in Wales – are we ahead of the curve?

Farming Connect's approach to integrating trees into farming systems.







- *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.

Providing farmers with 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.

Wales ahead of the curve....







Individual trees or a
parkland landscape



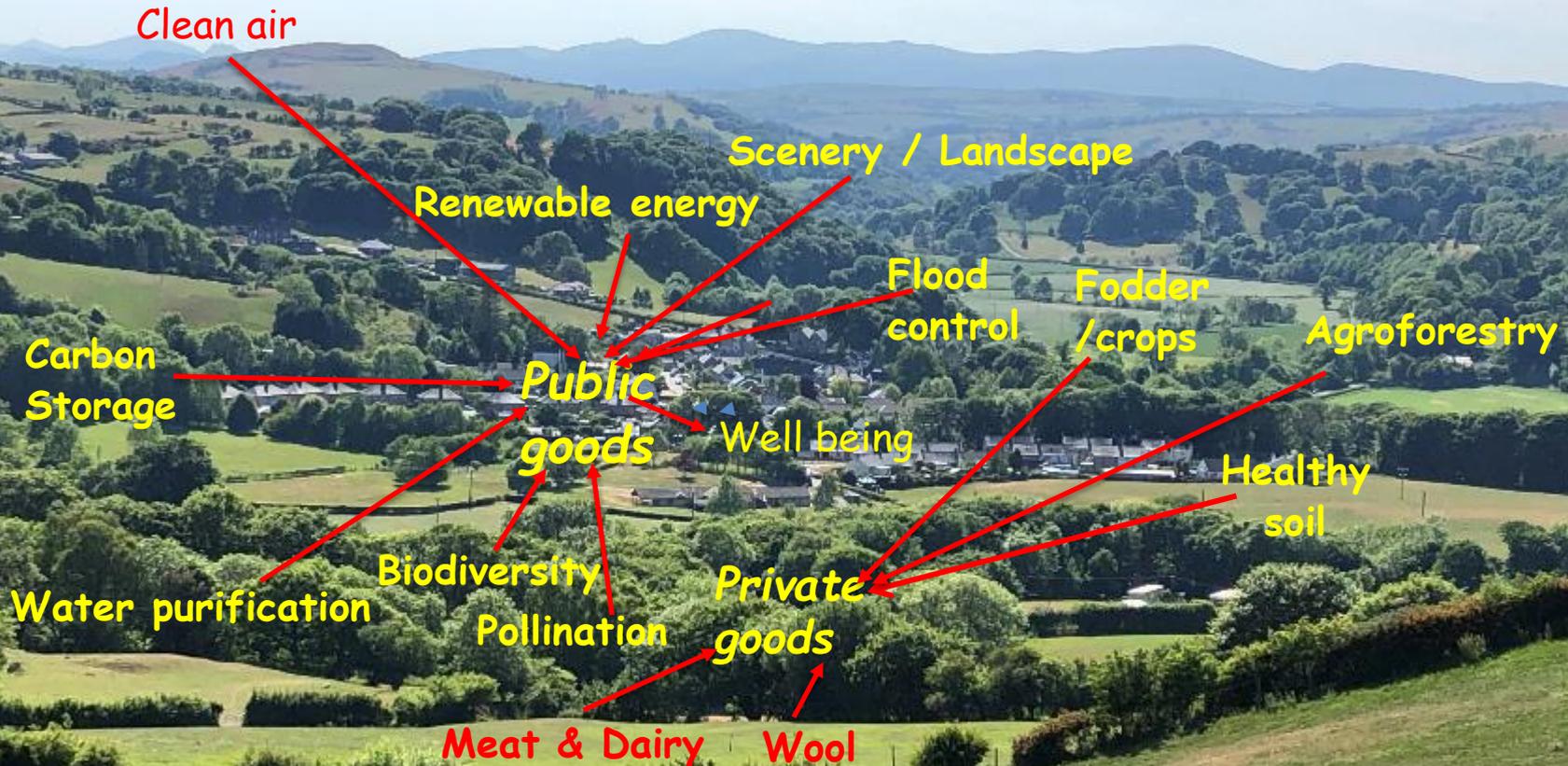
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20 m
100 ft





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.*

Biodiversity on farm.... a product of farming when managing the environment to take advantage of the multifunctional benefits of trees.



Shelter is an important factor in also reducing the impact of extreme weather. Tree shelter belts can improve feed conversion, weight gain and animal health.... Mixture of hazel, cherry, hawthorn and Ash providing biodiversity benefits as well.







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.
- We need 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.





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..

Hard standing
feeding area

Catching overland flow

Easier livestock
management with
funnel design





**My plan for
the next few
years**

**This is what I've
always done,
don't confuse
me with facts**

**It's all rubbish....
No such thing as
climate change**

“Ignoring change will destroy businesses”

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.



keepin it dry

Diolch yn fawr / Thank you
cwestiynau?/ questions?



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