

Farming in the Forest of Dean: How a family farm is adapting to change

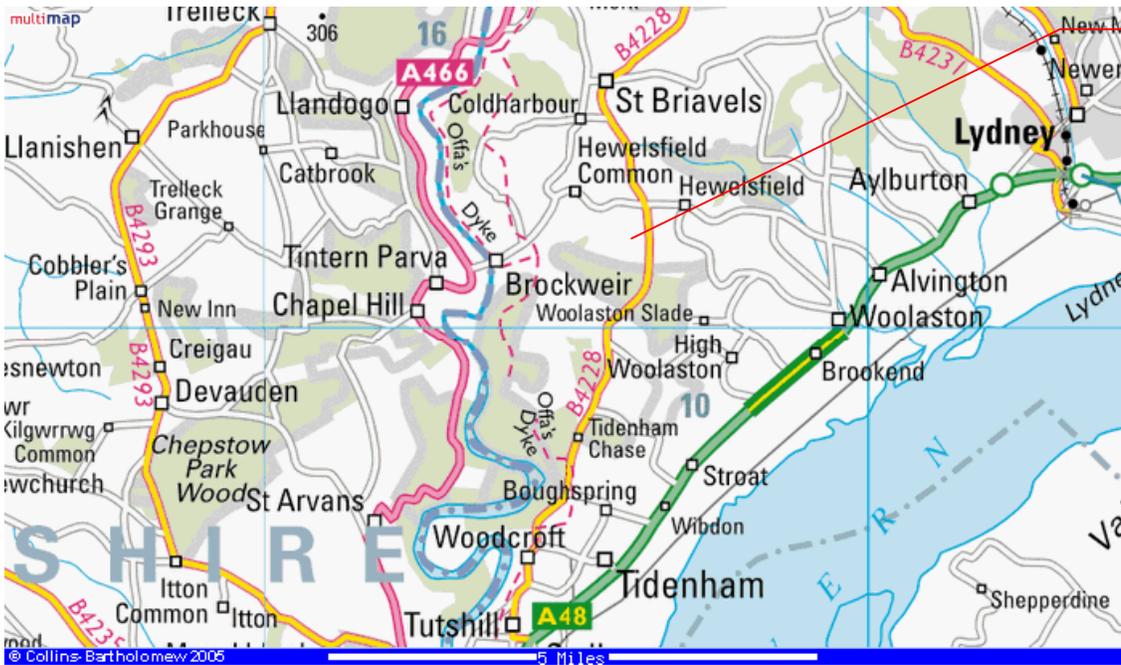
Cowshill Farm, Hewelsfield - 14th September 2006



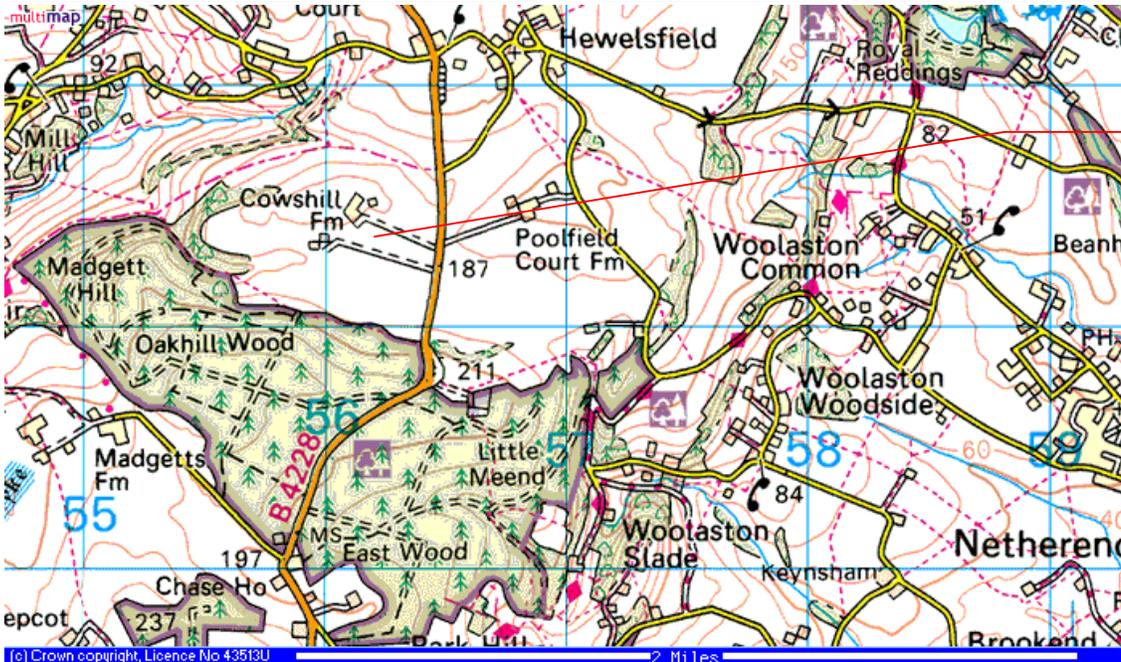
In conjunction with John Childs and family and the Parish Grasslands Project, GAP are holding a workshop at St Briavels. We will be looking at how the farm has changed in the last 5 years, now selling rare breed pork and beef direct in a box scheme and at farmers markets, conservation grazing cattle to help Lesser Horseshoe Bats and managing the machinery ring for the PGP.

Format of the day

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 10.30 | Arrival and coffee | |
| 11.00 | Introduction to the day | Jim Swanson (GAP) |
| 11.05 | <i>The Parish Grassland Project</i> | George Peterken (Chairman PGP) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A community based grassland management project - why and how it became established and what it does | |
| 11.30 | <i>The conservation machinery ring</i> | Peter Chard (PGP) and John Childs (Cowshill Fm) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Run by PGP for managing small, difficult fields on the common and elsewhere – a realistic practical and financial appraisal of the first three years operation of specialist alpine machinery for field managementThe machinery will be on show and John and Peter will be happy to discuss the problems and successes of the work | |
| 12.15 | <i>Local Grazing Schemes</i> | Speaker (s) to be confirmed |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">How collaboration between conservation, farming, tourist and business organisations can help with the grassland management and provide an income for farmers and others – could this work in the Forest? | |
| 13.00 | <i>Buffet lunch</i> | |
| 13.45 | <i>Farm walk</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Looking at rare breed Gloucester cattle and pigs marketed direct to the public in a box scheme and via farmers marketsCountryside Stewardship Scheme and management for Lesser Horseshoe batsSmall field grassland management | |
| 15.00 | <i>End</i> | |



COWSHILL FARM



COWSHILL FARM



DESPITE INTERVENTIONS FROM PIGS AND COCKERELS AND A POWER CUT THE DAY WENT VERY WELL – CHRIS STUBBS TALKS ABOUT THE WOOLHOPE DOME PROJECT

| Farming in the Forest of Dean workshop 14th September 2006 | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|---------------|
| Name | Organisation | Email | Phone No |
| George Peterken | PGP | george.peterken@care4free.net | |
| Peter Chard | PGP | peterchard@britishlibrary.net | |
| Chris Stubbs | Woolhope Dome Project | c.stubbs@herefordshirewt.co.uk | |
| Kathy Meredith | Herefordshire Rural Hub | | |
| Chris Teague & son | Farmer | | 01594 530370 |
| Diana Bevan | Monmouthshire Meadows | diana@247e.info | |
| Neville Hart | Herefordshire WT | nhart@herefordwt.cix.co.uk | |
| Sue Holland | Herefordshire WT | sholland@herefordwt.cix.co.uk | |
| Sarah Jane Mellor | Bridgend Council | mellos@bridgend.gov.uk | |
| Eric Freeman | Gloucester Cattle Society | | 01452 790272 |
| Stewart Hays | Gloucester Cattle Society | | |
| Jill Heaven | Gloucester Cattle Society | | |
| Sally | Gloucester Cattle Society | | |
| Cliff | Gloucester Cattle Society | | |
| Maggie Biss | Monmouthshire Meadows | maggie@pilstone.com | |
| Roger & Gwen Tutt | Land owner | roger.tutt@btinternet.com | 01989 720574 |
| Patricia Swinley | Gloucester Cattle Society | | 01452 760762 |
| Beth Sidaway | National Trust | beth.sidaway@nationaltrust.org.uk | |
| Deborah Sazer | Butterfly Conservation | dsazer.bcw@btconnect.com | |
| Andrew Bakere | Devon Wildlife Trust | abakere@devonwildlifetrust.org | |
| Stephanie Poulter | Monmouthshire Meadows | | 01600 860681 |
| Fiona Gordon | Eco-Lots | fiona@ecolots.co.uk | 01968 660744 |
| Paula Keen | The Woodland Trust | paulakeen@woodland-trust.org.uk | |
| Mark O'Brien | | | 017432 860963 |
| Chris Marrable | Ashdown Forest | ChrisM@ashdownforest.org | |
| Jane Green | Parish Grasslands Project | | |
| Julie Jenkins | The Woodland Trust | juliejenkins@woodland-trust.org.uk | 01291 691490 |
| Tony & Jane Eggar | PGP | tonyandjaneeggar@tiscali.co.uk | |
| Clare Fildes | Shropshire Hills AONB | clare.fildes@shropshire-cc.gov.uk | 01588 674090 |
| Trevor Pensom | Glyn Farm | marie@glynfarm.com | 01600 772430 |
| Marion Conisbee-Smith | Gloucester Cattle Society | | 01452 770915 |
| Mr Brakewell | | | 07779 749319 |
| Rose Kent | | | 01873 810547 |
| Chris Wittal | Farmer | | 01531 820486 |
| Jim Chapman | Farmer | jim.chapman@care4free.net | 01531 822144 |
| Janartha Stout | Hartpury College | | 01452 702135 |
| Simon Cleeve | | sfcleeve@ic24.net | 07973 953452 |
| Rebecca Wilson | Forestry Commission | rebecca.wilson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk | |
| John Point | | | 01291 624766 |
| Mr Mann | | | 01594 510621 |
| Caroline Corsie | Worcs WT | caroline@worcestershireswildlifetrust.org | 07810 891272 |
| Peter Kelsall | Forestry Commission | peter.kelsall@forestry.gsi.gov.uk | |
| Ben Lennon | Forestry Commission | ben.lennon@forestry.gsi.gov.uk | |
| Barry Embling | RSPB | barry.embling@rspb.org.uk | 01594 562852 |
| Rev Patricia Pinkerton | Private | | 01594 810321 |
| Sue & Bill Osborne | Farmer | | 01594 841970 |
| David White | Forestry Commission | david.white@forestry.gsi.gov.uk | |

1. Parish Grassland Project of Brockweir, Hewelsfield and St Briavels – George Peterken, Chairman PGP

a.) Background

- Semi-natural grassland on former commons of St Briavels & Hewelsfield in the Wye Valley / Forest of Dean
- A landscape shaped by 200 years of small scale enclosure – itinerant workers & smallholders associated with mining, quarrying and other industries squatted on commons and built houses



HUDNALLS FROM THE SOUTH

b.) Key features

- Ancient Woodland (SAC)
- Acid, neutral and wet grassland
- Stone walls
- Ancient trees
- Streams
- Greater & Lesser Horseshoe Bat roosts (SAC)
- Dormouse
- Fritillary butterflies (?)
- Orchards
- Very strong historical / archaeological and cultural interest, and strong community identity

c.) The Problems

- Gentrification: larger lawns and gardens, Bracken and scrub encroachment and lack of management



- Lack of knowledge
- Fewer traditional 'commoners'
- Some intensification with rye-grass leys
- Decline in grazing:
 - Mad Cows: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy -
 - F+M: Foot and Mouth Disease
 - Economics
 - Increasing bureaucracy in agriculture

The Parish Grassland Project was founded in 2001, following a parish meeting

d.) Aims

i.) To raise interest in and knowledge of the local environment amongst residents, particularly the flower-rich fields

- Meetings
- Field visits
- Newsletters
- Survey of field use
- Botanical surveys of individual fields
- BBQ

RENT-A-COW



ii.) To give direct help to residents with management of flower-rich fields

- Advice: (i) botanical values, (ii) management options
- Liaison about Stewardship, etc
- Machinery
- Grazing: rent-a-cow

iii.) To publicise, and facilitate interest in, local flower-rich fields to visitors



ADVICE ON MANAGEMENT AND OPEN DAYS / GUIDED WALKS

e.) Problems

- Maintaining a nucleus of core enthusiasts; finding volunteers for the committee
- Arabian Nights: the need for constant novelty to maintain interest
- Dependence on John Childs for machinery operation and farming credibility
- Declining numbers of cattle locally
- Dean dimension: expanding needs outside the parishes

f.) An ideal?

- Community project: looking after our environment by our own efforts
- Using the grassland, including production of meat
- Conserving local breeds
- Selling produce at local shop, which is also a community enterprise, staffed by volunteers

Web: www.parishgrasslandproject.org.uk

2. Managing the grasslands - the machinery and the way we operate it - Peter Chard

a.) Needs of members - Questionnaire and feedback

- Scrub and bracken clearance
- Hay or haylage
- Grazing
- Grass made tidy

b.) Capital costs of machinery

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Vithar tractor | 20,445 |
| Flail mower | 3,466 |
| Topper | 928 |
| Bracken basher | 1398 |
| Tedder | 1668 |
| Mower, 5 disc | 3760 |
| Baler and wrapper | 9400 |
| Harrows | 1175 |
| Trailer | 2232 |
| Post rammer | 3642 |
| MF tractor 135 | 5111 |
| Total | 53,225 |



VITHAR
TRACTOR WITH
FLAIL

c.) Sources of finance

£

| | |
|---|--------|
| <i>Heritage Lottery Fund</i> | 43,980 |
| <i>Forest of Dean District Council</i> | 5,000 |
| <i>Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Sustainability Fund</i> | 11,256 |
| <i>Voluntary contributions in kind</i> | |
| <i>Expenditure on booklet, open days and display boards</i> | |



Parish Grasslands Project - Land Management Agreement – as required by HLF

I wish to use the equipment purchased with the aid of the Heritage Lottery Fund. I am a member of the Parish Grasslands Project (PGP) and I agree to abide by the terms of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant, which is administered by the PGP Committee.

I agree to follow the aims of the PGP as listed below.

1. To conserve and enhance the grassland by improving the species-rich grasslands and increasing its biodiversity
2. To manage the grassland by light grazing and/or by cutting a hay crop late in the season
3. By controlling and/or preventing the growth of bracken and scrub

I will continue to pursue these aims for a period of ten years.

I am the owner of field number(s):

Total acreage under management:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address:

Machinery Hire Form

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Name | Address | Tel number |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|

- The machinery can only be hired by members of the Parish Grassland Project or the Monmouthshire Meadows Group, and used by designated operatives
- The Heritage Lottery Fund requires that members hiring machinery must sign a copy of the Land Management Agreement and return it to me as soon as possible
- Advice on grassland management is free, but there will be a charge of £22 per hour for the hire of machinery and £25 per hour for the baling only

Peter Chard, Admin Manager

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Visit For advice on management | Yes | No |
| Work required | Number of fields and acreage | Further information |
| Advice If you need to talk about the management of your grassland we will be pleased to offer you advice | | |
| General clearance Bramble and bracken and thin scrub can be cut with a flail. Topping This can be carried out on fields with rough tufty grass Young Bracken The young soft bracken stems can be bruised using the bracken bruiser | | |
| Chain Harrowing To remove clods and mole hills Hay Please indicate if you need the outer part of the field flailed due to bracken and also if you want the bales taken away Haylage Since this operation is more costly we wish to make a visit to advise you if it is cost effective | | |

Please return this form to Peter Chard, Bryn House, Brockweir Road, Hewelsfield, Lydney, GL15 6UR tel 01594 530513

Work that we can carry out for you

1. **Clearance:** The flail is the most effective way of controlling thick bramble, bracken and scrub. If we can push over scrub and small trees the flail will reduce it to small pieces
2. **Bracken bruising:** The Bracken Bruiser will crush young bracken stems causing damage to the plant. The plant produces poisons to deter insects. These poisons flow down into the underground stems and eventually will kill the plant. It is vital that you ask for the bracken bruiser at the correct stage of growth of the bracken. Ask for advice if uncertain
3. **Fencing:** We can put in a line of fence posts using the **post basher** and tractor. This is a relatively quick operation which saves hard labour. We can also supply fence posts and fencing (pig wire) at a competitive price
4. **Hay:** If we have not worked your field before, we would like to make a visit before commencing. It is vital to be sure that the field is free of ragwort. Some fields need to be flailed around the edges due to bracken. Other fields may have overhanging branches which make it difficult to dry the hay. We can also prepare your fields with a chain harrow to get rid of molehills and clods

Please indicate whether you wish to keep the hay

5. **Haylage:** Haylage is only worth making from good quality grass. To make haylage we bale before the grass is dry and immediately wrap it in plastic. The bales **must** be stored undercover to prevent birds and animals breaking the airtight seal which causes the haylage to rot. It is advisable to move the bales within 12 hours if possible. Haylage is a better feed than hay and bales can be sold at a premium. The plastic is costly and we will charge you 80p per bale on top of the hourly charge.

All work will be carried out at an hourly charge of £22 which commences when the equipment leaves Cowshill farm, and ends when it returns. If equipment is left in your field overnight you are not charged. During hay and haylage making we charge £25 per hour for the baling operation only. This is to cover the cost of net used for baling

d.) PGP machinery accounts

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| PGP work (jobs) | 25 | 45 | 46 |
| MMG work (jobs) | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Hire charge (£/hour) | 18 | 18 | 22 |
| INCOME (£) | 1500 | 5802 | 3556 |
| EXPENDITURE (£) | | | |
| Administration | 50 | 152 | 60 |
| Insurance | 575 | 686 | 630 |
| Fuel | 147 | 666 | 532 |
| Service | | 320 | |
| Net and wrap | 344 | 606 | 374 |
| Spares | | 568 | 149 |
| Labour | 859 | 2881 | 1637 |
| TOTAL | 1977 | 5887 | 3382 |
| Balance (£) | -477 | -85 | 174 |



MOWER



BALER

e.) Problems that have arisen

i.) General

- Expectations of members in terms of timing, cost, what hay making actually means, i.e. it won't result in a lawn!
- Increasing demands / workloads
- Prioritising and organising work plan (all want hay at the same time). Concentrate on fields that contractors won't touch:
 - Steep fields
 - Poor access
 - Rough terrain
 - Species rich
 - Where owner doesn't want the hay / haylage?
 - Close to Cowshill farm?



WRAPPER

- Need good links with other organisations, farmers, graziers and projects in the Forest and wider
- Alternative contractors and relationship with them – PGP will pass work to other contractors so that PGP can concentrate on more difficult sites, thus generating more work rather than taking it from them
- Dealing with complaints – be fair, firm and honest....members are getting a very good deal

ii.) Financial

- Anticipating machinery requirements in the bid! I.e. had to change this after grant received, e.g. topper not used much as flail is so good. So talk to others before you buy
- Travel distances and labour costs are currently not enough to generate a surplus for machinery replacement and to adequately pay John Childs who operates the machinery
- Include depreciation and take account of inflation – charges must be reviewed each year to reflect this and try to be realistic with charges before the project starts (difficult as you don't know how much work you will get...if you set the charges too high then this might put people off)
- Include wear and tear and repair costs (currently carried out by John Childs for no cost, though parts are paid for by the project)
- Keep good accounts and have them audited
- Anticipate unforeseen costs, e.g. netwrap and plastic were not budgeted for originally. So have a contingency of 10% in your budget
- Estimating job charges and billing is difficult...per hour, per job type, per bale or standard? e.g. flailing is very good value for money for members...its is very quick and very cheap compared to a gardening firm for example doing the job

iii.) Practical

- Efficiency of operations – it is complex trying to manage lots of small fields and be as efficient as possible, e.g. John and Robert Childs often need lifts (as they will leave machinery on site when job is more than one day), hay making on several areas gets complicated
- State of fields – rough terrain, stony, coarse vegetation, neglected all makes operation more difficult and potentially damaging to machinery
- Access to fields is often poor, with narrow lanes and small gateways that are overgrown
- Field size (economies of scale) - fields are small!
- Stability on steep slopes, i.e. extra wheels are used on the tractor to improve this
- Insurance is with NFU Mutual

iv.) Machinery

- So far mechanical problems have been few, the main being tines on the baler braking and these being expensive
- Servicing is not onerous for those used to maintaining machinery
- Hay – mowing, tedding, rowing, baling
- Making 'good' hay is not easy:
 - Ragwort is an issue – owners often don't know they have it and it is important for hay / haylage making
 - Field edge grass won't dry and is of lower quality
 - Bracken is toxic
 - Soil (compounded by uneven ground) in hay / haylage can lead to health problems in stock
 - Weather
- Haylage is made from good quality grass only
- For those who don't want hay / haylage, cut material can be dumped, John Childs might take it, a local HAPPA centre will also collect and owners should be encouraged to talk to neighbours with stock. Otherwise it is baled up and dumped off species rich areas
- Flailing is very effective – if you can push the vegetation over with the machine, the flail will turn it to powder!
- Fencing is offered
- Bracken bruiser available but under – utilised at present. Flailing is more aesthetically pleasing but less effective

3. The Woolhope dome project - Chris Stubbs

a.) Introduction

- 5000 hectares (10 parishes)
- High biodiversity area
- Partnership project:
 - Local People
 - English Nature
 - Wye Valley AONB
 - Forestry Commission
 - Herefordshire Nature Trust
 - Herefordshire Rivers Leader +

b.) Woolhope Dome Biodiversity Enhancement Area

- Variety of priority habitats & species
- 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 10% of Woolhope BEA covered by SSSI
- 30% of Woolhope BEA recognised for nature conservation

c.) Drivers for landscape scale conservation

- Farming: subsidies based on good environmental practice; Cross Compliance & Environmental Stewardship
- Forestry: support increasingly driven towards non timber aspects especially biodiversity

d.) Important habitats – focus of work

- Neglected unimproved neutral and calcareous grassland
 - Fragmented
 - Small in size



i.) Hence introduced a sheep & wildlife enhancement scheme

- Project co-ordinated with English Nature
- Grazing for 7 landowners (30 acres) with small semi-natural grassland sites
- Includes 2 calcareous grassland SSSI Sites

ii.) How it works

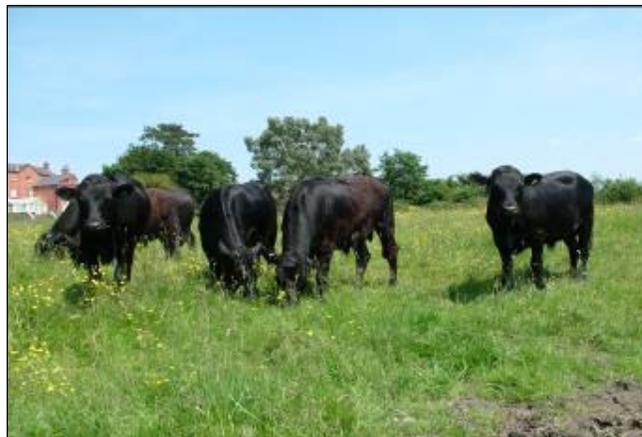
- Fencing & Water organised (funding and contractors)
- One local grazier has purchased 60 Welsh Mule Sheep and is paid through project for his labour, another has bought Dexter cattle (this grazier also sells local beef)
- Grazing Licenses organised by the project for land owners
- Farm Business Tenancy

iii.) Grazing network being encouraged

iv.) Machinery ring established

e.) Other key habitats

- Ancient woodland
 - woodland management
 - deer management
- Traditional orchards
- Ancient, species rich hedgerows
- Rivers and streams



DEXTER CATTLE PURCHASED THROUGH THE PROJECT

f.) Biodiversity, economy & community

- Biodiversity needs a sustainable economy
- Rural Enterprise that enhances the landscape
- Local produce & producer networks
- Visitor Attractions & facilities
- Recreation: Walking & Cycling



ENCOURAGING LOCAL PRODUCE LINKED TO KEY HABITATS

4. Cowshill farm – John Childs and family

The farm has seen many changes with progression through dairy system to beef and commercial pigs to the present day where John and family are keeping Gloucester cattle and rare breed pigs that they sell through a box scheme to customers in the Forest and at farmers markets. These boxes are delivered. They have looked at a cutting room on farm but this is expensive, entails more regulation and bureaucracy and another employee. So they are not in a position at present to do this, maybe in the future. Another option is to work with other local producers to cut costs, e.g. in delivery, attendance at markets etc. There is a thriving local food sector in the area and wider in the county. The meat is advertised by word of mouth, via direct contacts with customers, at the Forest Food Fayre and via association with the PGP, e.g. this has had a lot of press locally and nationally, and John invariably gets a mention.

Forest Food Directory - Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire Food Links, T: 01594 564773

Changes in the farm system necessitated changes in the buildings, work that John and Robert are doing themselves. Metalwork (and previously building construction) provides another source of income. They tried DIY livery but found that horse owners were too demanding, especially when trying to integrate them in to a busy working farm.

They also have Eriskay ponies and Wiltshire Horn sheep. They will look to include lamb in the business once the system is more established and other work has been completed.

John is very impressed with the performance and temperament of the rare breeds – they are so much quieter than commercial animals, e.g. he can call his pigs in! (Interestingly these will graze quite happily at lower stocking rates, i.e. don't necessarily root and damage swards).

He is grazing some fields off the farm as a 'rent – a – cow' service, i.e. owners pay for the service and they keep an eye on the animals.

The farm is in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and is looking to enter the Higher Level Scheme. The whole area is important for Lesser Horseshoe bats, which have a maternity roost in the parish. This species needs cattle grazed pasture and its associated insects for food, so Johns herd is very important.

In conclusion, whilst John does not profess to have the answer for those farmers struggling to adapt to change, the family now have more control over their business and at present the direct selling is going well.



GLOUCESTER HERD GRAZING FOR LESSER HORSESHOE BATS

Appendix 1 - Lesser Horseshoe Bats

The lesser horseshoe bat is one of the smallest British species. At rest it hangs with the wings wrapped around the body and is about plum-sized. Like the greater horseshoe bat, it has a complex noseleaf which is related to its particular type of echolocation system.

This species has shown a marked decline in numbers and distribution, particularly in western and northern Europe, although there is evidence of a recent increase in Wales. The lesser horseshoe bat is rare in the British Isles and is confined to Wales, western England and western Ireland.



Conservation

The decline of the lesser horseshoe bat is attributable to several factors, including disturbance to roosts and intensive agricultural practices. Lesser horseshoe bats are particularly sensitive to disturbance, especially of their nursery and winter roosts, and these sites need specific protection. Sensitive management of their foraging habitats is of paramount importance.

- Maternity roosts: Originally cave dwellers, now roofs of larger houses and stable blocks
- Winter roosts: Caves, mines, tunnels, cellars
- Foraging habitat: Open deciduous woodland, scrub, parkland, over water and permanent pasture
- Food: Flies (mainly midges), small moths, caddis flies, lacewings, beetles, small wasps, spiders

Further information

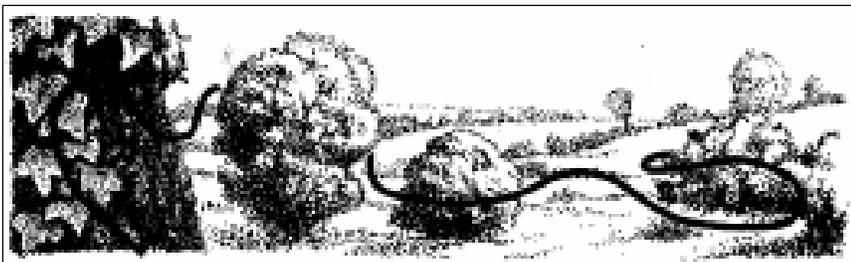
The Gloucester bat group

The bat group are looking for help with numerous surveys, (notably one in the forest), educational work and always welcome new members; they produce a newsletter and have an interesting and varied programme of indoor and outdoor events.

- Membership: £5 annually
- Chairman: Maurice Febry (01242) 242160
- Membership secretary: Jean Allen (01242) 572729

2. The Bat Conservation Trust: www.bats.org.uk

3. The Vincent Wildlife Trust: www.vwt.org.uk



**FORAGING FLIGHT AND
TYPICAL HABITAT**

What is the Grazing Animals Project?



GAP was formed in 1997 to aid the development of conservation grazing throughout the UK; it is a partnership project of representatives from the nature conservation, agricultural and livestock sectors.

GAP has three main work areas:

1. **Local Grazing Schemes (LGS) development**
2. **Solutions Toolkit:** GAP supports work on a range of issues, for example the delivery of training courses, responding to policy consultations, production and updating of handbooks (e.g. Breed Profiles Handbook and Husbandry Handbook)
3. **Services & Networking:** supported by the GAP Administrator, services include a website www.grazinganimalsproject.org, regular field visits and workshops, a quarterly newsletter, e-mail discussion groups and grazing issues enquiry service

Benefits of Becoming a Member of GAP

Membership requests: the GAP Office, The Kiln, Mather Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 1WT
Tel: (01636) 670095; Email: enquiries@grazinganimalsproject.info

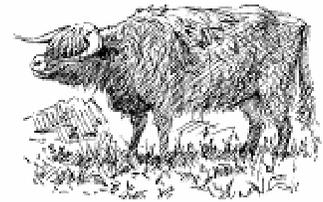


- **Free membership** - giving access to free services, advice and information
- **'GAP News'** - a free quarterly newsletter for members - seen by over 1000 readers
- **Field meetings** - organised across the country in response to local demand, e.g. marketing workshop to demonstrate particular conservation grazing issues, promote discussion and facilitate networking
- **Networking** - www.grazinganimalsproject.org and e-mail discussion groups
- **European context** - working in partnership with Eurosite
- **Training Courses** – 'Lookers' and 'Stock Husbandry' courses across the UK (LANTRA accreditation)

GAP Publications

The following publications are available **free of charge** (£15 for BPH) through the GAP Office (01636) 670095 or are available to download from the Publications section on www.grazinganimalsproject.org

1. **The Breed Profiles Handbook**
2. **Local Grazing Schemes: a best practice guide (2nd edition)**
3. **A Guide to Animal Welfare in Nature Conservation Grazing**
4. **A Marketing Guide for Conservation Grazing Schemes**



Other Publications and information points:

1. **Practical Solutions Handbook (2nd edition):** This is available as a download from www.fact-group.org
2. **The Lowland Grassland Management Handbook (2nd edition):** £22 (inc. p&p) from The Wildlife Trusts, The Kiln, Mather Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 1WT Telephone: (01636) 677 711; www.wildlifetrusts.org
3. **Towards Sustainable Grazing for Biodiversity: an analysis of conservation grazing projects and their constraints (English Nature Research Reports No. 316):** Free from English Nature's Enquiry Service, telephone: (01733) 455 100; E-mail: enquiries@natural-england.org.uk & www.natural-england.org.uk
4. **The Herbicide Handbook:** This is only available as a download on www.fact-group.org under publications
5. **The Scrub Management Handbook:** Only available as a download on www.fact-group.org under publications
6. **The Upland Management Handbook:** Available as a download from www.natural-england.org.uk

Web Based Information & Discussion Forums

1. **CONTAK** – The on-line Machinery Ring: To view currently available items and to submit details of machinery for hire go to: www.contak.org.uk
2. **Ecolots** - Free advertising service for goods, services & grazing: www.ecolots.co.uk
For those who don't have internet access, a paper version is available: 'Ecolots', Beacon Forestry, 2A Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2AS.
3. **Scrubnet - Scrub Management Discussion Group**: To join contact john.day.lodge@rspb.org.uk
4. **Nibblers - Conservation Grazing Discussion Group**: To join contact enquiries@grazinganimalsproject.info
5. **Organnrs – organic land management discussion group**: To join contact billgrayson@farmersweekly.net



GAP information leaflets

All GAPILs are available as hard copies or digitally from the **GAP office**, The Kiln, Mather Road, Newark, NG24 1WT
Tel: (01636) 670095; Email: enquiries@grazinganimalsproject.info

- GAPIL No. 1 – Equine handling facilities
- GAPIL No. 2 – Improving economic performance for LGS stock
- GAPIL No. 3 – Grazing sites with public access
- GAPIL No. 4 – Sourcing livestock
- GAPIL No. 5 – Cattle handling facilities
- GAPIL No. 6 – Animal health plans
- GAPIL No. 7 – Reducing stock casualties on sites with vehicular access
- GAPIL No. 8 – Developing a grazing policy - a checklist
- GAPIL No. 9 - The welfare considerations of tethering
- GAPIL No. 10 - Radio tracking devices for animals
- GAPIL No. 11 - Finding a grazier and or stock
- GAPIL No. 12 - Grazing licences – in production
- GAPIL No. 13 - Dogs and grazing
- GAPIL No. 14 - Watering stock on sites



GAP Contacts

GAP Office: (All queries including membership requests and publications)

Adam Cormack, GAP Administrator, the GAP Office, the Kiln, Mather Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 1WT
Tel: 01636 670095 Email: enquiries@grazinganimalsproject.info

National GAP Co-ordinator:

Sophie Lake, GAP, c/o RSPB, 1st Floor, Ryan House, Sandford Lane, Wareham, BH20 4DY
Tel: 01929 558159 Email: sophie.lake@grazinganimalsproject.info

GAP Northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland Co-ordinator:

Jane Wilson, Gibshiel, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 1RR
Tel: 01434 240728 Mobile: 07917 847683 Email: jane.wilson@grazinganimalsproject.info

GAP Southern England Co-ordinator:

Jim Swanson, Bronsil House, Eastnor, Nr Ledbury HR8 1EP
Tel: 01531 631344 Mobile: 07887 754658 E Mail: jim.swanson@grazinganimalsproject.info

Wales / Cymru

PONT, Charles Morgan, P.O. Box 75, Brecon, LD3 3AP
Tel: 01874 610100 E Mail: pont@grazinganimalsproject.info



Websites

FACT website: www.fact-group.org
GAP website: www.grazinganimalsproject.org
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