



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 817949



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Preferences of UK farmers for post-Brexit agri-environmental climate public goods

Findings from farmer surveys, interviews and workshop from the H2020 CONSOLE project

UK Case study co-ordinated by the University of Leeds and iCASP:

Prof. Joe Holden, Prof. Julia Martin-Ortega, Dr **Manolis Tyllianakis**, Prof. Pippa Chapman, Prof. Michael Cardwell, Duncan Fyfe, Mel Stonard, Prof Guy Ziv and Prof. Les Firbank



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Introduction

- CONSOLE (CONtract SOLutions for Effective and lasting delivery of agri-environmental-climate public goods by EU agriculture and forestry) is a European H2020 programme led by university of Bologna that the University of Leeds and iCASP are part of alongside institutions from 13 countries
- It's aim: promoting the delivery of **Agri-Environmental Climate Public Goods (AECPGs)** by agriculture and forestry through the development of improving contractual solutions (that is, the relationships between the public administration (at different scales) and the farmers).



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Work Carried out by UoL and iCASP

1. Factsheets: Detailing the work of 5 wider Yorkshire groups of land managers to protect the environment
2. Stakeholder survey and workshops: cross-Yorkshire survey of stakeholders involved in nature management of drivers, barriers and opportunities for land managers in post-Brexit agri-environment schemes
3. Land manager survey: cross-UK survey (see next slides)





Summary findings

- What we did: We undertook a UK-wide survey of 138 land managers in 2021
- What we asked: About preferences for hypothetical, post-Brexit AES contracts, sociodemographic characteristics, climate change beliefs and past experience with AES contracts
- Methods used: A survey-based method called “Discrete Choice Experiment
- What we wanted to find: what drives the preferences of land managers for new AES and how much money they would ask in return, if different contract characteristics were available to them (such as collaborating with other farmers and being offered free advice)



What we found

- Whether out of *resignation* for what is expected to happen *anyway*, or out of genuine endorsement, our results show that **past experience with AES makes land managers more inclined to join the post-Brexit AES.**
- These land managers **ask in exchange** relatively **moderate levels of compensation** (or, in any case, for payment levels not too far-off current Countryside Stewardship payments).
- **Provision of advice to land managers** could be used as a form of reducing compensation (especially if it comes from peers).
- While this raises promise, our results also emphasise the **challenges** associated to a transition to schemes with such features, **particularly to attract land managers more sceptical towards AES.**
- **Compensation levels** probably need to remain close to the current ones (not lower), farmers' awareness and support for net-zero agendas need to be reinforced and more interaction between land managers and policy makers will be needed.



Horizon 2020
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CONSOLE Project



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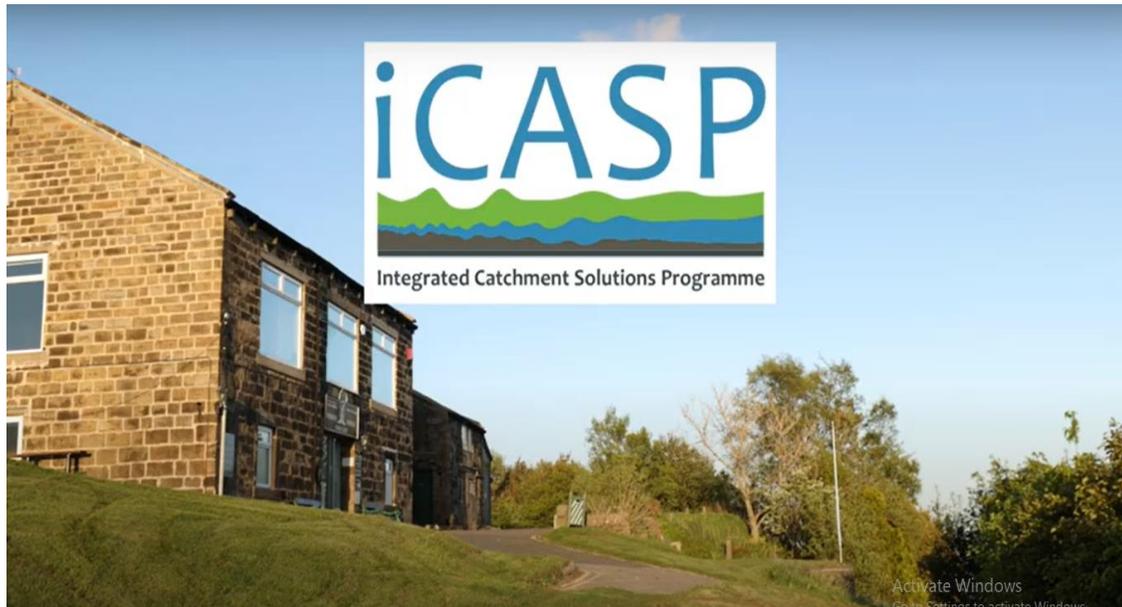
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Test and Trials aims for Landscape Recovery Scheme:

insights from upland Yorkshire farmers



Landscape Recovery Scheme

- The Landscape Recovery scheme is one of 3 new environmental land management schemes. It will complement the Sustainable Farming Incentive, which will support action at farm level to make farming more sustainable alongside Local Nature Recovery
- This scheme represents a new approach to supporting long-term, significant habitat restoration and land use change.
- Large scale (500-5000ha) scale projects are preferred

Test and Trial: Upland land managers in Yorkshire

- :
- 2 stage approach – Upland Farmers (Esk and South Pennines) plus land managers (regional)
- Structured interviews and 2 workshops
- Examine the likelihood of farmers and land managers enrolling as well as opinions, drivers and perceptions of upland smaller-scale land managers in Yorkshire region to collaboratively apply for LRS.
- Explore potential legal issues eg> length of tenancy
- Examine how such groups of farmers could benefit in the application stage from academic support.

Results show that farmers belong in two groups:

Group 1 farmers are concerned with practical, implementational characteristics when evaluating the prospect of enrolling in the Landscape Recovery scheme. Economic returns, level of bureaucracy and the availability of support during the implementation of the scheme is important to them.

Group 2 are preoccupied with social and environmental aspects when considering enrolling in Landscape Recovery. In particular, these participants focus on the wider impact of the scheme, both on the environment, farmer social cohesion and farmer education and awareness-raising, taking a more “socio-environmental” approach.

Both groups of workshop participants appear to find the 20-year length of landscape Recovery as undesirable and consider the goals of Landscape Recovery as incompatible with those of their region and their farm.



White
Rose
Forest



Environment
Agency



Farming &
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Advisory
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PEATLAND
CODE



EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park



North York Moors
National Park



R A B Y

YorkshireWater

National
Trust

Forestry Commission



Calderdale
Council

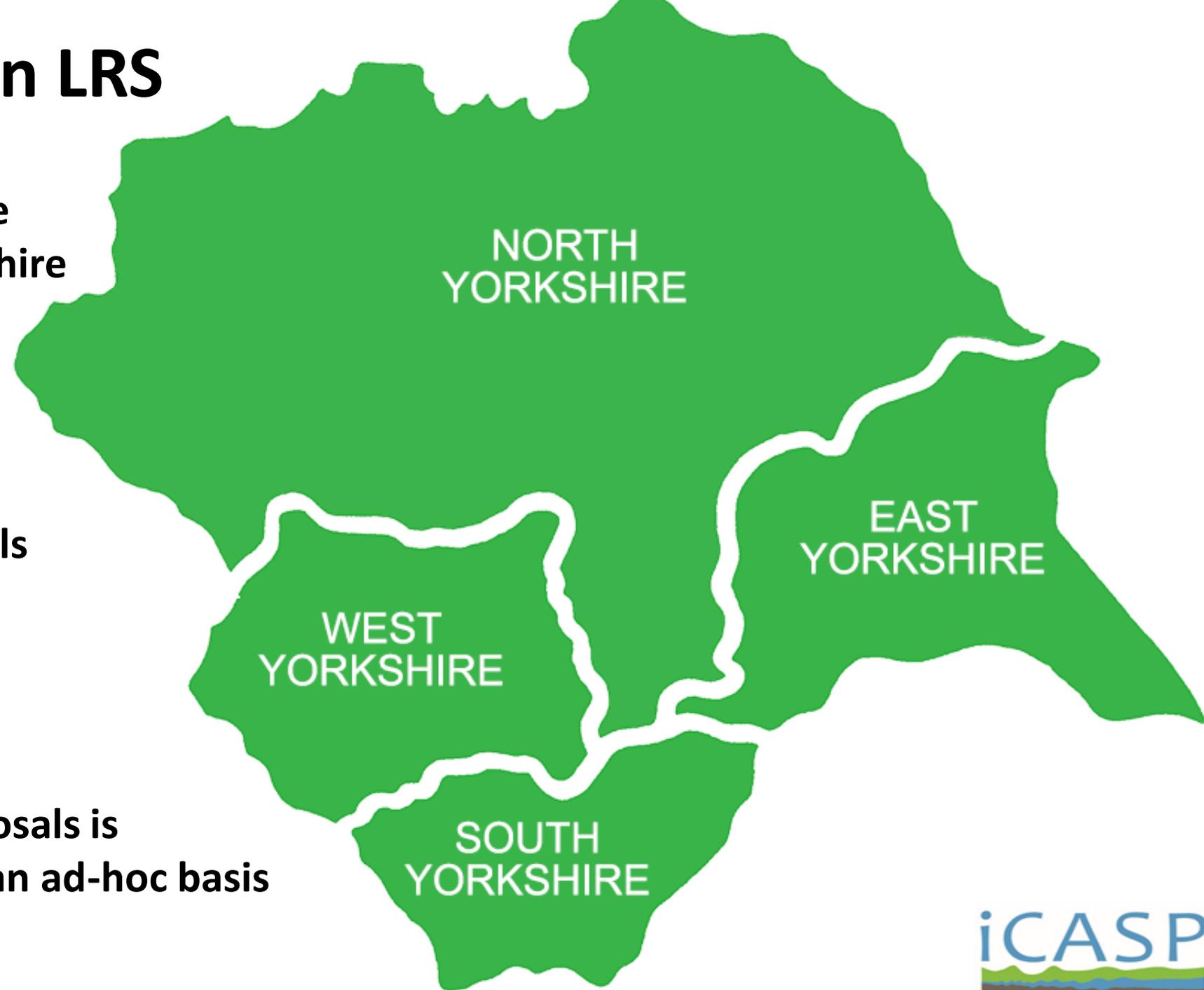


Regional Interest in LRS

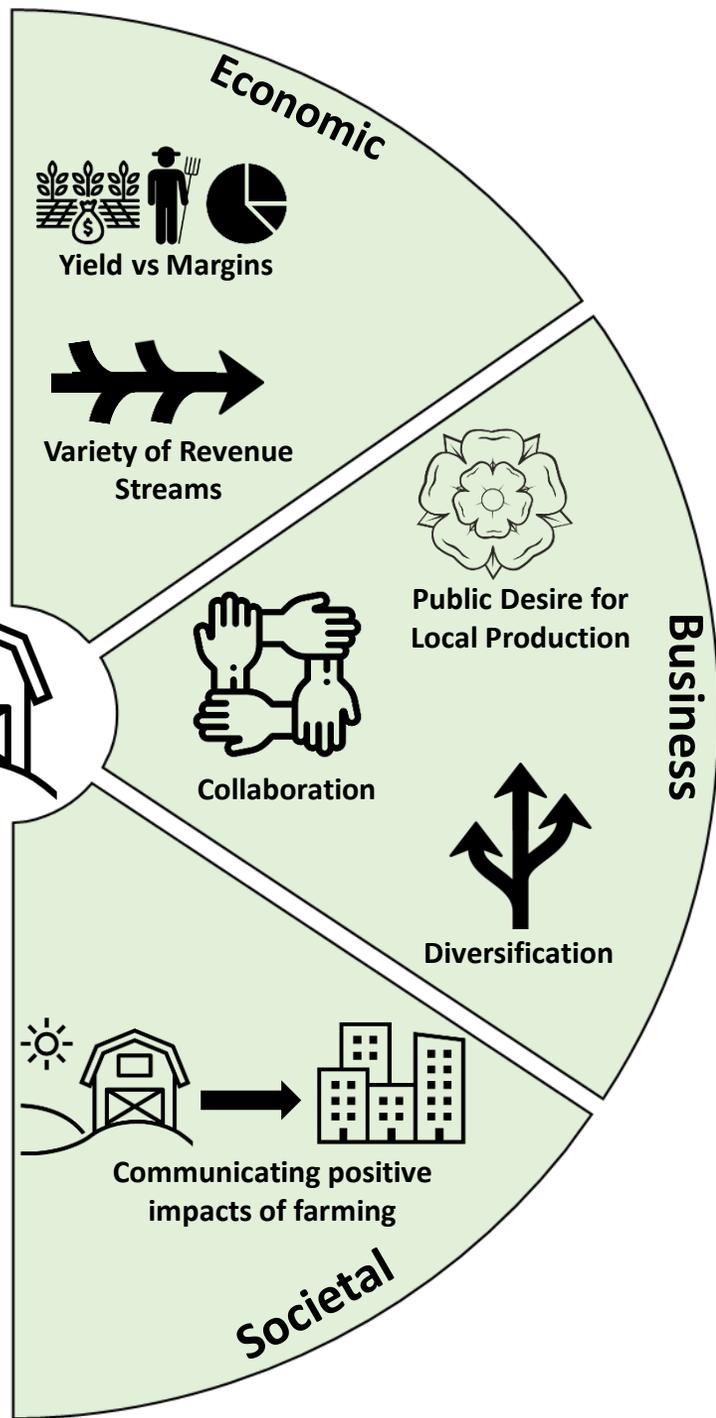
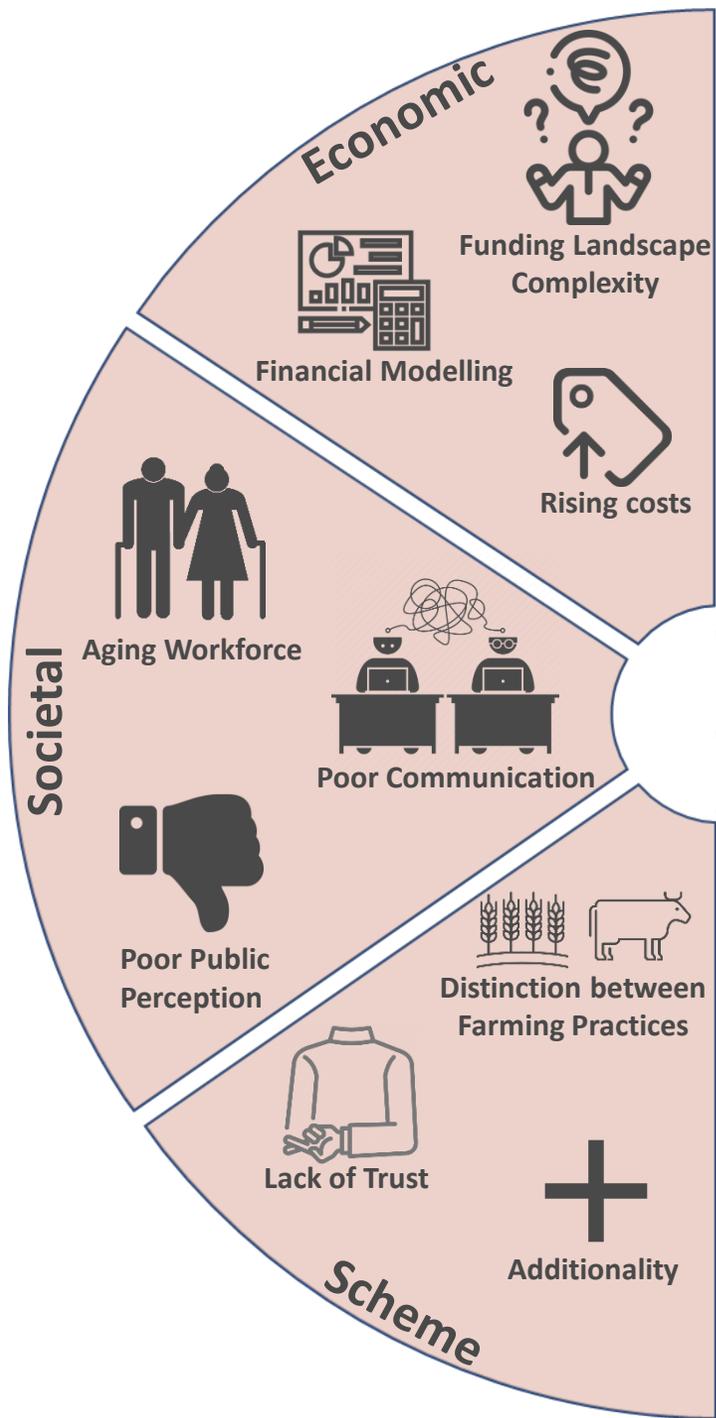
Large organisations behind the known proposals within Yorkshire

No known farmer-led proposals

Currently free advice for proposals is provided by public bodies on an ad-hoc basis



Challenges



Opportunities

Regional Priorities in Regards to Waterways and Habitats



Water Quality



Blanket Bog

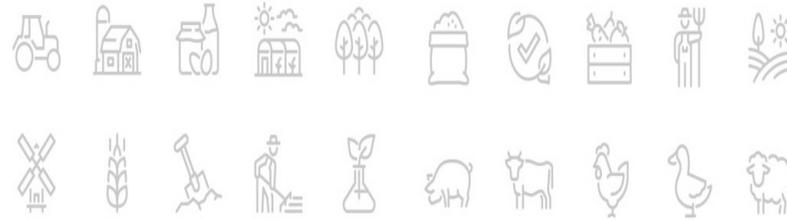


Unimproved Grassland



Woodland

Actions for the Provision of Public and Ecological Goods



Identifying actions most suited to their business and land



Soil Health

The Role of Private Finance in Agriculture



Market Complexity



Economy of Scale



Role of Intermediaries



Contacts

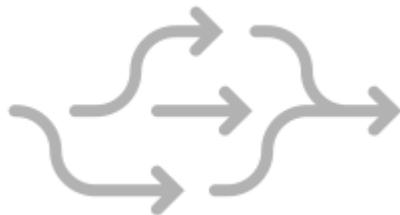


GSI mapping system

Opinions on ELMS



Payments



Flexible Contracts



Land Valuation



Communication



Locality Driven