

Future of Farming Northumberland

Inquiry Report





Forward

**A message from
Professor Sally
Shortall
Duke of
Northumberland
Chair of Rural
Economy,
Newcastle
University**



In March 2022, I was asked by Northumberland County Council to conduct an Inquiry into the future of Farming in Northumberland.

Its purpose was to better understand the challenges and opportunities faced by the range of farmers and landowners in Northumberland in moving from the current regime of subsidy funding to the new benefits system for environmental land management. The Inquiry would make recommendations to the County Council about the tangible action it could take to promote the interests of farmers and landowners across the county to successfully make this transition while maintaining profitable businesses.

I was supported in this task by an independent panel of experts who collectively provided a range of local and national perspectives of the farming sector. In addition, each of our Inquiry sessions was informed by contributions from three or four individuals.

All of those who participated are listed in Appendix and I would like to thank each of them – together with those colleagues from the County Council who provided the secretariat – for their insight and candour in exploring the complex suite of interlinked issues that emerged from our discussions.

There is no question that the future of farming, land management and food production across the country faces a critical period of transition. I believe that Northumberland is well-placed to be at the forefront of this change and to lead the way in balancing the collective and significant assets of the county's countryside for the mutual benefit of its farmers, landowners, and communities.

I therefore commend the findings of the Inquiry to the County Council and trust that full consideration will be given to implementing our recommendations.

Inquiry committee:



Professor Sally Shortall, Chair of the Inquiry, Newcastle University

Professor Sally Shortall is the Duke of Northumberland Chair of Rural Economy, Newcastle University and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. She is interested in farm families and the decisions people on farms make that impact how they farm. Sally has recently led research for the Scottish Government, Defra and the European Court of Auditors looking at women's role in agriculture. Additionally, Sally was responsible for writing the final version of a report published by the North Yorkshire Rural Commission in 2021, which set out a future vision for the county with key findings across a number of sectors including the rural economy, energy transition, land management along with rural homes, transport and schools.



Councillor Mark Mather, Northumberland County Council

Mark Mather is County Councillor for Wooler and is also on Wooler Parish Council. He is also the Vice-Chair of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Mark, who runs the family farm at Haugh Head and operates an agricultural contracting business, has lived in Wooler his whole life. Following an accident on the farm, Mark retired as a retained firefighter and is now a volunteer community first responder with the North East Ambulance Service. Mark has been a member of Wooler Parish Council since April 2015.



Lord Curry of Kirkharle Kt, CBE, FRAGS

Donald Curry has been a Crossbench Peer in the House of Lords since 2011. He is a trustee of Clinton Devon Estates, and also Anglican International Development (AID), a charity leading on a range of development projects in South Sudan. He is also Chair of Food and Farming Futures and a founder and Chair of The Rural Design Centre in the North East of England. In 2017, he became President of Community Action Northumberland. Lord Curry was a founding trustee of the Prince's Countryside Fund and was Chair from March 2016 to December 2021. In 2019, his term as Chair of the Council of the Royal Veterinary College ended, having started in 2012.



Peter Hetherington, Journalist and Author

Peter Hetherington is a British journalist and author. He writes regularly for The Guardian on land, communities, and regeneration. He is also a Vice President, and past chair of the Town and Country Planning Association, former regional affairs and northern editor of The Guardian. Peter is author of the 2015 book, 'Whose land is our land? The use and abuse of Britain's forgotten acres' and the 2021 book, 'Land renewed: reworking the countryside.'



Fiona Fell, Deputy Chairman, Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock

Fiona comes from a farming family and worked as a mixed practice Vet in Yorkshire and Northumberland. Currently she is Deputy Chair of one of the UK's AgriTech Centres: Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock (CIEL), a Trustee of the Animal Welfare Foundation – a British Veterinary Association charity, and Non-Executive Director of the Covent Garden Market Authority (London's largest Fruit, Veg and Flower Market). In addition to her work driving innovation in the food supply chain, Fiona volunteers with the RNLI where she is a Trustee and the Deputy Chair.



Tom Burston, Director of Policy and Research at the Food, Farming & Countryside Commission

Tom is Director of Policy and Research at the Food, Farming & Countryside Commission, leading a team that develops practical policy recommendations that respond to the urgent and interconnected challenges of our climate, nature and health crises. Central to Tom's work is the premise that farmers have a central role to play in delivering a foundational food system that is good for people, planet and communities. Tom has long experience of working with development agencies around the world, embracing different perspectives to find shared interest and common cause. When Tom is not working, you will find him in the Cheviot hills with his wife and their two children.



Jean Davidson, Chair, Northumberland National Park

Jean was appointed Chair of Northumberland National Park in 2020 and has been a board member since 2014. She is currently estate manager for the Westnewton Estate in the north of the National Park. Jean has been a key member of the Northumberland National Park family since joining the board and has seen The Sill grow from 'muddy foundations to an award-winning, truly unique venue for education, engagement and outdoor activities, seeing staff and officers thrive and deliver exceptional service.' Northumberland National Park Authority, together with all the UK National Parks, will play a significant part in the nation's Green Recovery Plan.



Carl Atkin-House, National Chair of the Institute of Agricultural Management

Carl Atkin-House is National Chair of the Institute of Agricultural Management, the professional body for all those engaged in agricultural, rural and environmental management. As a national charity, IAgM promotes professionalism, CPD and life-long learning in all aspects of management. Carl is also a non-executive director of Newcastle University Farms which extend to 800ha over two sites in Northumberland and he is a member of the Industrial Advisory Board of the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences at Newcastle University.



Tom Richardson, National Farmers' Union (NFU) County Chairman, Northumberland

Tom has been NFU County Chairman for Northumberland since 2021. He has been a tree surgeon for 25 years and has a strong interest in forestry and arboriculture. Additionally, Tom is a proud dairy farmer who manages a 120 strong herd of Jersey cows with his brother Hugh and they are owner occupiers of Wheelbirks Estate Company. Together, they have turned the farm into a successful business, creating Wheelbirks Ice Cream parlour, which sells quality ice cream produced from the farm's Jersey herd. As a result, Tom is a strong advocate for farm diversification.



Ed Dungait, Chairman, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

Ed served for two years as Vice-Chair of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, helping to co-ordinate the Federation through the difficulties of a period dominated by Covid and was promoted to Chair in March 2022. Ed is an arable farmer who lives and works on the family farm just north of Stannington growing wheat, barley, oil-seed rape and beans among other cash crops. He attended the Harper Adams University College in Shropshire to study agriculture and crop management.



James Barber, Estate Manager, Matfen Home Farms

James is Estate Manager at Matfen Home Farms looking after 2,500 acres of in hand farming (arable and livestock), 500 acres of woodland, 2,200 acres of tenanted land. James has a family farm in North Northumberland and grew up working on the farm on holidays and weekends. After undertaking a degree in Civil Engineering, James spent six years in Corporate Property Management before returning to the rural sector and turning farming and land management into a career. Outside of work, weekends are spent with his wife, baby daughter and aspirational working collie. James also enjoys gardening, cycling, walking in the wilds or canoeing and wild camping.

Context

It is a time of unprecedented change for agriculture in England following the UK's exit from the European Union and the associated Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The Agriculture Act 2020 provides the legislative framework for replacement agricultural support schemes. It provides a range of powers to implement new approaches to farm payments and land management. In England, farmers will be paid to produce 'public goods' such as environmental or animal welfare improvements. The Act also includes wider measures, including improving fairness in the agricultural supply chain and on the operation of agricultural markets.

The principles of how this legislation framework will be applied has subsequently been set out by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in its Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024. However, a lot of uncertainty remains as to the progressive roll-out of the various elements of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme and its anticipated impacts – both positive and negative – on different types of farm operation. In tandem with this, the current Basic Payments Scheme is being phased out.

The recent publication of the National Food Strategy in response to the independent review of the food system by Henry Dimbleby last year, also sets out a suite of policy initiatives to improve health, sustainability, accessibility of diet to secure food supply, while also recognising the shared global challenges of the war in Ukraine and the impact of the pandemic on the global economy.

Farmers and landowners are having to navigate this complex policy landscape to make challenging short-term decisions to maintain their survival until such time as the fuller implications of the transition to the new system become clearer and they are better placed to plan for their long-term future.

Within this national context, the pressure on the future of farming in Northumberland is particularly acute. Three quarters of the farm holdings in the county currently receive and rely on some form of subsidy to supplement their income. This is the highest proportion of any county in the country and largely relates to the fact that upland farming, which predominates in Northumberland, is more marginal economically.

Another unique characteristic of the local farming economy is the extent to which land management is undertaken on a tenancy basis. Half of the county's farms are operated by tenants, who obviously have the added complication of being governed by tenancy agreements in making decisions about their holding's operation, particularly where there are medium to long term implications of those decisions.

Agriculture is a dynamic and innovative industry. It incorporates producers, food production, retailers, local, national and international markets and offers exciting opportunities for people who wish to pursue careers in this occupation.



Approach

The inquiry was split into two distinct phases:

Phase: 1

The initial phase focused on exploring “what successful farming in Northumberland would look like by 2030”, with consideration given to the following three questions:

- In an ideal world, what does success look like for farming in Northumberland in 2030?
- What are the opportunities and barriers to achieving this success, from your understanding of the current operational context?
- Following on from the above, in your opinion what are the three main support strategies that need to be in place to optimise the value of farming in the county by 2030?



Phase: 2

The second phase of the Inquiry subsequently considered in more depth the salient issues associated with:

- Complying with the new demands for environmental land management through the progressive rollout by the Government of the Sustainable Farming Incentive, Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery schemes.
- Finding the right balance between sustaining food production and production with the national ambition for widespread nature recovery, tree and woodland planting, and peat restoration as well as continued housing development.
- Fully unlocking the role of the agriculture sector in tackling climate change through the considerable opportunities to maximise carbon capture while progressively reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food production.
- Balancing the distinct interests of estate landowners and tenant farmers to ensure that the benefits of the new environmental land management schemes are equitably shared.

Themes

From this, five key themes emerged from the Inquiry discussions, as follows:

1. Navigating the changing policy landscape.
2. Supporting farmers through the agricultural transition.
3. Maximising the benefits from locally produced food.
4. Promoting farming as a career.
5. Balancing the respective interests of landowners and tenants.

Theme 1:

Navigating the changing policy landscape

The Inquiry Committee heard that the key challenges for the sector are related to UK exit from the EU, rising energy costs, and the war in Ukraine. Participants presented evidence about the frustrations relating to Brexit in terms of import and export of goods, border controls, transporting live animals and red tape.

The ending of the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and subsidies is particularly challenging. Rising input costs linked to global factors are difficult, and there are labour shortages. The Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme has made some progress with the pilot schemes, but the detail and rollout is still scant. It also remains unclear as to what the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund will offer to the farming sector. In addition, there was a sense the policy commitment to food production had diminished in favour of the environment.

Given this, the Committee heard that success by 2030 would be characterised by stability, profitability and resilience, underpinned by a clear policy direction that looked to the long term.

From a Northumberland perspective, there was consensus that the ultimate goal is to achieve a sustainable balance between sustaining food production and realising environmental benefits while operating on a net zero and energy resilient basis.

Farmers and landowners already recognise this, and are committed to yielding multiple benefits in the right locations and at the most appropriate scale, but further support is required.

A unitary County Council not only has powers over planning, the environment and, to a lesser extent, the local economy, it also holds the ring as a coordinator and influencer in bringing together representative organisations. Amid such uncertainty, nationally and globally, this role has considerable relevance in developing a bespoke framework, tailoring the new Environment and Agriculture Acts specifically for Northumberland, joining them up, and making the case for a holistic approach to Defra and thus filling a potential vacuum.

The Inquiry considers that the development and application of a local land use framework tailored to the bespoke needs and opportunities of Northumberland is imperative. Such a framework would effectively act as the county's charter for land, food, and farming, and by advocating a holistic place-based approach, it would increasingly reduce the incidence of unhelpful binary arguments as to the respective benefits of food production versus forestry versus nature recovery.

Recommendations

The Inquiry recommends that the County Council:

- Invites the Secretary of State for the Environment to a conference in Northumberland, where the local farming sector can present their views on the plans for agricultural transition and showcase the potential for Northumberland to act as a place-based exemplar.
- Considers accelerating the preparation of a Land Use Framework for Northumberland to inform the equivalent approach the Government have committed to undertake for England in 2023.

Theme 2:

Supporting farmers through the agricultural transition

The Inquiry Committee heard evidence that while there is good practice underway, a mindset shift is needed to further achieve the agricultural transition and type of environmental land management required. There is currently a fear and lack of understanding amongst some in the farming industry. This has to be addressed both in terms of improving access to the right information and in facilitating continued business diversification.

Access to information and good practice

New initiatives and pilots to facilitate the agricultural transition are being promoted by Defra on almost a daily basis. This is challenging for farm businesses to keep pace with and understand its relevance or applicability to their operation. The Inquiry was told that there is a need for information to be presented in a way which is accessible to farmers and landowners and that what is provided is relevant to the specific needs and circumstances of Northumberland farmers and landowners.

Peer to peer learning was seen as a positive model, and so too was making resources available online. It was also considered that this would help to attract those who do not engage and, as such, are hard to reach.

It also became clear that there are many examples of good practice across the country that could be readily replicated in Northumberland. An example in Tebay (Cumbria) was cited, where eight farmers developed a community interest company to provide some collective protection through the agricultural transition process.



Nonetheless, there is clear evidence that farm businesses are “clustering” together around common geographies within the county to provide economies of scale and to apply common approaches of mutual benefit. This is particularly the case where there have been previous ELM test and trials and within the protected landscapes of the National Park and the two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

However, the Inquiry heard that in some parts of the county, there remains either a lack of awareness of existing farm clusters or a dearth of their existence. Where there are farmer groups, improved co-ordination between groups and their facilitators might be beneficial.

The Inquiry concluded that the applicability of the proposed land use framework for the county would only be realised if it was co-produced through the full collaboration and engagement of the network of farming interests together with other relevant countryside agencies and stakeholders.





Supporting continued and expanded farm diversification

The Inquiry heard that multiple streams of income are important to secure the viability of the farm, with an emphasis placed on the importance of reassessing disused assets to see how they can be repurposed to return revenue.

It was considered that linking the extensive cultural and heritage assets of Northumberland to agri-tourism initiatives represented a particular opportunity both for the farming sector and the wider rural economy. However, it was also recognised that agri-tourism is often seen as the easy option and can lead to an over supply of tourism accommodation and to unacceptable levels of public access to the countryside.

Instead, farms should be encouraged to be imaginative and explore all the available options. Examples of creating a pet crematorium and establishing an ecological funeral director were cited. There is also considerable scope to diversify into food and drink processing, with the creation of distilleries a recent example of good practice. Within this, there remains an issue in progressing planning applications for farm diversification into new uses in a timely and efficient way. These delays impede innovation and the profitability of farms.

Central to achieving this is the ready availability of appropriate skills training and business support. It was considered that this should be offered through the provision of short and flexible courses targeted at such things as using social media, managing accounts, or marketing.

Recommendations

The Inquiry recommends that the County Council:

- Working collaboratively with the National Park, maps and promotes the existing network of farmer groups/clusters within the county and progressively seeks to address the gaps in coverage to establish a coherent network for farmer engagement and collaboration.
- Commissions a survey of Northumberland farm businesses to identify the specific information, tools and support required to facilitate the agricultural transition, with the feedback generated being used, in collaboration with the NFU, TFA and CLA:
- To inform the further signposting to existing online resources and examples of best practice to access funding, provide peer support, diversify farms and achieve change.
- Commission the provision of short online training modules as appropriate to further equip farm businesses with the confidence and capability to undertake continued and expanded farm diversification.
- Reviews the process of assessing planning applications for farm diversification initiatives.
- Continues to work with the Shared Rural Network to ensure that all farms in the county are connected to 4G technology.
- Seeks clarity from the Northern Powergrid about the number of farm businesses not connected to the national grid and the current strategy to address these gaps and uses this information to secure additional investment from the Government as part of rural levelling up to address the problem.

Theme 3:

Maximising the benefits from locally produced food

Food is the UK's largest manufacturing sector, contributing £120bn to the economy and employing four million people. Crucially there are food production businesses right across the UK, often providing jobs in less prosperous areas, including rural and coastal communities such as Northumberland.

Yet, the Inquiry heard that there is a strong sense across the farming sector in Northumberland that the relative importance of food production has diminished in favour of the environment. However, local produce can contribute to carbon reduction, healthy eating, visitor spend and food security.

There is considerable evidence of the scope to further develop local markets for local food and drink. Northumberland-based food producers and distilleries would like their products to be universally sold in local shops and supermarkets.

There are also further opportunities to shorten the food chain and develop the Northumberland tourism industry to promote itself as purveyors of food of local provenance. Local restaurants and hotels could also be incentivised to source food produced in the county.

The Inquiry recognised that the "Produced in Northumberland" brand provides an excellent foundation for this approach but considered that more could be done to "mainstream" the sale of local produce. Within this context, it was suggested that the North Eastern Co-operative Society might be interested in developing a more local food purchasing strategy consistent with similar chains on the continent, potentially through a pilot located in a deprived community in the first instance.



Equally, as highlighted in the recently published Government Food Strategy, the Inquiry considered that more could be done to better connect local food production to supporting the endemic challenges associated with reducing diet-related ill health and inequality. Examples cited to the Inquiry included:

- Rolling out across the public sector (including schools) more 'aspirational' standards for local, ethical and sustainable food procurement.
- Optimising the access to fresh food for school breakfast and after school clubs.
- Ensuring all secondary school pupils leave school with "survival cookery" skills to support their transition into work, training or further/higher education.
- Supplying food banks (while acknowledging that the wider aim is to remove the need for food banks to exist) with locally grown produce including via community allotments.
- Continuing to educate and innovate to minimise food waste and food packaging, both within households and across the food industry.

Improving the local food processing infrastructure

The Inquiry heard an overwhelming consensus that better local processing infrastructure is needed to sustain and expand the locally produced food market, particularly for meat products, more effectively and efficiently in Northumberland.

Abattoirs have become larger and more centralised. There is no abattoir in Northumberland which means there is little scope to develop specialist butchery provision and locally boxed meats schemes. The argument was made that a mobile abattoir is better for animal welfare, carbon reduction, reducing costs and creating jobs.

However, the counterargument was made that establishing a mobile abattoir is a complex process and requires a skilled labour force. It needs an abattoir operator, abattoir vets (of which there is a shortage following EU Exit), strict food hygiene standards and qualified slaughtermen.

The disposal of hides can also be a difficult issue. It was also cited that there was likely to be local objection and a lack of enthusiasm for the type of jobs created by this industry.

In terms of a potential solution to this, it was suggested that developing a cold storage facility within the county might be worth considering. This would enable local maturation of meat and reduce the road mile the meat products had travelled from farm to fork.



Recommendations

The Inquiry recommends that the County Council:

- Coordinates the development and delivery of a Northumberland Food Strategy; that will build on the existing "Produced in Northumberland" brand, and champion the value of local produce to further economic growth and reducing ill-health and inequality.
- Commissions a technical feasibility study on improving the local processing infrastructure to:
 - Help define the optimal way to process local meat products
 - Reduce road miles travelled by produce
 - Expand specialist butchery provision within the county.



Theme 4:

Promoting farming as a career

The Inquiry confirmed that Northumberland is no different from other part of the country in having an increasing number of ageing farmers. Succession has long been a problem in agriculture and part of the difficulty is a reluctance to transfer a family asset and potentially a family home.

The Committee heard that there is often a negative image of farming projected which must be reversed for the well-being of the industry.

The positives of agriculture as an occupation need to be promoted:

- The opportunity to use state of the art technology
- To work outdoors
- To be your own boss
- To be involved in an industry that is constantly innovating and finding new ways of working.

Farming offers exciting career opportunities for people interested in developing and innovating profitable businesses. The industry needs to become more diverse and encourage women entrants. Diverse industries perform better and agriculture is no different.

The traditional handing down of farms through the generations is no longer necessarily the norm, so more imaginative pathways to starting a farming career need to be found. Potentially focusing on developing specialist farm worker roles, as opposed to having to take on the wholesale operation of a farm business from the outset.

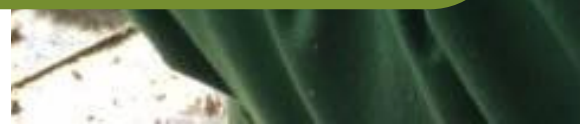
Within this, it was suggested that there might be scope to test new thinking via Defra's New Entrant Scheme which is sponsoring pilots across the country.



Recommendations

The Inquiry recommends that the County Council:

- Collaborates with the National Farmers' Union (NFU), Tenant Farmers' Association (TFA) and Country Land and Business Association (CLA) to develop and champion a suite of case studies of individual farmers and landowners to showcase the contribution they make to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Northumberland.
- Encourages a larger local landowner, either an estate, the Ministry of Defence or the National Trust, to bid for a pilot from Defra's New Entrant Scheme as a platform from which a wider campaign showcasing the attraction of working in the farming sector could be built.





Theme 5:

Balancing the respective interests of landowners and tenants

The Rock Review on Tenant Farms in England was published near the end of the Inquiry's work. The Inquiry welcomes and endorses the Rock Review. We also considered the question of tenancies. While the Rock Review is national, Northumberland is particularly impacted by its recommendations as it has the highest percentage of tenanted farms in England.

The Inquiry heard that farm tenants are often seen as "cutting edge" land managers who are entrepreneurial and adaptable in their approach. They characteristically have an in-depth knowledge of the quality and value of their assets and a clear understanding of running costs and profit margins. This dynamic is to be valued particularly through a period of agricultural transition.

Yet, the Inquiry also heard the future of tenanted farming within the county is uncertain. Northumberland is one of the least densely populated parts of England with extensive areas of rough pasture and grassland, often in upland settings. This scenario means that it is regarded by many as an "easy fix" location to meet the ambitious national targets for afforestation, nature recovery and carbon capture, which are incentivised by potentially lucrative grants and green investment opportunities.

This is already evident in the number of tenancies that landlords are taking "back in hand" to manage directly. Conflicting views were presented to the Inquiry as to why this was the case. The input from landowners and land agents cited a lack of interest in inter-generational succession, while tenant representatives suggested that when a tenancy comes to an end, the subsequent leasing arrangement being offered is for much shorter periods and/or is limited only to grazing rights which negates the opportunity to invest in land improvements or farm diversification.

The example of the potential introduction of a carbon sequestration scheme by a tenant on an upland farm was cited to highlight the challenges.

On seeking authority to proceed, the landowner confirmed that the tenant had no entitlement to any income generated from such a long-term carbon market transaction and that the status of the tenancy would need to be renegotiated as the predominant operation would change from a farming concern to an environmental concern.

As a result, the carbon sequestration scheme has not proceeded despite the lucrative financial and climate rewards.

If continued, this trend has implications for the future of farming and wider rural communities in that it will:

- Inevitably lead to fewer families working in the countryside.
- Less stock and crops being locally reared and grown.
- Changes to the appearance of the landscape.

The Inquiry welcomes the report on tenancies published on 13 October 2022.

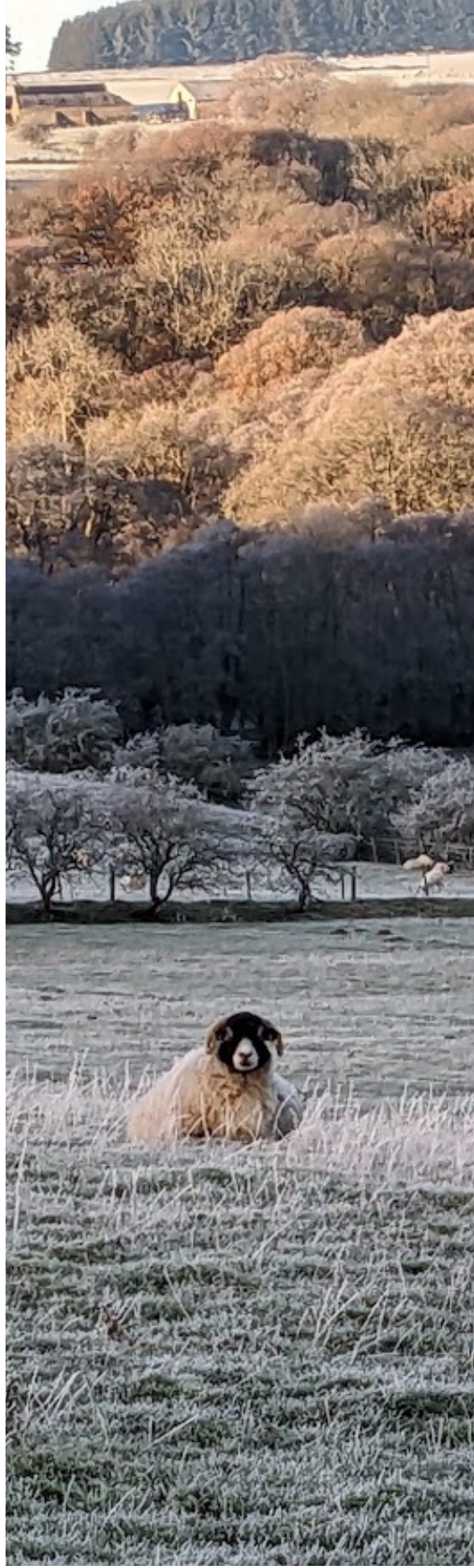
The Inquiry particularly wishes to endorse the Rock Review's recommendations that:

- Protects the rights of tenant farmers' rights to:
 - Develop a viable and profitable business.
 - A future livelihood.
 - Security.
- Seeks to clarify who benefits from carbon sequestration and thereby achieve an equitable balance between landowner and tenant rights.
- Incentivises landlords to enter into longer tenancy agreements with tenants.

Recommendations

The Inquiry recommends that the County Council:

- Affirms to Defra its commitment to work with local landowners and tenants to pioneer any changes made as a result of the Government's response to the Rock Review.
- Recognising the importance of the tenanted farming sector in Northumberland (and the growing insecurity faced by many tenants), the County Council affirms its commitment to work with tenants and local landowners to pioneer any changes made as a result of the Government's response of the Rock Review, which stated that tenants must be given full, independent access to all Government schemes and incentives if the sector is to thrive.



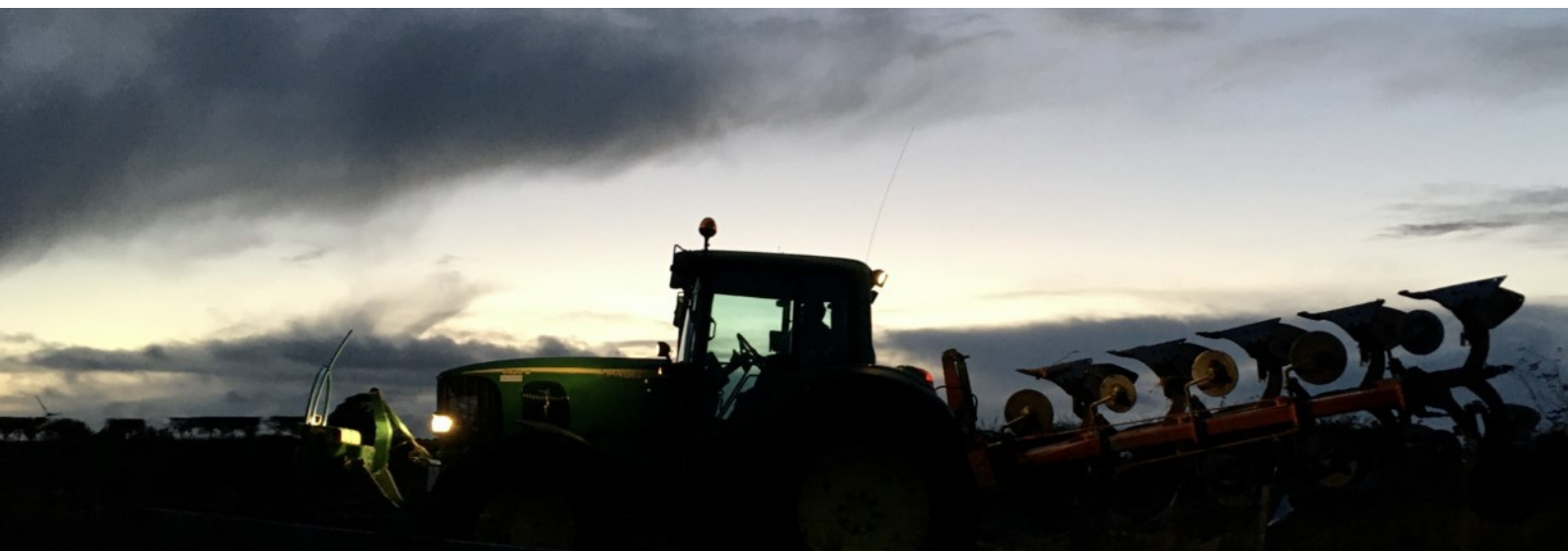
Conclusion

The Inquiry commends the Council for inviting guidance and advice on how to create a future of farming in the county that is sustainable and profitable.

Members of the Inquiry have given their time, in good faith, so that this advice will be considered by the Council.

We invite the Council to provide a written response to our recommendations, detailing whether they endorse the recommendations or not, and where they do, how they will be actioned and within what timeframe.

The Inquiry offers to reconvene once a year for the next three years to review progress to date and to offer ongoing advice on how to best progress the industry.



Appendix:

List of individuals who participated in the inquiry

Inquiry Committee:

- Carl Atkin, Chair, Institute of Agricultural Management
- James Barber, Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
- Tom Burston, Farming and Countryside Commission
- Lord Curry of Kirkharle
- Jean Davidson, Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA)
- Edward Dungait, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC)
- Fiona Fell, Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock (CIEL)
- Peter Hetherington, journalist and author of Land Renewed
- Councillor Mark Mather, ward councillor for Wooler and tenant farmer
- Professor Sally Shortall, Newcastle University and Chair
- Tom Richardson, National Farmers Union (NFU)

Individuals who gave evidence to the inquiry:

- Libby Bateman, CLA
- Mark Bridgeman, farm and business owner
- Mark Child, Great Northumberland Forest
- George Dunn, Tenant Farmer Association (TFA)
- David Feige, Northumberland County Council
- Tony Gates, Northumberland National Park
- Carmen Hubbard, Newcastle University
- Scott Iley, tenant farmer
- Walter Riddle, farm and business owner
- Alistair Scott, Northumbria University
- Christine Venus, Natural England
- Rory Wilson, Northumberland Estates

Secretariat to the inquiry:

- Sarah Kidd, Northumberland County Council
- Chloe Munro, Northumberland County Council
- Janice Rose, Northumberland County Council
- Phil Hunter, Northumberland County Council

