



Annual Forum 2018

Farming Tomorrow – future prospects for farming in the North Wessex Downs

Wednesday 17th October 2018

Black Barn, Rushall Manor, Back Lane, Bradfield, Berks., RG7 6DS

08:45 **Registration** and refreshments Biscuits generously provided by Doves Farm Foods Ltd

09:30 **Welcome and introduction to the day**
Ted Hiscocks, Chairman, North Wessex Downs AONB Partnership

09.40 **The big questions facing sustainable food and farming**
Caroline Drummond MBE, Director, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)

10.05 **What the future holds for landscapes, food and farming**
Merrick Denton-Thompson OBE, immediate past President of the Landscape Institute

10.30 **Fields for the future: a winning blueprint for farming, wildlife and the environment
- 25 years' experience of the Allerton Project**
Phil Jarvis, Head of Farming, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)

10.55 **Coffee** Biscuits generously provided by Doves Farm Foods Ltd

11.25 **Farming for the future - the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) perspective**
*Robin Edwards, Director, CLA South East and Chairman, North Wessex Downs AONB
Management Working Group*

11.40 **Lessons learned from the Marlborough Downs**
Chris Musgrave, founder member, Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area

11.55 **Enabling conservation on a landscape scale: supporting new 'farmer clusters' in the
North Wessex Downs**
Henry Oliver, Director, North Wessex Downs AONB

12.05 **The Southern Streams Farmer Group**
Peter Lemon, Manor Farm, Wilton

12.20 **Open Forum: questions and panel discussion**
Chaired by Ted Hiscocks

1.00 **Outline of afternoon activities**
Robin Edwards, Chairman, North Wessex Downs AONB Management Working Group

1.10 **Lunch**

Opportunity to visit stands, including a pop-up Soil Lab; the work of the John Simonds Trust; Berkshire College of Agriculture; West Berkshire Countryside Society; Tutts Clump Cider; Reading University bank stabilisation research project; Action for the River Kennet's table top river model demonstrating the impacts of dredging, culverting and other structural changes on river flow; and North Wessex Downs AONB.

2.00 **Afternoon Activities (see below for further details)**

Please assemble as instructed so visits can depart promptly

Tea and homemade cakes available from 3.30pm

4.30 **Forum close** and depart

More Details of Afternoon Activities

1. Rushall Farm: the next generation

Join Steve Waters, share farmer at Rushall Farm for a trailer tour of the farm. Rushall Farm is an organic mixed enterprise with sheep, cattle and cereals. Run under a share farming agreement with the owner, William Cumber, the farm tries to be as self-sufficient as possible in feed for its livestock.

2. Woodland Management: combining commercial forestry with wildlife and public access

Richard Edwards, Forestry Manager, Englefield Estate will lead a walk through woodland on Rushall Farm. He will highlight some of the commercial opportunities for forestry as well as the challenges, in particular the liability arising from Ash die-back and other threats.

3. History is Everywhere: Rushall Farm and how it has changed over time

Walking tour of the farm led by Lady Sian Crisp, Patron of the John Simonds Trust. Discover how the landscape of Rushall Farm has evolved in response to changing needs.

4. The River Pang Catchment: threats and opportunities

Charlotte Elliott, Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer for the River Pang, will explain some of the threats to water quality and the aquatic environment in the Pang, and how catchment sensitive farming techniques can tackle these problems. Note: travel to one or more sites will be by shared private cars – please arrange lifts informally with other participants.