



**Nature
Friendly
Farming
Network**

“Nature Friendly Farming”

Improving your farms bottom line and the public perception of farming

Martin Lines

Uk Chair: Nature Friendly Farming Network

15th January 2019

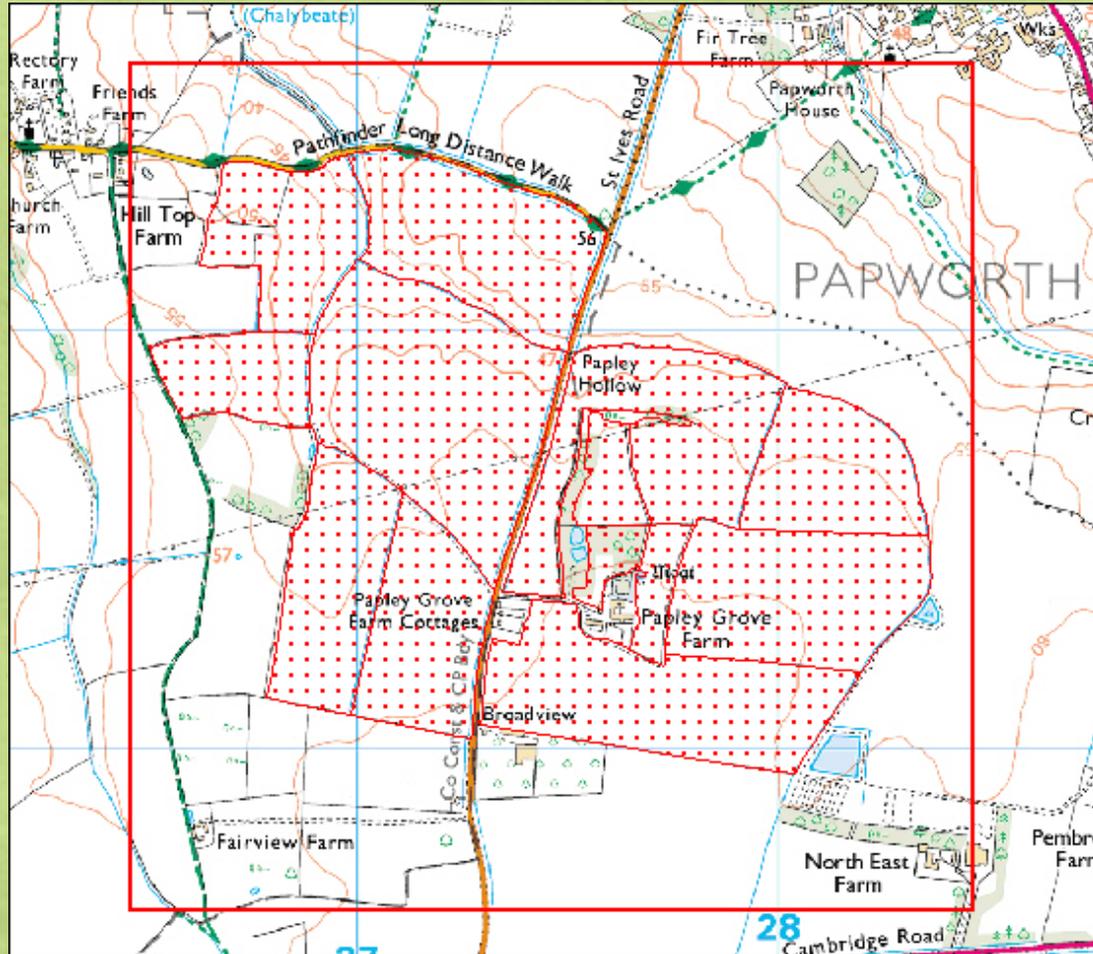


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About Me



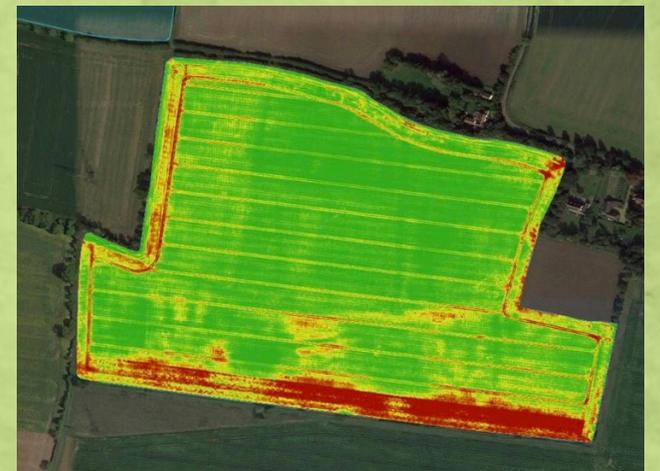
My family farm is in Cambridgeshire





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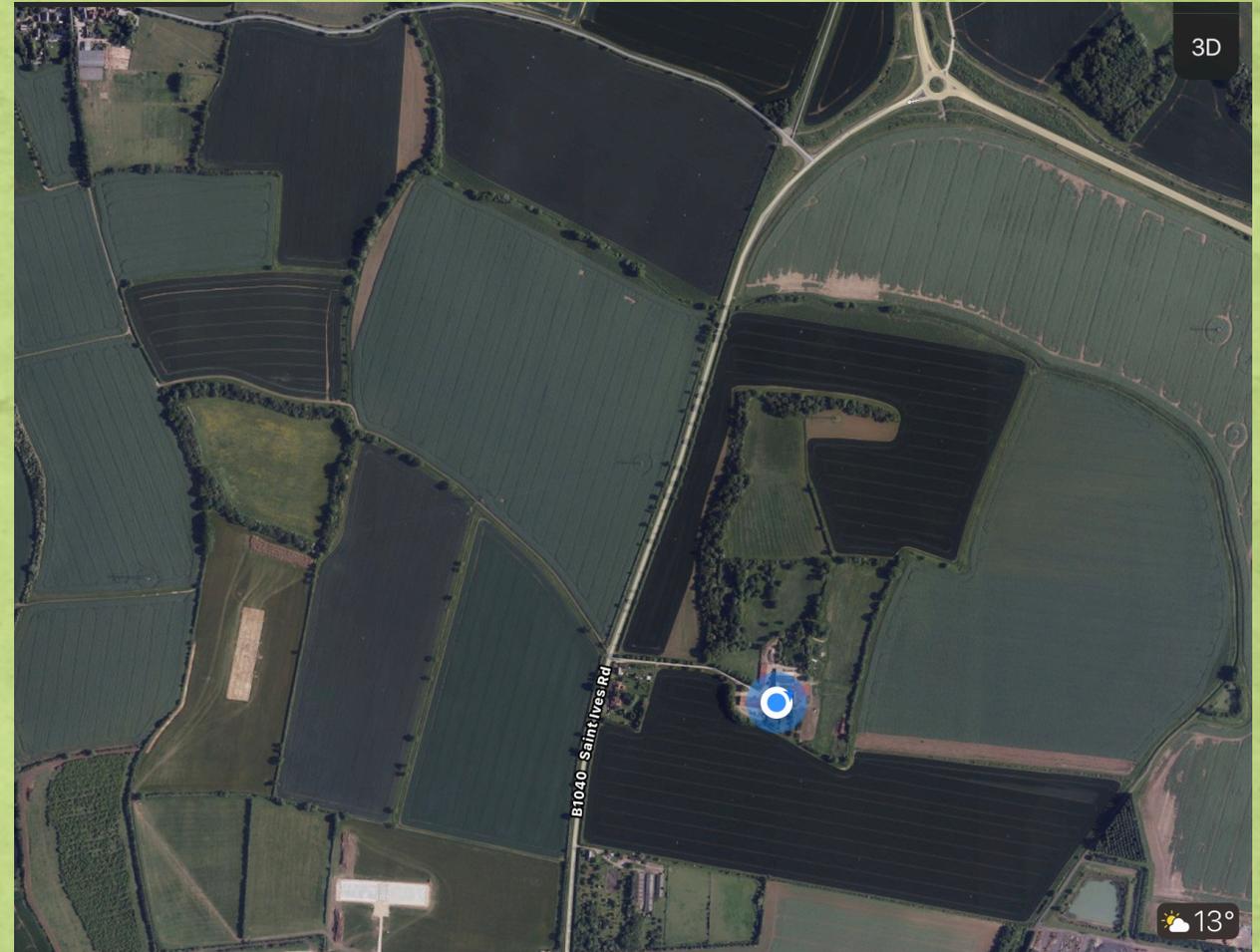
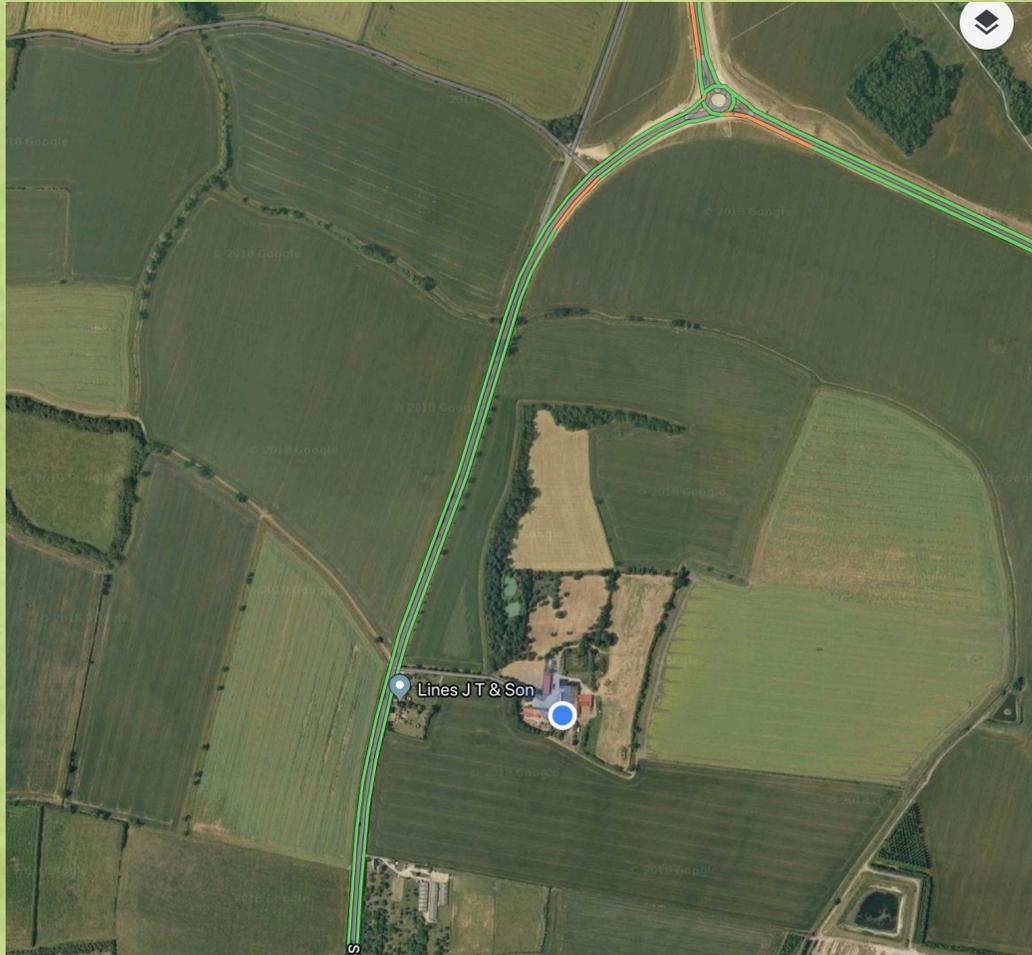
Fields are scanned and measured with GPS so we can target inputs to output.

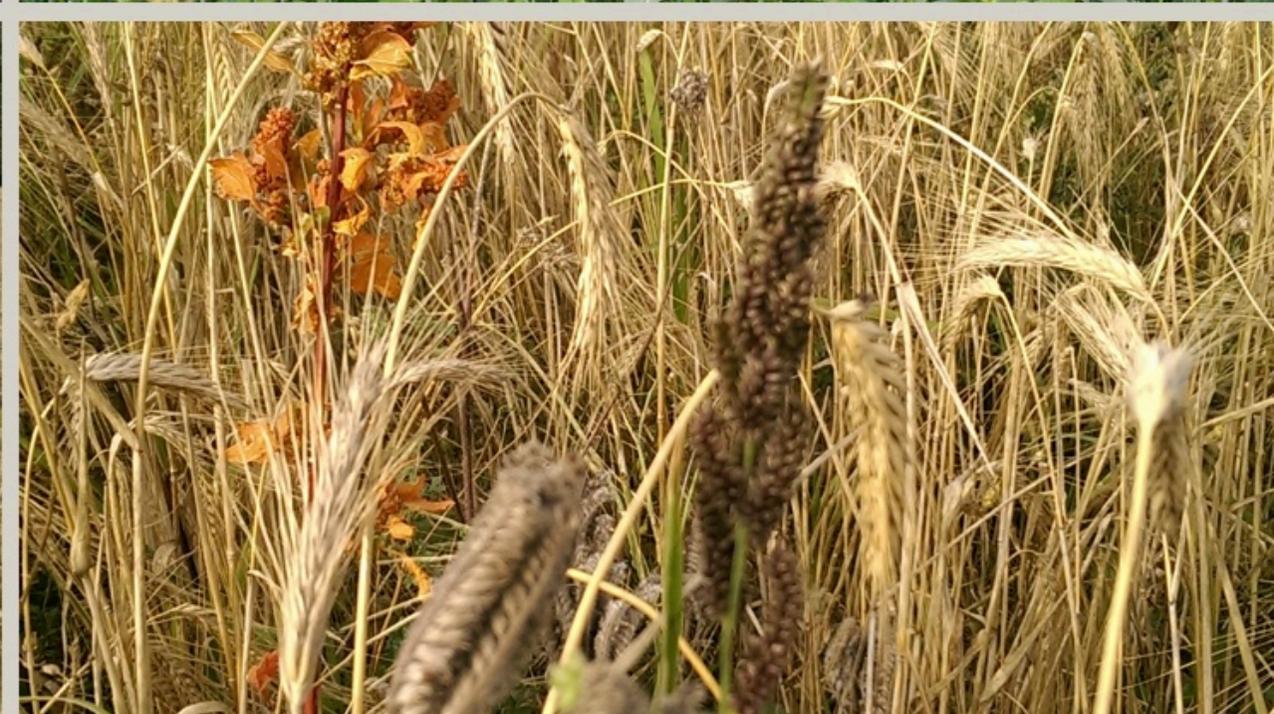




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Left is before ELS & HLS stewardship scheme
Right is with small areas taken out of crop production











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NI Agriculture Industry



Over 70% of land is currently in Less Favoured Areas in NI

CAP payments make up 87% of farm income in NI.

Agri-Environment scheme currently in place under the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS)



EFS Wider Scheme aimed at introducing relatively simple interventions that can benefit a wide range of species ie wild bird cover, pollen and nectar mixes, over wintered stubble etc. options open to all farmers in the wider countryside.

Many of our business costs are maintaining the environment



EFS Higher Scheme, aimed at benefitting protected species and habitats in defined areas eg. Breeding waders, species rich grassland, heather moorland etc. options open to farmers in defined protected areas ASSI SAC etc or with confirmed presence of targeted species or habitat on farm.

EFS Group option, available for a group of farmers to work together with the help of a facilitator to benefit particular species or habitats;



Results have been achieved through farmers working together who are nature friendly farming and have been achieved in the face of significant difficulties.

Yellowhammer pairs increased by 54%

- Linnet pairs increased by 24%**
- Reed bunting pairs increased by 57%**
- Tree sparrow pairs increased by 86%**
- Unfortunately skylark pairs kept in current trend and decreased by 43%**



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Change is coming

“ We cannot miss this significant opportunity to transform British agriculture in order to help farms evolve and thrive, whilst restoring and protecting our natural heritage. **”**

Martin Lines
Chairman, NFFN



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Why a Nature Friendly Farming Network?

- Independent market research with a wide range of farmers across the UK indicated that there would be a good level of support for this kind of approach
- It could be highly effective in securing positive changes in policy, including by how farming is supported by the public
- If we do nothing we risk failing to secure political traction for positive policy change and a shift in farming 'norms' towards a more sustainable outlook
- Together we can achieve more and learn from each other



Public Perceptions: Farming

- Farmers are respected and benefit from a general sense of public goodwill
- Farming is recognised as important, not just for food production but also for landscape, heritage, recreational and environmental reasons
- Financial aid for farmers is generally supported but this is not open ended – some public good/societal benefit is expected in return



Public Perceptions: Food

- Shoppers care about the environmental impact of food
- They recognize labels such as organic and Rainforest Alliance but also consider 'local and seasonal' important
- It's hard to identify wildlife friendly food.
- We need to communicate how wildlife friendly food is different and why it may cost more.
- Interest in more ethical food continues to rise
- People need clear messages if they are to alter their shopping behaviour.



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Manifesto

The landscape in the UK is shaped by farming.

Yet not all change in recent times has been desirable, soils have been depleted, water courses degraded and nature has struggled to cope with the pace of change. We have seen declines in over 600 farmland species over the last 50 years.

However, many farms are bucking this trend, soils are being restored and nature is thriving and if more follow this lead we can reverse these declines. With over 70% of the UK being farmland, we need to act now to deliver for wildlife at a landscape scale.

What is expected of me if I join?

- To do your bit for Nature Friendly Farming

And that is it... but if you want to do more you could:

- Share your nature friendly farming stories
- Talk to your neighbours
- Hold farm events (for farmers or the public)
- Possible media opportunities
- Write to MPs
- Input in to policy development



Nature Friendly Farming Network

We think that food and farming policies should help all British farmers to farm in a way that ensures that:

All farmers can access support for farming in ways that benefit nature and are rewarded for the public benefits that they deliver in terms of improving the health of our wildlife and landscapes and natural resources

Our water and air is clean

Our land will be productive for future generations

We can produce safe healthy food and get a fair price for it

A new international trade regime doesn't expose us to the sort of cut price competition that will drive farmers towards more harmful ways of farming both land and livestock

We can play our part in preventing dangerous flooding and tackling climate change

We can play a major role in helping the UK's wildlife to recover and thrive

Our soil can recover





Be Part of the Solution

Act now and join this farming movement for positive policy change in support of nature and sustainable farming.



Nature Friendly Farming Network

Farmers working together, delivering a better
countryside

www.naturefriendlyfarmingnetwork.org.uk

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