



## **Pressures on Charnwood Forest - agricultural**

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## Agriculture of Charnwood Forest



- Poor land quality
- Mixed farming, but grassland predominates
- Some arable, (mainly wheat)
- Smaller holdings
- Interspersed with woodland

## Agriculture of Charnwood Forest



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### Distribution of holding sizes - examples

	<20 ha	20-100 ha	100 ha +
LCC / Rutland	2,093	967	601
Bradgate	31	16	3
Markfield	32	c.4	c.2

Source: Defra (June survey 2005)



## Agriculture of Charnwood Forest



## Prospects for agriculture

- Currently 'corn up, horn down'
- Short term buffer of Single Payment Scheme (until 2012?)
- Cheap food policies - livestock returns non-viable; direct sales to add value
- Extensify / intensify / diversify
- Woodland creation and management (esp National Forest area)



## **Environmental Stewardship JCA 073 - Charnwood**

- **BAP priority habitats e.g. wood pasture, dry acid grassland, upland oakwoods, lowland heathland**
- **Historic sites**
- **Woodland linkages**
- **Boundary features - drystone walls, boundary oaks etc**
- **(Traditional farm buildings)**



## Countryside Quality Counts 1999-2003 (Natural England/English Heritage/Defra 2007)

Trees and woodland	<b>Enhancing</b>
Boundary features	<b>Maintained</b>
Agricultural theme	<b>Neglected</b>
Settlement & Development	<b>Diverging</b>
Semi-natural	<b>Neglected</b>
Historic features	<b>Enhancing</b>
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>DIVERGING</b>



## Pressures



- Decline of graziers - TB, paperwork & finances
- Land capability restricts options
- Limited environmental funding
- Amenity value of land & properties
- New money coming in
- 'Buying the view'
- Changing character?



## Pressures



## Pressures



**Intensification**



## Pressures



- **Climate change**
- **Supermarket local food**
- **Recreation**
- **Diversification - how much and where?**
- **Traffic implications**

## So what sort of future do we want for Charnwood Forest agriculture?



