

Devon & Cornwall Soils Alliance: Understanding Farming Businesses

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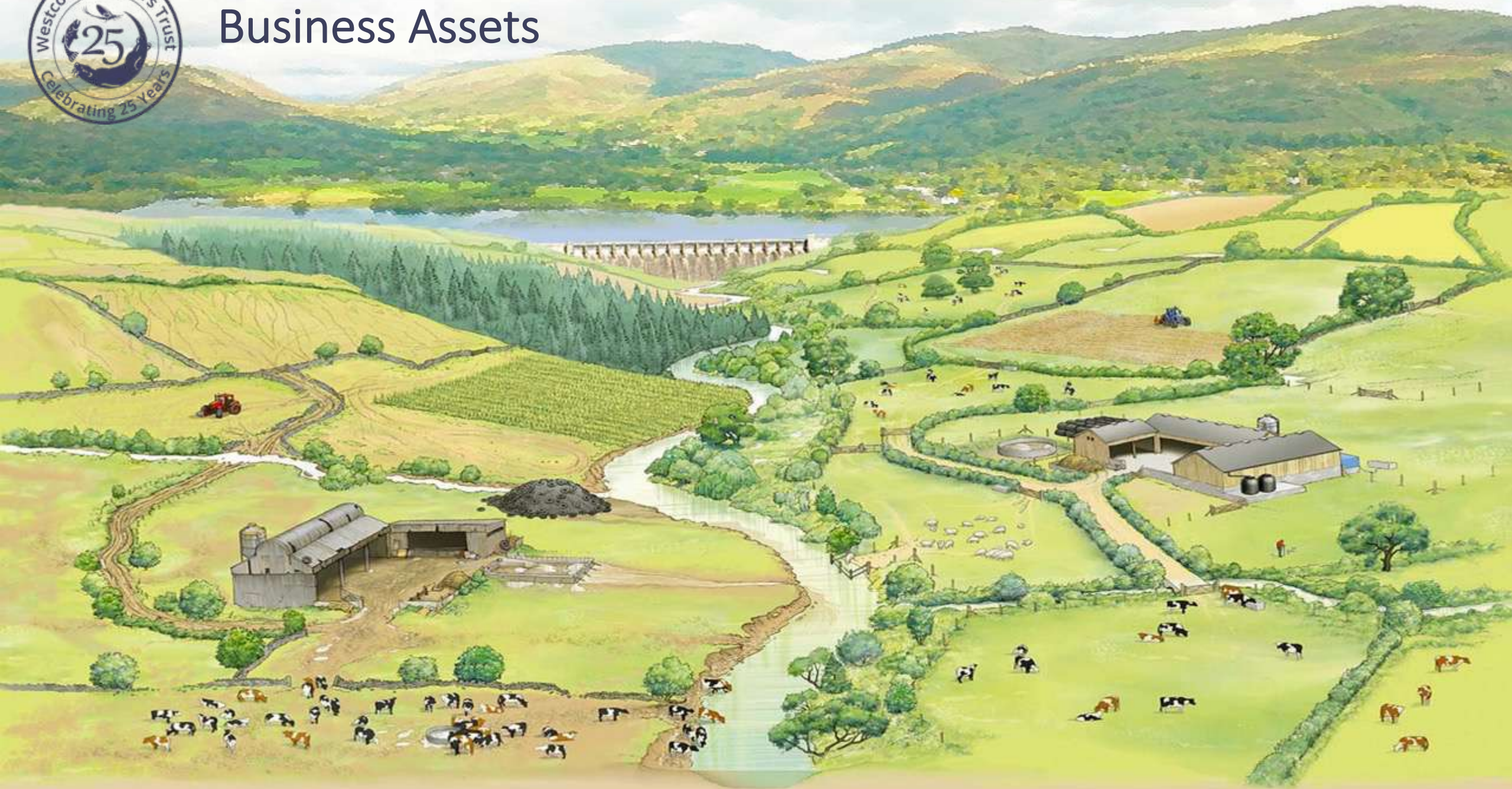


The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
investing in rural areas





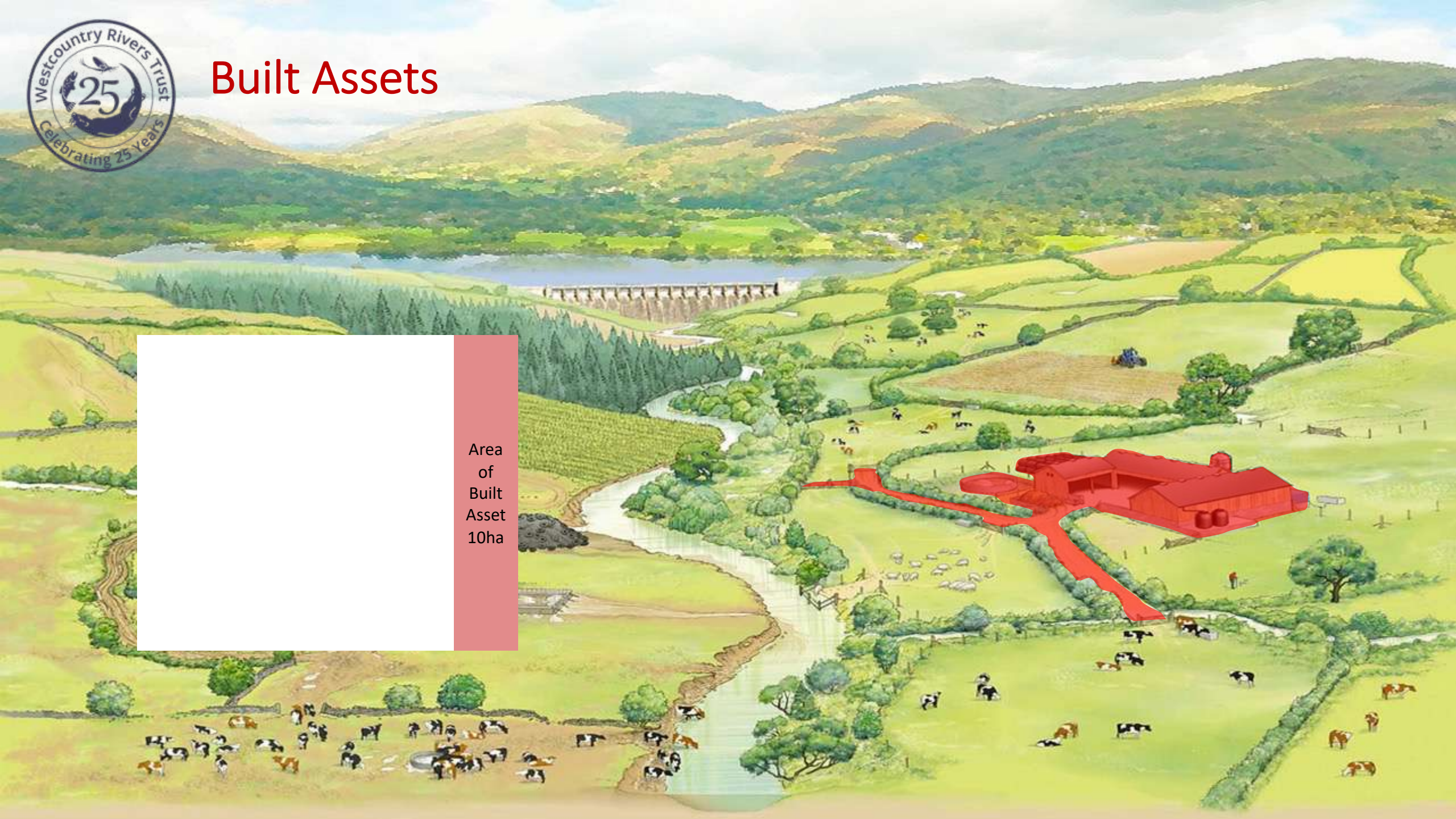
Business Assets





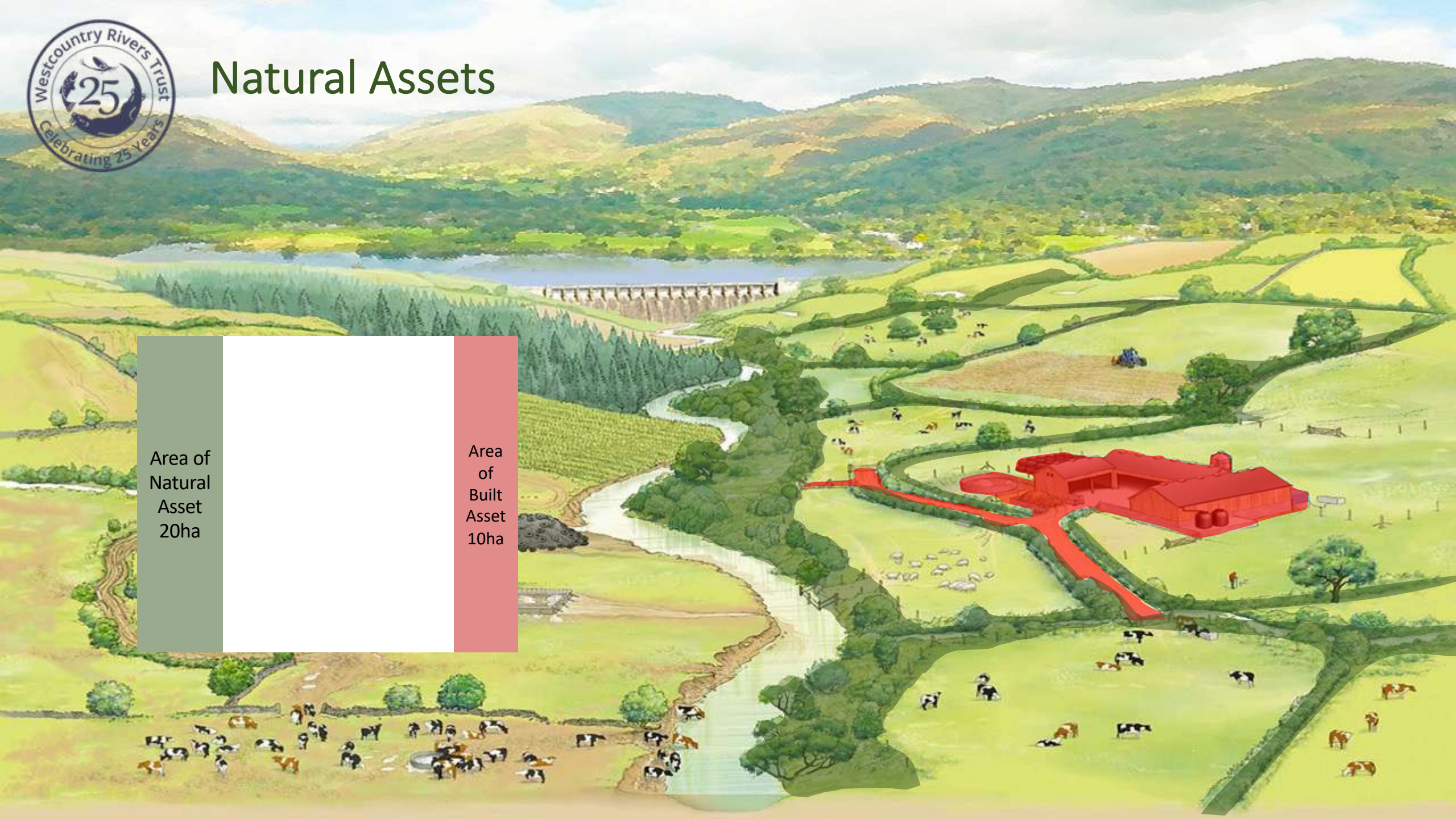
Built Assets

Area of Built Asset 10ha





Natural Assets



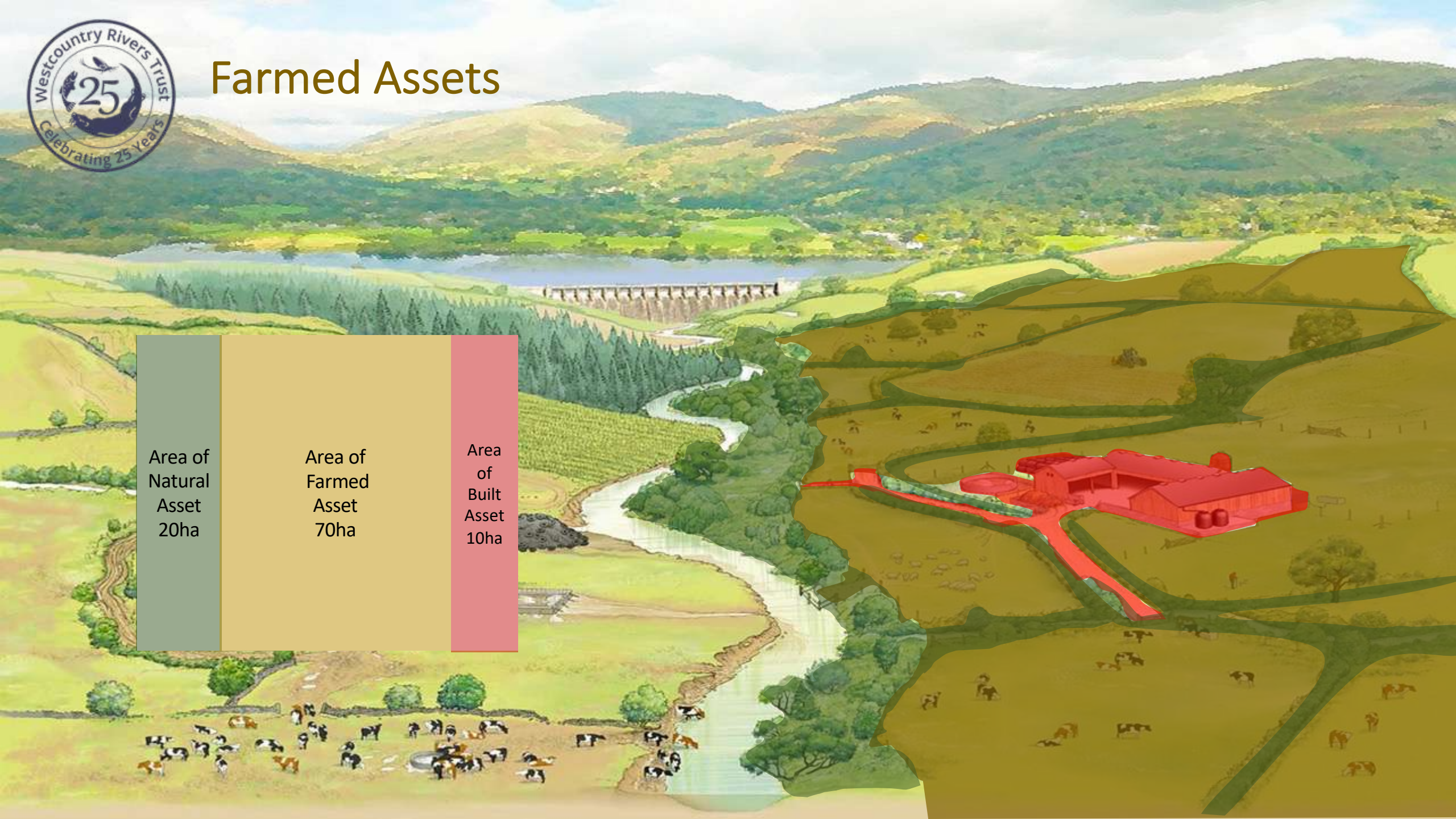
Area of
Natural
Asset
20ha

Area
of
Built
Asset
10ha



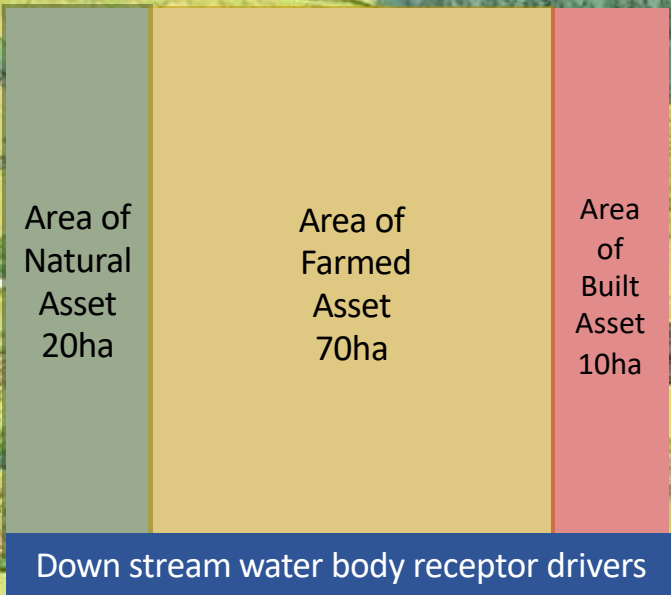
Farmed Assets

Area of Natural Asset 20ha	Area of Farmed Asset 70ha	Area of Built Asset 10ha
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Downstream Assets





← Bealsmill
Stoke Climslan
Kelly Bray



















What we know - Farmed assets

- A farmer's most important asset is their soils
- It is estimated that soil erosion moves some 2.2 million tonnes of arable topsoil annually
- 17 percent of soils nationally show signs of erosion
- Over 40% percent of South West soils are degraded



What we know - Farm business impacts of poor soils

- A reduction in yield and income - crop, sward or livestock
- Increased costs in ditch and drain clearance
- Loss of river banks through erosion
- Increased droughtiness leading to a decline in water holding capacity of the soil
- Decline in nutrient storage capacity resulting in increased nutrient costs
- Reduction in quality of soil structure
- Decrease in soil depth
- Loss of substrate for soil fauna and microflora

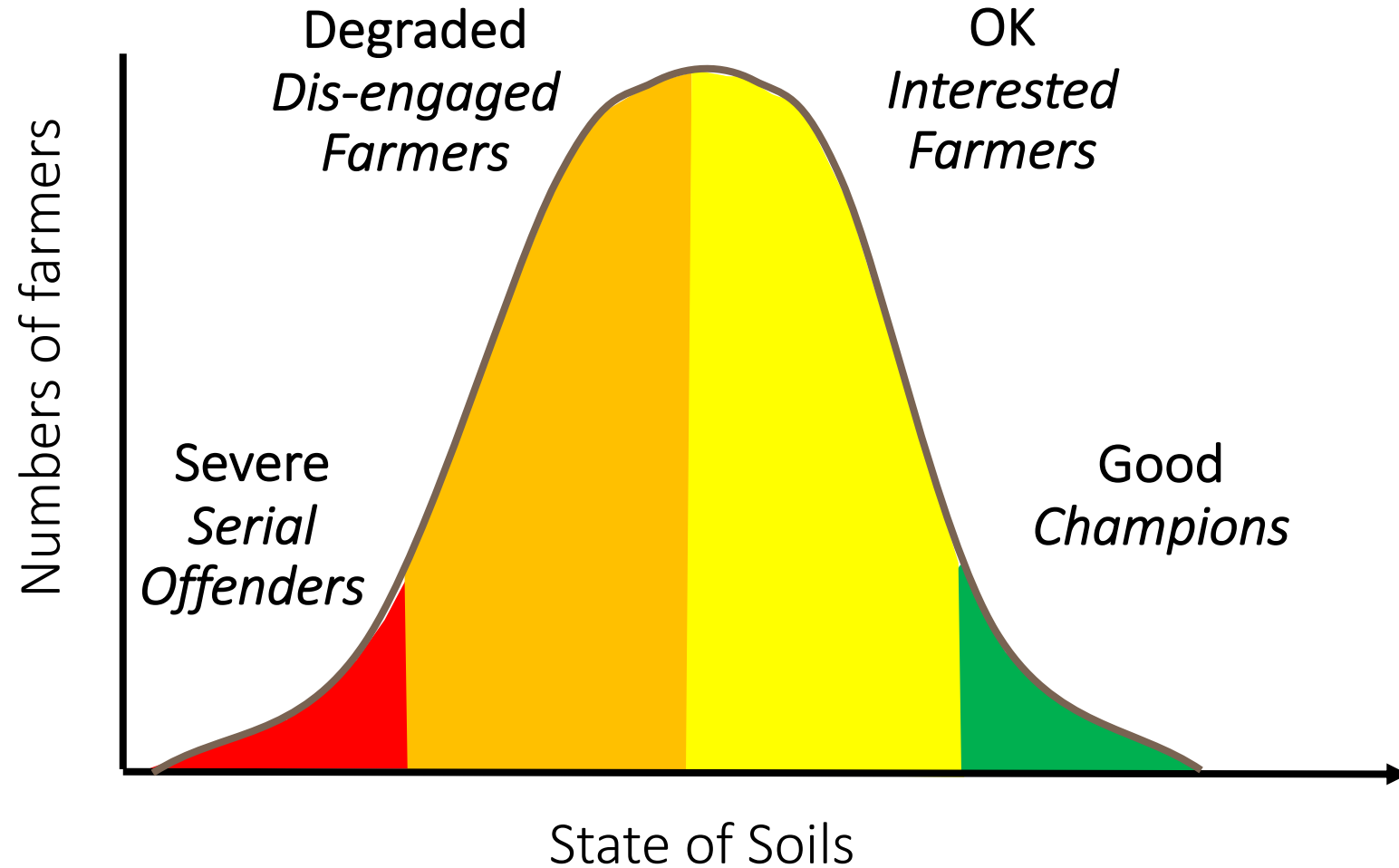


What we know - External impacts of poor soils

- Soil removal from roads, houses and sewers is expensive
- Wild life habitats are being lost due to deposition of soils
- Muddy polluted watercourses lead to movements of pollutants of nitrates and phosphates in suspension
- Water clean up costs are estimated at £10 for every water consumer
- An estimated £46 million per year is spent on nitrate removal costs



Using information with different farm businesses



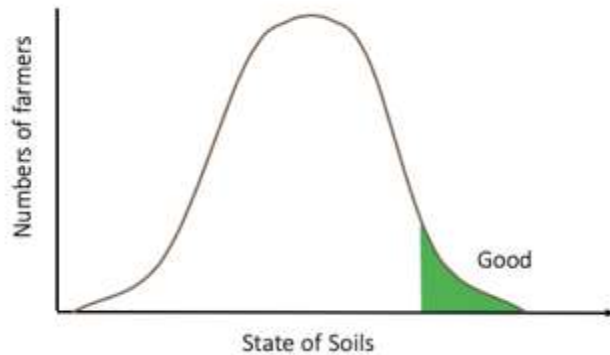


Champions

Trial sites

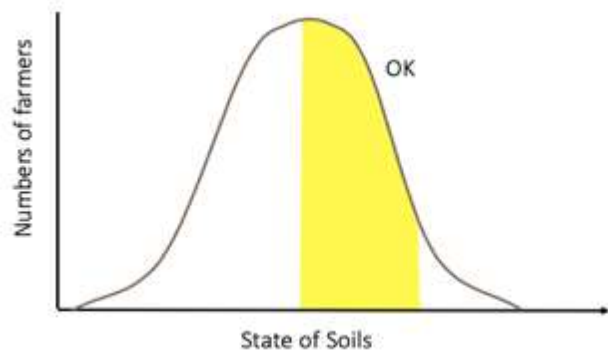
Publicity

Demonstration





Interested
Engagement
Involvement
Facilitation



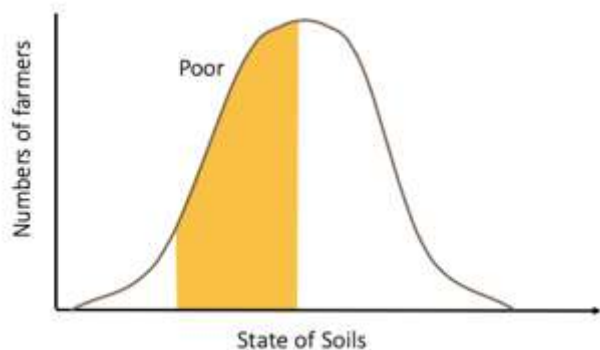


Dis-engaged

Costed

1 to1 Personal

Relevant



Site Selection

Crop Selection

Soil Tests

Risk Maps

Animal Health Risks

**Soil Type
Appropriate
Remedies**

**The Impact of Poor
Infrastructure**

**Timeliness
of Farm
Operations**

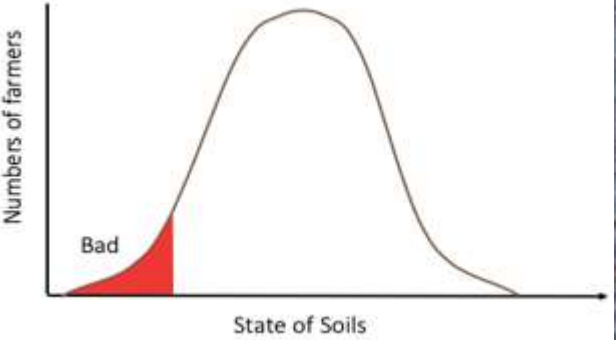


Serial Offenders

Regulation

Peer Pressure

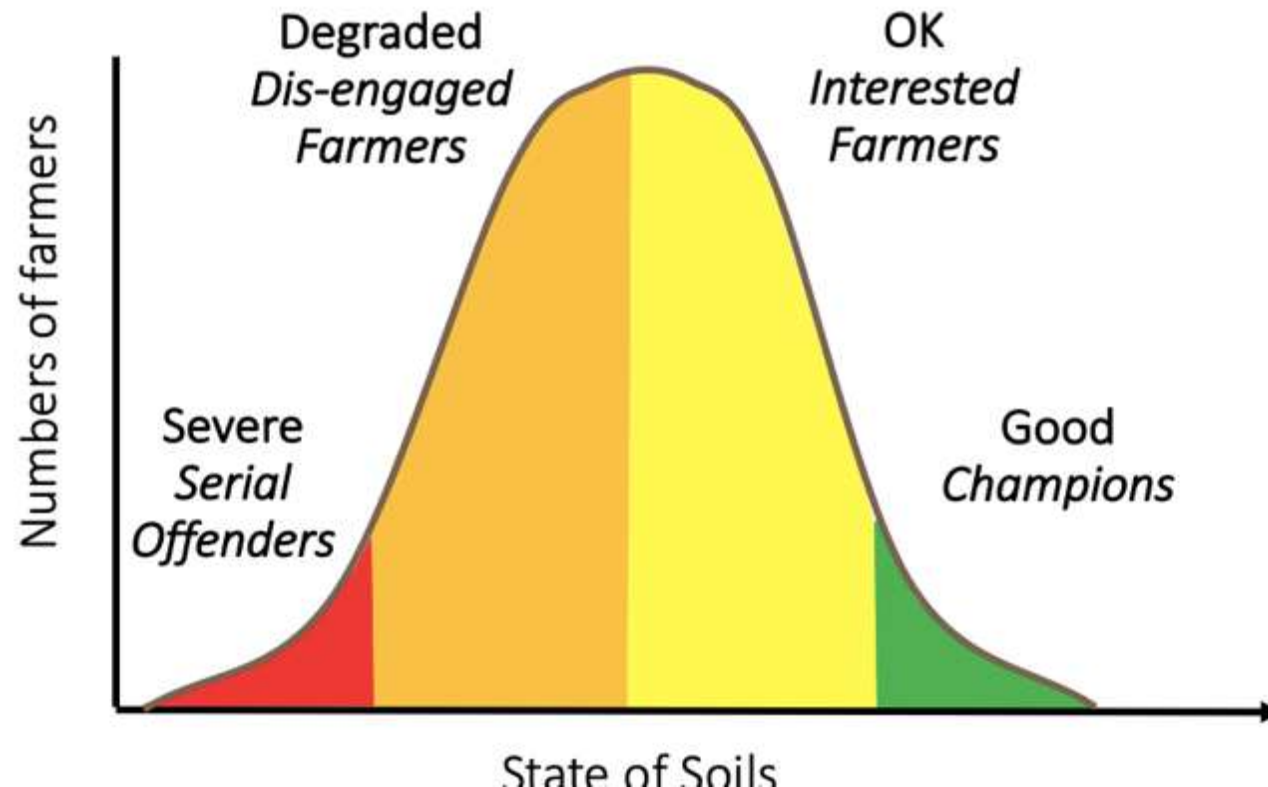
Linked Advice





Summary

- Promote the champions
- Continue to encourage the interested
- Encourage the dis-engaged with relevant costed advice
- Regulate the serial offenders



Thanks for listening – SarahC@wrt.org.uk

#ActOnSoils

