

Latest news from the Group

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Summer is coming...

Hello from the High Weald AONB team! Whether you have been juggling your farming system to work with the impact of rapid weather changes, overhauling your food or drink business to sell directly to the public or adjusting to family members joining your household for lockdown, the last few weeks have brought changes and challenges for us all to overcome.

We are largely still working remotely for the time being, but are now able to carry out socially-distanced site visits, in line with the latest Government guidelines and a comprehensive COVID-19 risk assessment.

As always, please contact [Christine](#) or [Ross](#) if you have any queries about the items below, or if we can support you in any other way.

New Video: High Weald Deer Management Co-ordination

Did you have a successful season in deer management? Even if your stalkers are working well you may require closer collaboration with your neighbours to tackle the moving herds of fallow deer, so we've produced this short video to help explain to others why joined-up deer management is necessary.



Two of our Farm Cluster members kindly agreed to talk about the importance of conversation and this is the result - thank you Guy and John, your royalty cheques are in the post!

To watch the video click the image above [or this link](#). It is also available on the [Deer Management page of our website](#), so please do share it.



We are planning more video content in the future so let us know if there's a topic you would find particularly useful.

CS Mid-tier virtual support sessions

Ross and Christine have run two very successful virtual Mid-tier 'workshops' over the last few weeks, supported by Ben from Natural England; thank you to all members who took part, we hope it was helpful - please call or email with any feedback.



If you are writing an application at the moment, please remember that as a Farm Cluster member you can get a 20% uplift as long as your application is endorsed by us, so [get in touch](#) and book your endorsement visit now to ensure you have time for any tweaks that might be needed.

Please be assured the High Weald AONB team has developed a comprehensive COVID-19 risk assessment for site visits. Ross or Christine are more than happy to talk you through the measures they will be taking to ensure the safety of all involved.

Whatsapp, Doc?



Thank you to those of you who have joined the Farm Cluster Whatsapp group - whether you've posted photos, asked questions, shared advice or just read others' updates, it has been a great way to stay connected during this strange time.

You can still join - [just click this link](#) or ask Christine or Ross to add you. **Please note you must have Whatsapp downloaded onto your phone to be part of the group.**

Useful information and other support

Updated Countryside Code

In response to nationwide issues caused by increased visitors to the countryside during lockdown - littering, bbqs and trespass to name a few - Natural England have revised the Countryside Code to include COVID-19 messaging. A new poster is [available to download](#) in addition to a [shareable video encouraging people to enjoy the countryside responsibly](#).



TEDx Talk: The case for Regenerative Agriculture: Watch

regenerative farmer (and ex-stock broker) Angus McIntosh talk about how he was inspired to leave his job at Goldman Sachs and become one of only two producers of grass fed, pasture-reared beef in the Western Cape, South Africa. [This video is quite emotive but great for sparking debate about RegenAg.](#)

Farming Advice Service - latest newsletter

All the latest Coronavirus information for farmers, landowners and rural businesses plus reminders on greening and water quality rules: [Download the newsletter here.](#)

About

The Upper Rother and Dudwell Farm Cluster helps farmers, foresters and other land managers work together to improve farm profitability and benefit soil, water, wildlife and historic features not just on their individual farms, but across the area. It has over 60 members covering over 3,500ha. [View map](#)

The Cluster is helped by the High Weald AONB Partnership with financial support from Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund, the Environment Agency (Giant Hogweed control), and the Woodland Trust (deer management).

For more information, visit the Farm Cluster page on www.highweald.org.

Useful links

[The Upper Rother & Dudwell Farm Cluster](#)

[Farm Cluster Area & Members Map](#)

[Sussex Lund](#)

[Landscape Enhancement Initiative](#)

More about the area

[Where is it?](#)

[What we do](#)

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High Weald JAC · Woodland Enterprise Centre · Hastings Road · Flimwell, East Sussex TN5 7PR · United Kingdom