Introductory remarks

Gwyn Jones, EFNCP

A network on High Nature Value farming Learning, Innovation & Knowledge

This project has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovations program under Grant Agreement No. 696391
Innovation in High Nature Value farming systems

- Systems based predominantly on semi-natural forage areas
- Systems associated with low gross margins, low returns to labour
  (Where change was possible, has happened, and resulted in loss of HNV farmland)
- Systems largely marginalised by education, research and industry
- Systems where innovation is often linked to responding to crisis
- But systems which are allegedly delivering a lot of what society wants from the farmed countryside
Genesis of the project

- EIP group on HNV farming
- Challenge in a nutshell – how to be more economically viable and socially sustainable while still staying HNV
- H2020 call based on the findings of the group
- Innovation network – finding and sharing best practice
HNV-Link

- 13 partners
- Revolves around real places - the Learning Areas
- Looked at Technical, Product, Policy, Social innovation
- Why Dartmoor?
  - Common land focus
  - Proven track record
  - Lots of problems
  - Opportunities to benefit
  - Dependable local colleagues
Thank you!!

- Funders
- Partners
- Help from local partners
- Farmers
  - Farmers in Ireland and Sweden (and Wales!!)
  - Dartmoor farmers
  - John Waldon
Fundamental challenges remain

- How to detach HNV farming from socio-economic marginality
- How to create a holistic framework of mutually-coherent policies with a realistic time dimension
- How to bring HNV farming (and other agro-ecological approaches) into the mainstream of lifelong learning
- How to nurture local initiative while not depending solely on the work of individuals locally to deliver national policy
- How to detach HNV farming innovation from crisis