

## THE ENVIRONMENT      5. Farms & Diversification

### THE PRESENT SITUATION

The majority of land in the Parish is given over to agriculture, in the form of medium-sized mixed arable and cattle or sheep farming. Much of the agricultural land in the Parish is of high quality.

The Foot and Mouth disease outbreak, and other economic factors, have affected the viability of many farms, and within the Parish there is already an appreciable extent of diversification. This has taken various forms; former farmland is being used for camping and caravanning, fishing lakes, holiday chalets, eventing, a microlight airfield, orchards, amenity planting, etc. In some cases former farm buildings have been converted for residential accommodation.

### *Issues*

- Wide range of suggested alternative uses
- Visitor attractions would be acceptable.
- Farm shops

### Actions

Encourage farm diversification where the proposed activities are in sympathy with the local environment, and where the provision of adequate infrastructure and services is included in the proposals.

### Stakeholders

PC, WFDC

### Timescale

Ongoing

### Policy Statement

The Parish Council will encourage continued use of farms for agriculture wherever possible, but will be sympathetic to alternative uses of farms or buildings where this is necessary and appropriate.