

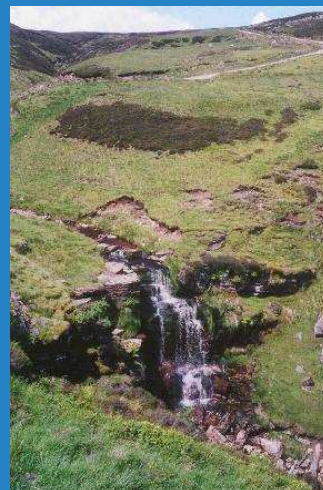


## Water and Land — rebuilding the links

Ruth Davis

### Land and water – indivisible?

- Everything we do to the land affects water:
  - Inputs (pesticides, fertilisers)
  - Abstraction and irrigation
  - Drainage
  - Cultivation
- Water moving through catchments determines the form of the land (and agriculture):
  - Sediment transport onto floodplains
  - Soil moisture and organic content



## Disconnected policies?

- Investment in agriculture little focus on water:
  - New RDR will see 70 billion euro to rural development, against 293 billion in direct agricultural payments.
  - Only a small proportion will help to protect water.
- Investment in water management has little focus on protecting land and raw water:
  - £403m investment in *nitrogen removal* alone in the England between 2000 – 2010
  - £10m investment in land management projects in same period.



## Re-connecting land, people and water

- The debate around the legitimacy of CAP direct payments will grow. Who benefits?
- WTO, concerns about world poverty, and the demand for value for EU funds will all drive this.
- WFD draft plans in 2008 will provide a focus for this debate.
- The agriculture sector will need to have demonstrated significant efforts to tackle water issues.



## Re-connecting land and water

- Now:
  - More water focus in cross-compliance
    - Active enforcement
    - Introduction of soil and nutrient planning within GAEC
  - Most effective use of Rural Development measures
    - Focus multiple benefits; floodplain and wetland restoration
    - Restrict payments for low or no-cost measures eg GAP (soil management)
  - Innovative approaches to polluter pays
    - Consider hypothecated taxes
    - Look at water pricing structures
  - Innovative funding sources
    - Match fund with investment from water companies, development agencies, flood risk management.

### Sustainable Catchment Management in Practice

- Alliance between Water Company, NGO and Rural Development Agencies.
- £10 million company investment, matched by x2 rural development
- Benefits include soil restoration, reduced water pollution, restored peat bogs and mitigation of CO2 emissions, habitats for wildlife....

