

<p><b>Name of representative/organisation: Andrew BELL North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve</b></p>	<p><b>Answers provided to questions from the Committee:</b></p>
<p><b>1. How do you see the current state of agriculture in North Devon? What is its primary role and how do you think it contributes to the wider North Devon economy?</b></p>	
<p><b>2. What are the challenges and how do you see they can be overcome?</b></p>	<p>Viability of Farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to unfair trade deals; Farming to standards while other countries do not respect these standards.</li> <li>• A race to the bottom that has impacts on environmental quality.</li> </ul> <p>Transition due Brexit has made challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change and severe event vulnerability</li> </ul> <p>Continuation and expansion of Public payment for public goods is a sound mechanism, but there may not be enough public funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pressure on land is immense for both energy and food. The market is driving too far in the energy direction. There is also a need to account for more land for nature, but this can be built into multiple land use systems.</li> <li>• We need to match land use with land capability. Some farms feel the need to intensify on land where it does not make financial or ecological sense. Landuse/ land management planning and better cooperation within the sector may release resources and solutions.</li> </ul>

<p><b>3. What are the opportunities going forward for farming and what can farming contribute to the future of North Devon as a whole?</b></p>	<p>Land seen as more than just agriculture (environment, biodiversity etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good opportunity to incorporate multiple income streams from environmental goods alongside food production.</li> </ul> <p>AgriTech: to reduce the negative impact of farming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation to improve circular economy especially in nutrient recycling, rather than allowing run-off to lose the nutrients and the soil.</li> </ul> <p>Develop only energy that is suited to the area's capability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some systems are taking a huge amount of land and not incorporating multiple use.</li> <li>• Improve local value-added processing</li> </ul> <p>A bespoke land management framework created with landowners on a scale that makes sense to the farmers.</p>
<p><b>4. What can North Devon Council do to support the situation with agriculture in North Devon?</b></p>	<p>Policies to support solutions that lead to the reduction of pollution (slurry, stores, farm operations designed to improve the environment)</p> <p>Support local food (and forest) produce added value.</p> <p>Influencing local public procurement policy</p> <p>Ensure energy developments are multiple land-use so there can be shared use for biodiversity and farming.</p> <p>Onshore wind takes less surface per unit energy provided. A refresh of the policy and evidence is needed.</p>