



'PILLAR 2 ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES'

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The context for 'environmental schemes'



➤ Strengths

- A few months of vigorous growth at virtually no cost
- Potentially healthy, robust stock
- Positive associations (generally)
- Producing lots of services for the consumer/taxpayer

The context for 'environmental schemes'



➤ Weaknesses

- Apart from the summer's growth, everything paid for and more costly
- Markets often weak; often price takers
- Most things done cheaper elsewhere; others can enter or leave market easily
- Differentiation difficult when major markets distant & potential suppliers many
- Changing the system risks losing distinctiveness
- Price not paying for the costs, especially the cost of family labour
- Most of the other services are public goods
- Alternative narratives, often expressed in black and white terms
- Low level of innovation, limited perception that innovation is possible

The context for 'environmental schemes'



➤ Marginality

- A physical reality
- Marginal because others are less marginal
- Scientific and technical (and then distribution and marketing) changes are a central, fundamental and constant driver
- Marginality won't disappear through the actions of marginal farmers – *laissez-faire* and 'transitions' are not realistic
- The gap for policy to fill is permanent

Reflections on current/recent policy



- Current policy is very complicated, and has some clear weak points, but some aspects to be commended given the current rules
- Not clear that all aspects worked well for crofting: not for inbye; especially not for common grazings
- Not clear that any Scottish stakeholders have really measured or reflected on this.....
- Or am I stuck in 2007-13??



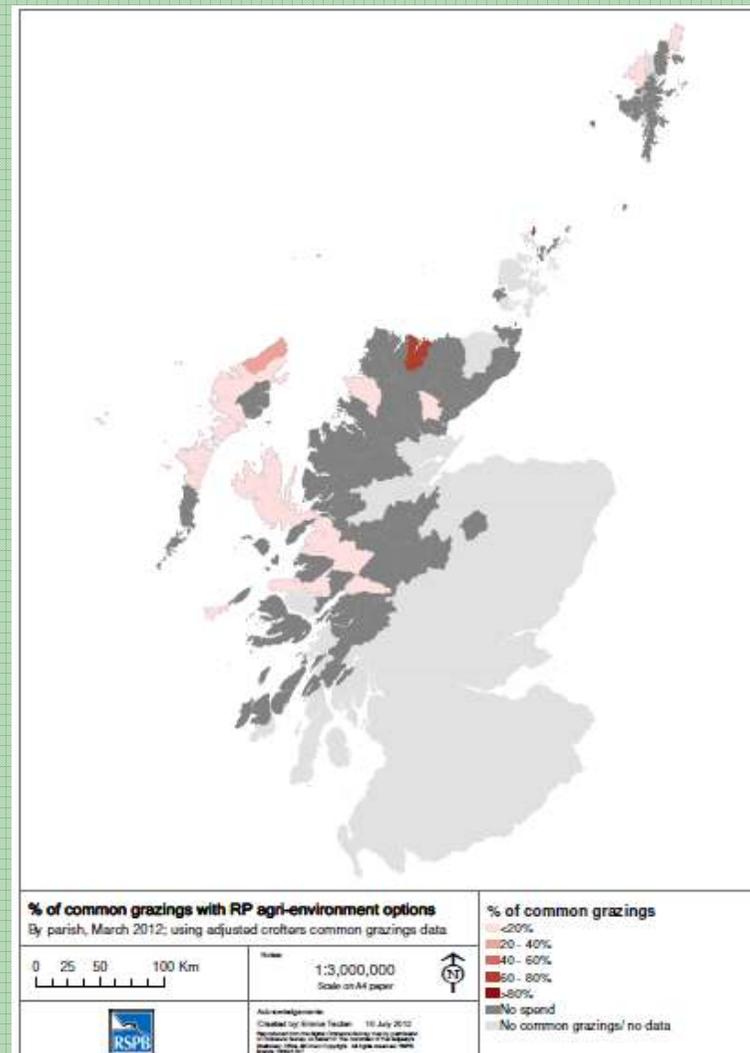
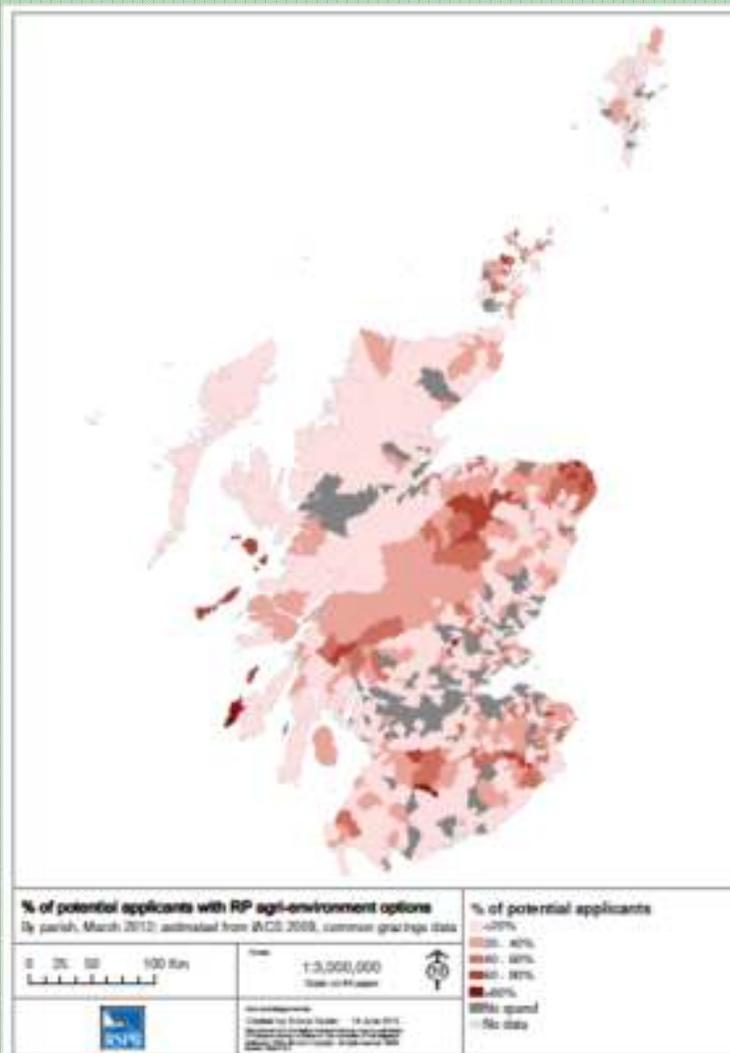
A good test for any rural policy:

Does it work on common grazings?

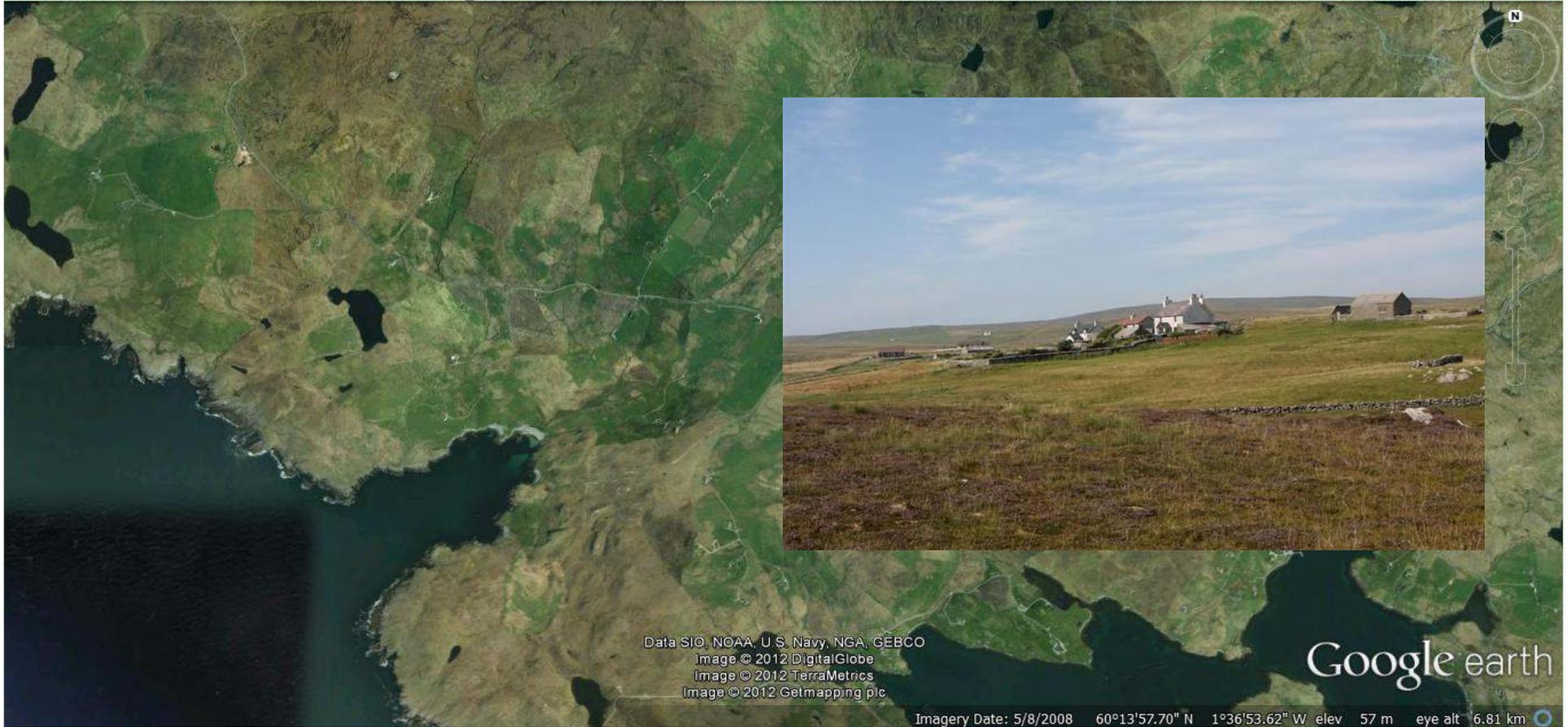
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57°48'20.68" N 5°35'10.77" W elev 40 m

RP agri-env



Walls – one of 6 Shetland parishes with no Rural Priority AE uptake



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
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Google earth

Imagery Date: 5/8/2008 60°13'57.70" N 1°36'53.62" W elev 57 m eye alt 6.81 km

Sandwick - another Shetland parish with no Rural Priority AE uptake

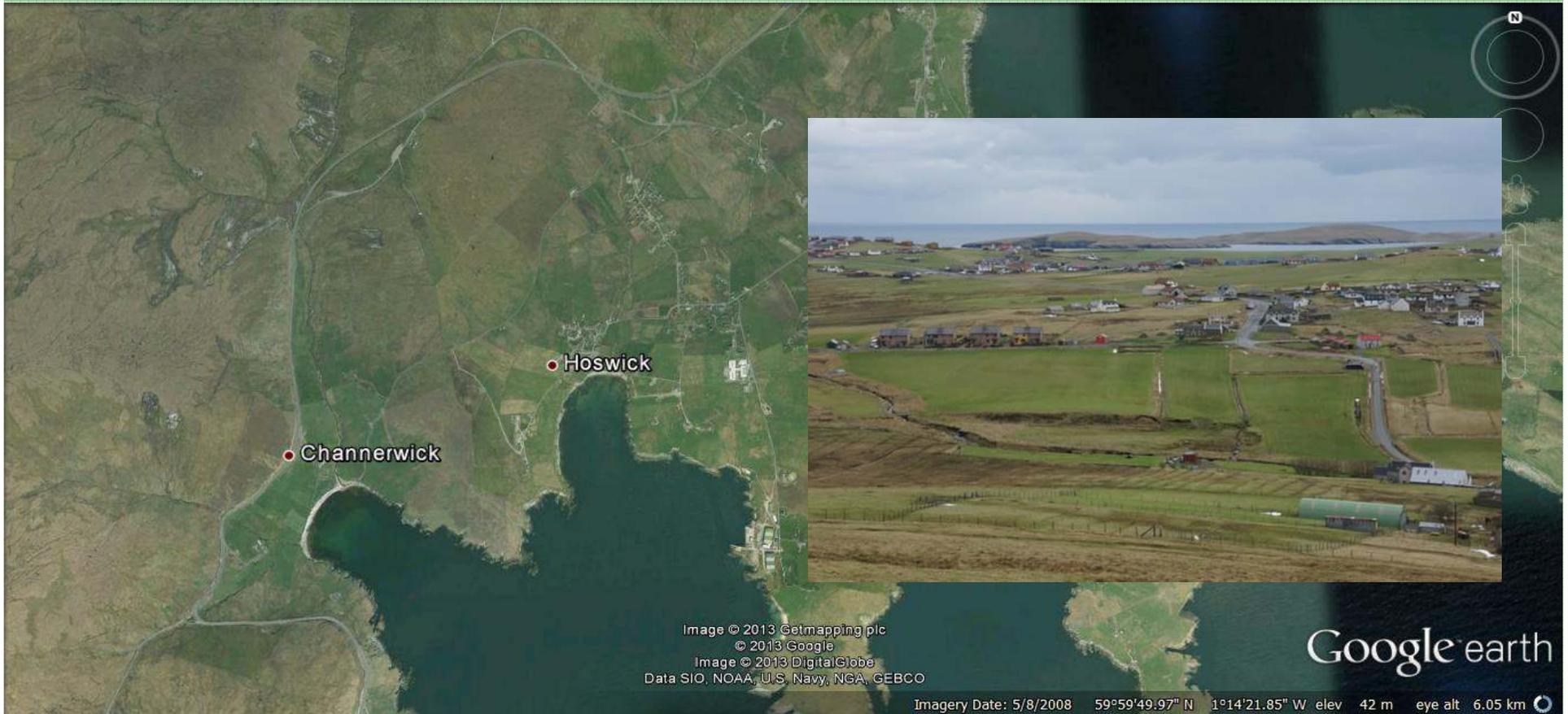
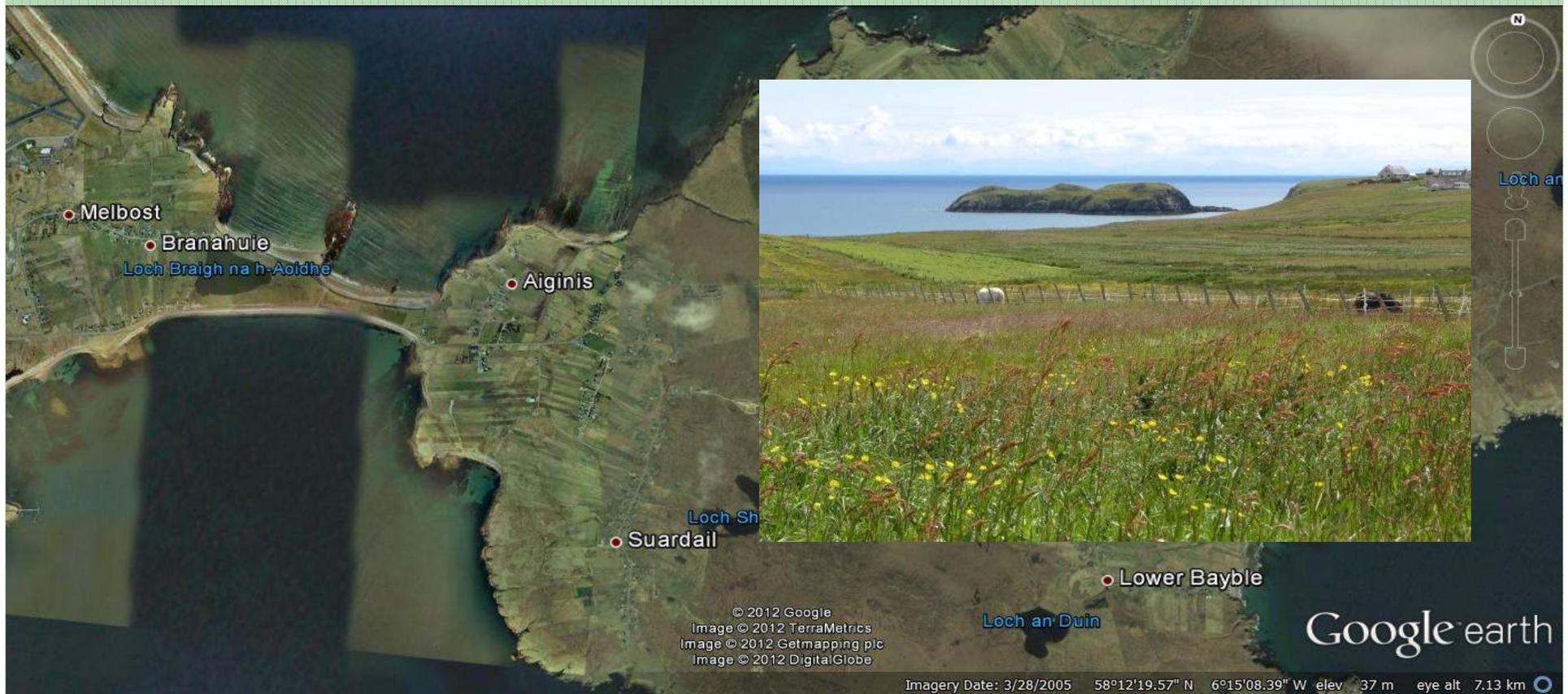


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Google earth

Imagery Date: 5/8/2008 59°59'49.97" N 1°14'21.85" W elev 42 m eye alt 6.05 km

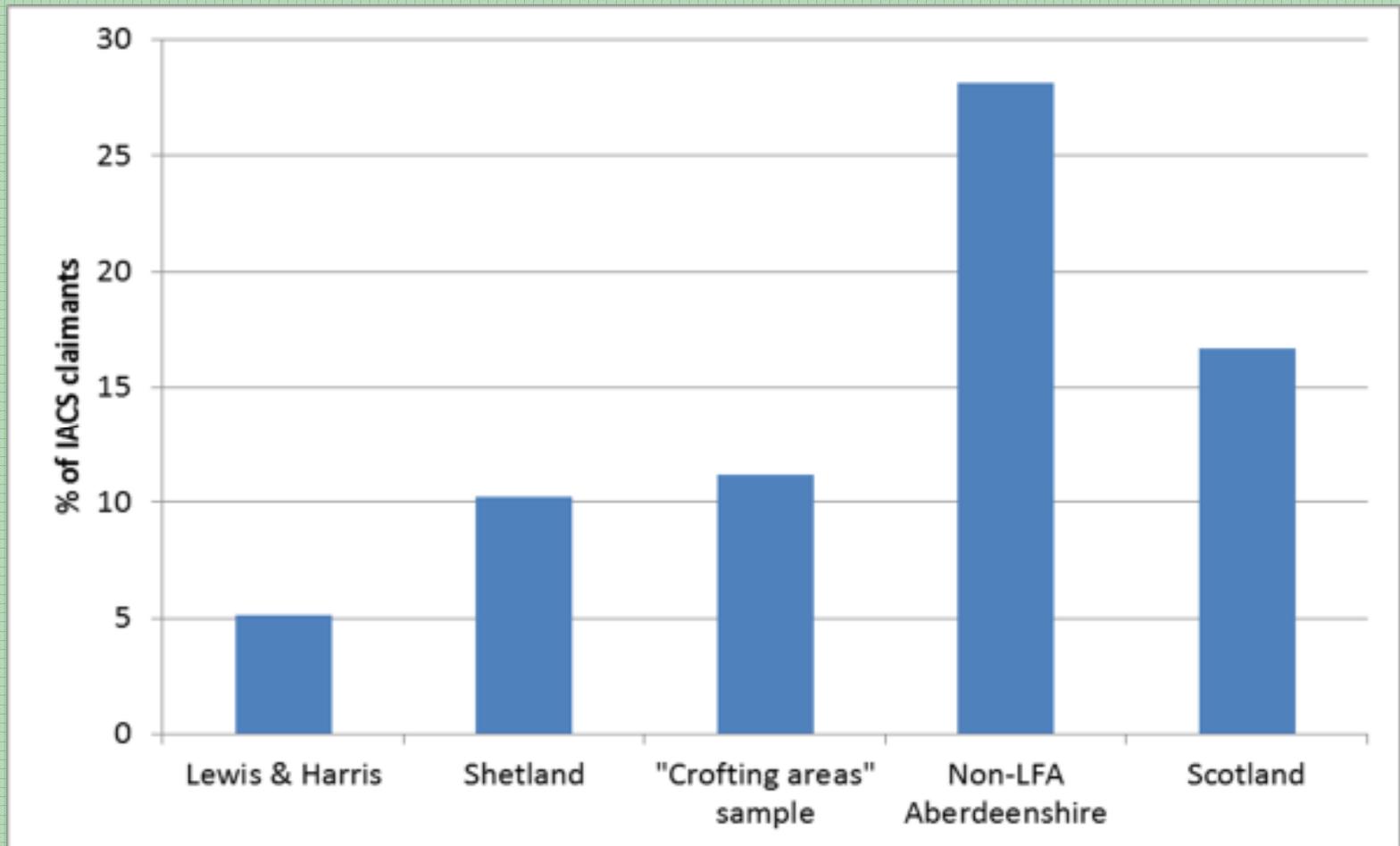
Stornoway parish – 1.8% Rural Priority AE uptake



Strichen parish – 78% Rural Priority AE uptake



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A 'crofting' test sample



- 27 parishes where >80 of SPS+LFASS claimants have common grazings shares
- Contain 67% of all such claimants
- 27 of the 30 parishes with most such claimants in absolute terms
- 21 of 61 HIE Fragile parishes

USE IT!!



Opportunity for some fresh thinking?



- Only some....
- Detailed rules from Brussels (and Edinburgh of course)
- Broader framework (some quite detailed) from WTO Agriculture Agreement, e.g.
- What Westminster decides, what Cardiff and Belfast decides.....

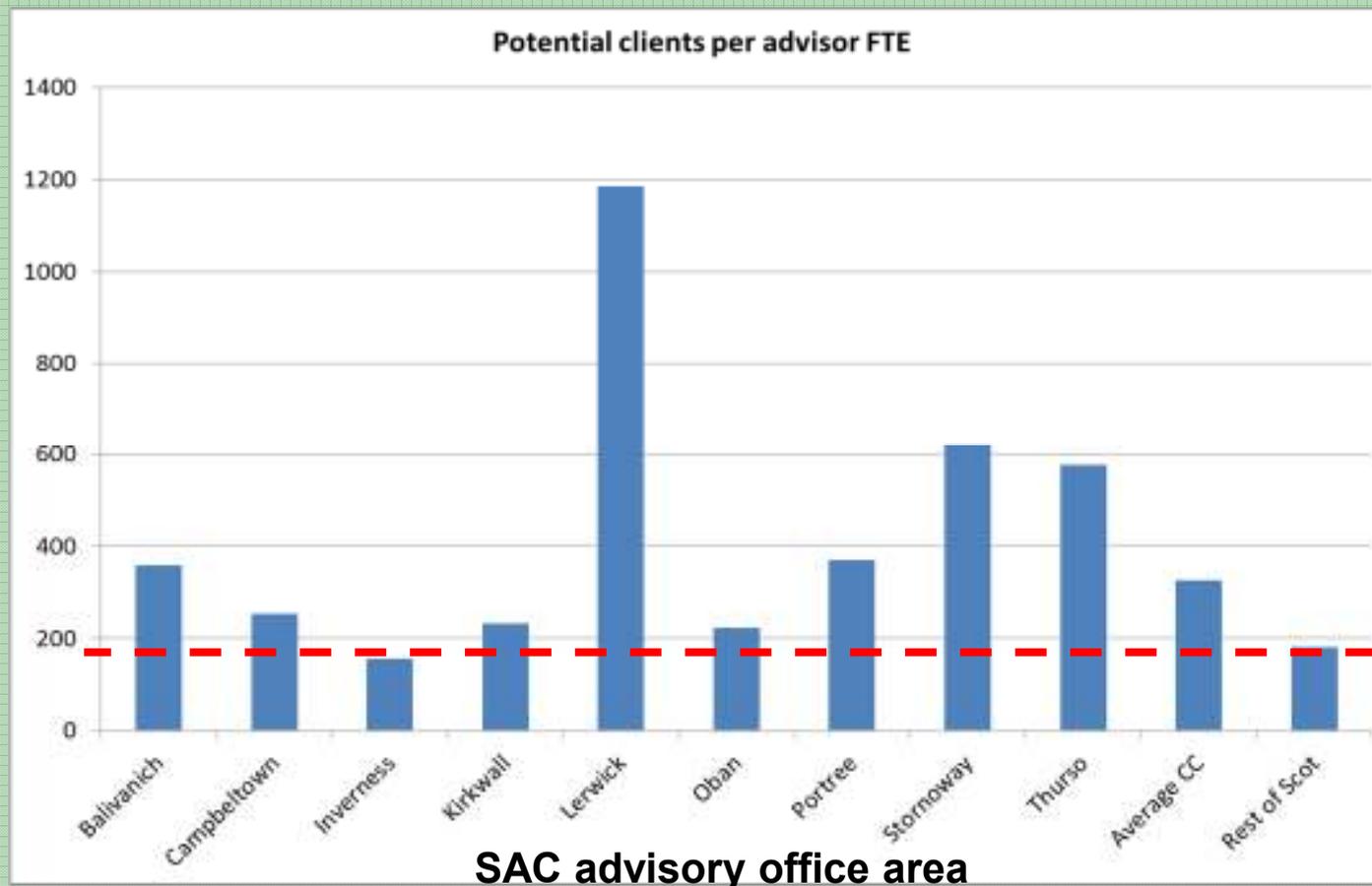
Reflections on possible future policy



- Likely to continue to need various layers of policy instruments to allow for variation and to balance targeting with wider safeguards etc.
- Opportunity for better feedback mechanism and adjustment of approach
- Continuity is to be prized when something works
- Whole system should be considered, not just selected fields – in HNV areas ALL policy should in some respects be ‘environmental policy’. No ‘pillars’, all measures ‘environmental’

'Environmental support' not just a matter of AE schemes

Advisory support another example of highly variable treatment where crofting loses out



Objectives, not measures



- Need to have mutually compatible social, economic and environmental objectives (not contradictory signals)
- Needs to have a realistic scale and to make sense 'territorially' for all areas of Scotland
- Certainly needs to consider value for money (what to pay for, what to regulate against...), but needs to be equitable and decisions need to be coherent with the objectives
- Not just 'on paper' at the start and not forgotten afterwards

Crofting Counties 'environmental support' wish list



- A rough grazing pony with a LOT more tricks! (And more coherence between instruments)
- A much much better approach to common grazings
- A recognition of the benefits and additional cost of small scale mosaics (Small Units tried, but....)
- A move towards payment by results/public goods?

Time to look at a results-based approach?



- Current approach
 - Prescription-based; commandments
 - Lose sight of objectives in favour of box ticking
 - Farmer is just an agent; little room for skills, experience; farmer's system is irrelevant
 - Experience shows there is little room for feedback/improvement
- Prescriptions sometimes work, so maybe price worth paying
- But often they don't....!!
- There is another option – 'results based'

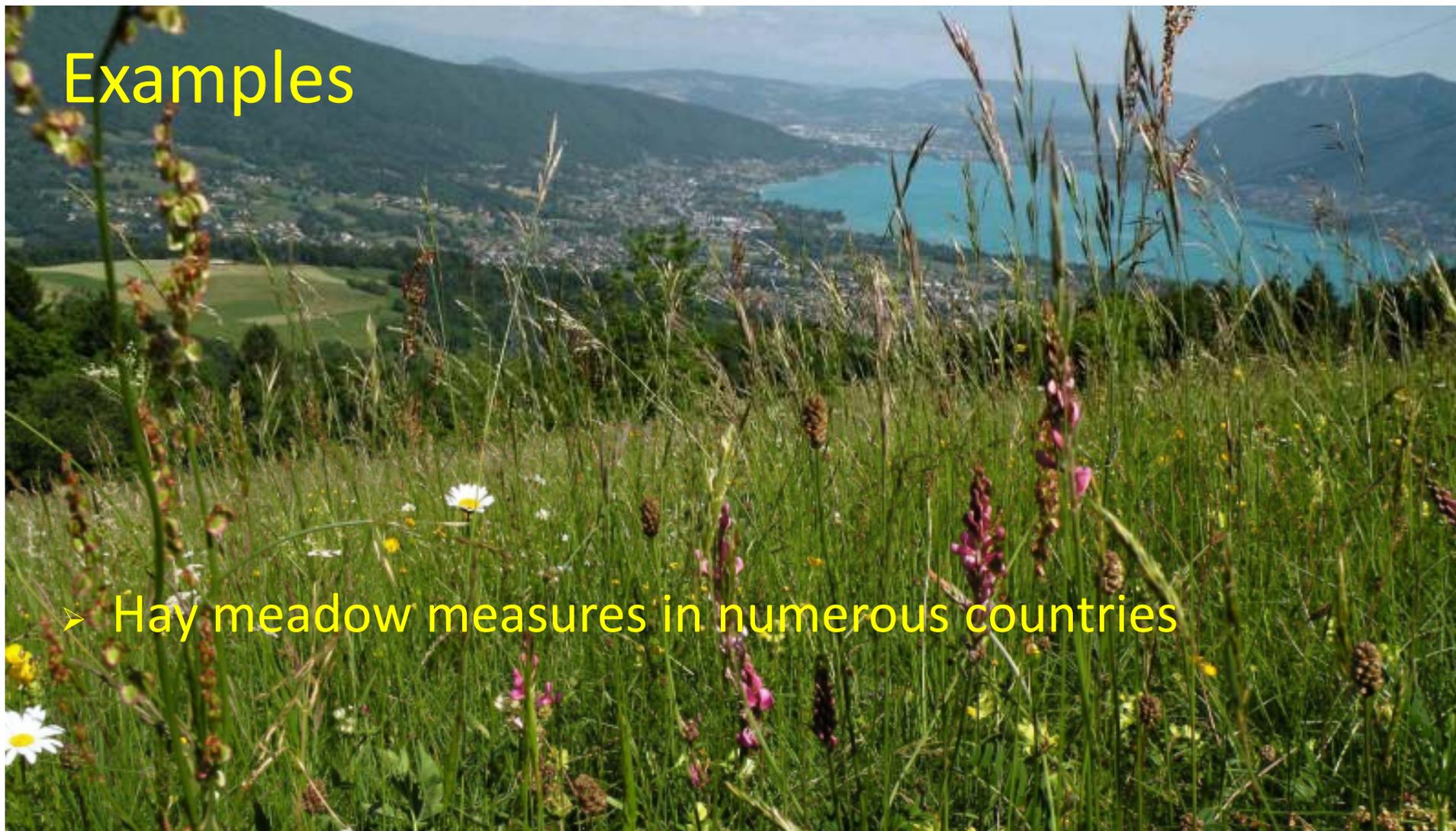
What does payments by results involve?



- Agreement of objectives at farm/parcel level
 - Objectives framed in terms comprehensible to crofter
- Objectives translated into simple assessment criteria
 - Usually, surrogates are used
 - Ideally, farmer has possibility of changing score by adjusting management
- Crofter can decide how to achieve those objectives (and choose desirable score)
- The higher the score, the higher the payment
- May have mandatory elements or penalties for very low scores, but generally depends on crofter's initiative, experience and skills
- Can be combined with other approaches, e.g. capital payments

Examples

- Hay meadow measures in numerous countries



Examples

- National results-based package in Austria, including one measure targeting whinchat



Examples

- Innovative schemes for meadow birds in the Netherlands, including some with farmers bidding for contracts



Examples



➤ The Burren

Examples



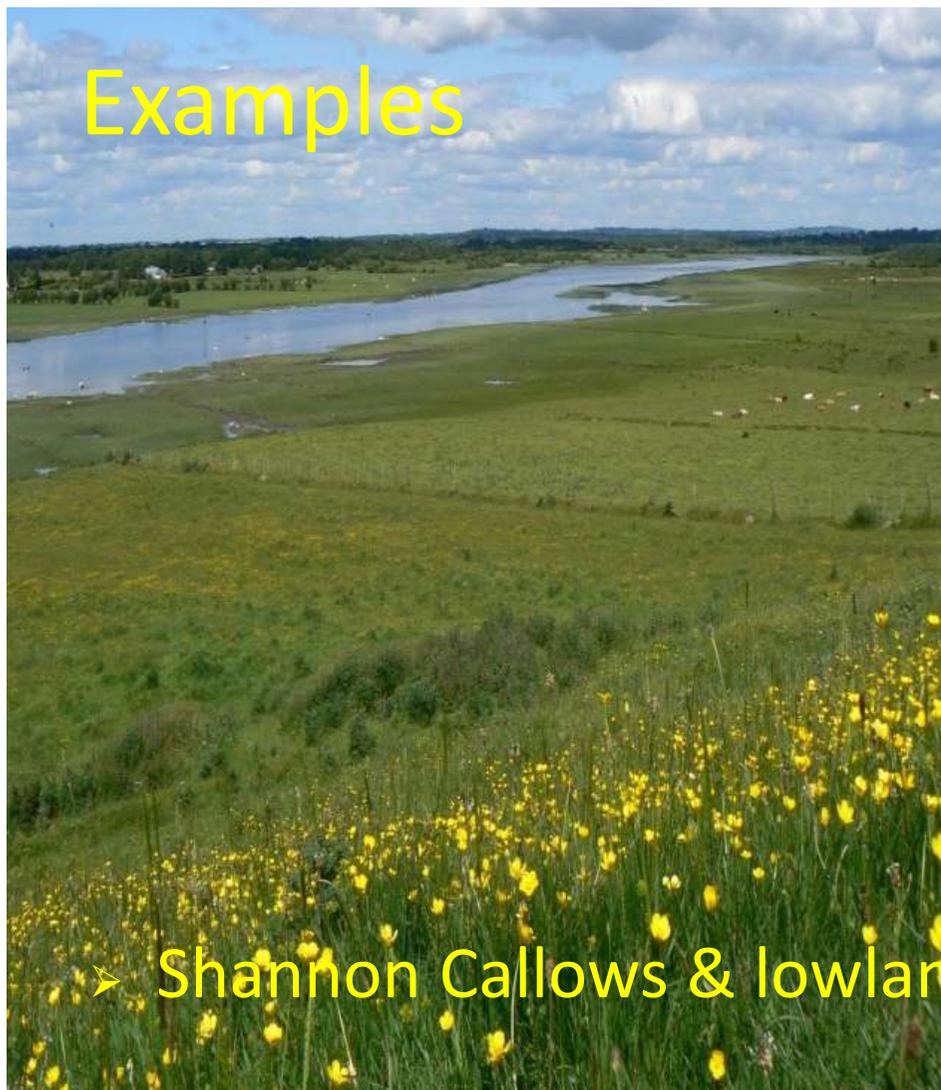
➤ AranLife

Examples



➤ Yorkshire Dales National Park

Examples



➤ Shannon Callows & lowland Leitrim, Ireland

Examples

- Approaches to predators in some countries (potential for management of other damaging species??)



Examples

- Dartmoor – only one on common land



A time to try out ideas?



- Some things easily imported from successful examples
- Most will need to be locally tailored, but by no means insurmountable
- Works best with not just local targeting but local involvement from the start
- Common grazings are particularly complex – needs more thought as well as a lot more discussion
- So time to start is now!
- Worth finding out more at least??
- Ready to help....

**If not now,
when?**

