

SUBJECT: Land Based Studies

UNIT: KS4 – Unit 201 Exploring the use of Land.



Agricultural Land

- **Arable** – Arable farming is about growing crops. These span everything from wheat, barley, oats, and other cereals to fruit, vegetables, and sugar beet.
- **Mixed** - Mixed farming generally refers to arable and pastoral farming on the same farm.
- **Livestock (Pastoral)** - Livestock is a wide-ranging industry encompassing everything from extensive hill farming of sheep to lowland dairy and beef production, and pig and poultry production.

Horticulture and Arboriculture

- The horticultural sector is a vital part of the UK economy. It contributed £4.3 billion in 2022.
- The area of woodland in the UK at 31 March 2023 is estimated to be 3.25 million hectares. This represents 13% of the total land area in the UK, 19% in Scotland, 15% in Wales, 10% in England, and 9% in Northern Ireland.

Energy and Leisure use

- Leisure activities in the UK encompass a range of activities, from sports to tourism such as; parks and green spaces, sports, tourist locations cultural and heritage sites
- The UK uses land for various types of energy production, focusing on both traditional and renewable sources.
- Quarries are areas where materials like stone, sand, gravel, and minerals are extracted from the ground. These materials are essential for construction and manufacturing.
- Water supply is vital for drinking, agriculture, industry, and maintaining natural habitats. The UK uses land in several ways to manage its water resources such as reservoirs, lakes, and rivers.

Diversification of land:

Agricultural example: Agroforestry is the growing of both trees and agricultural / horticultural crops on the same piece of land. They are designed to provide tree and other crop products and at the same time protect, conserve, diversify and sustain vital economic, environmental, human and natural resources.

Environmental Conservation

The National Trust

Sustainable Farming: The National Trust works with tenant farmers to promote sustainable farming practices that protect wildlife and improve soil health.

The Woodland Trust

Forest Restoration: The Woodland Trust focuses on protecting, restoring, and creating woodlands across the UK.

Factors affecting success or failure of land

Terrain: Lowland areas are generally flat or gently rolling, making them ideal for large-scale farming operations. This terrain allows for the use of heavy machinery, which is essential for modern farming practices like ploughing, sowing, and harvesting. Upland areas often have steep, uneven terrain, making it difficult to use machinery for farming. The slopes can also lead to faster runoff of water, which may cause soil erosion.

Soil: The soils in lowland areas are often deep and rich in nutrients. These fertile soils support the growth of a wide variety of crops. The soils in upland areas are generally thinner, rockier, and more acidic than those in the lowlands. This makes them less fertile and less suitable for growing crops.

Climate: Lowland regions usually experience milder temperatures and more consistent rainfall compared to upland areas. This results in longer growing seasons, which is advantageous for crop production. Upland areas typically experience cooler temperatures, which can limit the growing season and the types of crops that can be cultivated.

Who is responsible for managing land in the UK:

Government: The UK government plays a crucial role in managing land across the country. Through various policies, regulations, and initiatives, the government influences how land is used, developed, and conserved.

NGOs: RSPCA, RSPB,

Other: Vets, Feed merchants