

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

3 November 2020

From Chris Caswill

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning,
Development Management and Investment**

Item 5 – Public Participation

Question 1

How many farms does the Council own in the area on the left bank of the River Avon, north of the A4, between Chippenham and Bremhill?

Please list them, with the acreage of each?

Response

There are 4 farms to the North of the A4 between Chippenham and Bremhill as follows:

Hardens Farm No.1 – 80.75 acres (equipped farm)

Hardens Farm No.3 - 114.26 acres (equipped farm)

Hither Farm – 120.66 acres (bare land let as 4 parcels)

Forest Gate Farm – 169.95 (bare land)

Question 2

a) Have you read the CPRE 2019 report on Reviving County Farms?

b) Do you agree with its recommendations?

c) Would you not agree that local farms like these have a vital role to play in feeding the local community, especially when food imports could be disrupted and made more expensive after the Interim Brexit Arrangements end on December 31?

Response

a) Yes

b) Of the three recommendations only one refers specifically to Local Authorities actions. In relation to that recommendation the Council's County Farms Estate is managed in accordance with the Rural Estate Asset Management Framework which was ratified by Council in August 2019 before the CPRE was published.

c) The Council's farms are let to tenants who are already actively supplying the food chain via their own supply contracts and sales. We cannot comment on

the impact of the role of these particular farms in feeding the local community, however based on the scale and quality of the land in question the impact is likely to be negligible.