

What Drives Me

I am a passionate agroecological farmer, trying my utmost to farm in harmony with nature as much as I possibly can.

My biggest driver in all this is real food. Food, prepared well, with lots of bioavailable nutrition has the chance to really positively change how we manage our landscape in its entirety. This point about food is one of the key tenets of agroecology – thinking about the market and knowing where my produce is going.

A simple example of this is milling wheat. If you wash your hands of the processing of that wheat as soon as it exits by the farm gate, you don't know whether it is destined for nutritious sourdough, or Chorley-Wood supermarket bread. One is great for human health, the other is mostly just calories... But if we target only that nutritious market, we need much less land with which to grow our food. Leaving space for nature to do its thing.

My primary obsession comes about from trying to ensure that nature has access to every single part of my farm, such that its benefits can be truly felt, and biodiversity can really begin to sing. I am tackling this issue by implementing a wild seam and wild margins in my fields, which can act as nature superhighways.

I am also aiming to maximise my edge effect – the place where all the cool nature happens. This I am doing by planning a number of ponds and water features strategically across the farm, as well as dividing my fields up into 36m wide micro-fields, divided by belts of trees and wild grasses & flowers.

I genuinely cannot wait for my plans to be totally implemented over the next five or so years. What I have already done has had tremendous ecological benefits. And that is just a drop in the ocean for what is to come!