



Larking Gowen

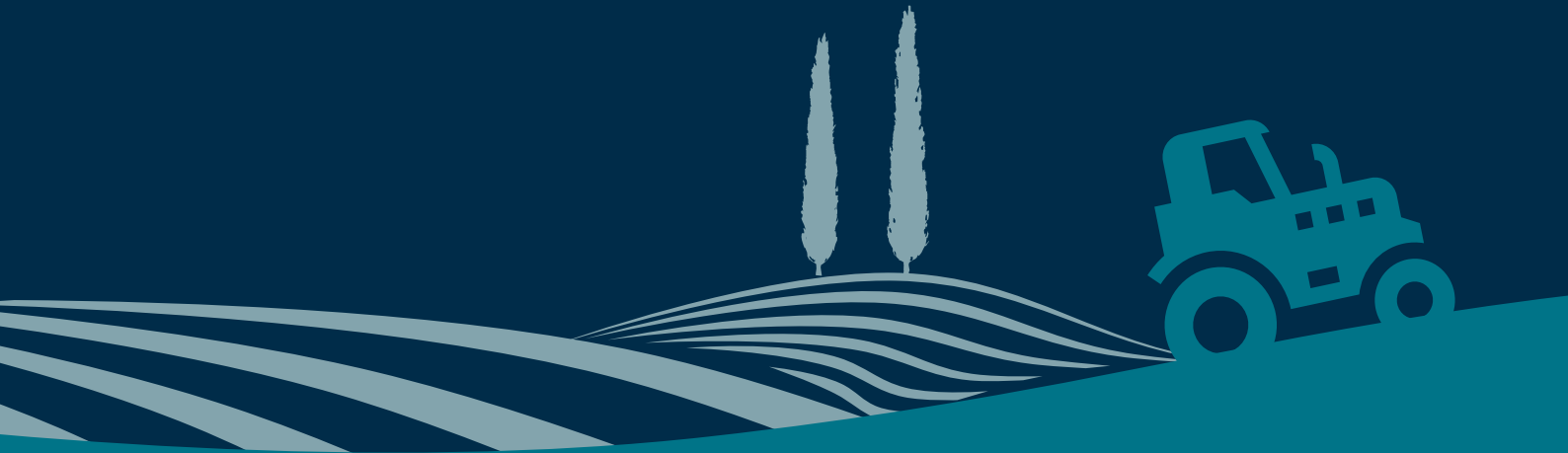
Autumn Farming Conference



In partnership with the



5 November 2024, All Saints Hotel, Bury St Edmunds



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This year's chosen charities



Programme

Registration & coffee

7:45am

Welcome

Bruce Masson, Larking Gowen & Cath Crowther, CLA

Political update

Gavin Lane, CLA Deputy President

Environment & biodiversity net gain

Abigail Maynard and Emma Griffiths, Brown&Co

Sustainability & reporting

Michelle Masson

Coffee break

10:15am

ESG panel discussion

Michelle Masson, Cath Crowther, Abigail Maynard & Emma Griffiths, chaired by Laurie Hill

Diversification & succession

Sam Steggles, Goat Shed

Farming

Edward Vipond, Troston Farms

Risk/insurance/Inheritance Tax/succession planning/Furnished Holiday Let

Alan Boswell Group & Bruce Masson, Larking Gowen

Lunch & networking

13:15pm

Close

14:30pm

Introduction

Welcome to the third Larking Gowen Autumn Farming Conference event!

Within our digital brochure you'll find the full programme, more information on our speakers and how you can participate throughout the day.

Bruce Masson and Laurie Hill, Larking Gowen Partners, will host today's event, joined by Cath Crowther, CLA, as chair. Bruce has 20 years' experience as a Chartered Accountant and is a Partner in the firm's Farms and Rural Business team. Bruce works with businesses ranging from small family farms to landed estates, assisting them with all aspects of accountancy, taxation and advisory. He joined the firm in January 2018, and became a Partner on 1 April 2019, having previously been at a national firm. Bruce was key to the conception of the Autumn Farming Conference, identifying the need to bring the farming community together.

Laurie joined the firm in April 2019 and was appointed as a Partner in the Farms and Rural Business team in 2023. He spent the earlier years of his career working across our Corporate Audit and Advisory and Farms & Rural Business teams, acting as an agricultural specialist. He gained experience in accounting and financial reporting on the international stage during a previous secondment to New Zealand. Laurie is passionate about agriculture and owner-managed businesses, with a vested interest in farming, as he remains involved in running the family farm at his home in mid-Norfolk. He is also a Trustee for the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association. Laurie works with a variety of businesses of sole traders, partnerships and companies, assisting them with all aspects of accountancy, taxation and advisory. Laurie is heavily involved in ESG (environmental, social and governance) and has been key to implementing the Larking Gowen strategy: Laurie will chair this section of today's event.

The agricultural industry faces challenges on many fronts. With a new Government in place and the agricultural transition now in full flow, Cath Crowther will discuss the risks and potential opportunities these changes will have for farmers, landowners and rural businesses. The rural economy is 16% less productive than the national average. Cath will discuss how, if that gap were closed, up to £43bn could be added to the Gross Value Added (GVA) of England alone. She will highlight the importance of making sure there's a profitable and sustainable farming industry and how land managers can be part of the solution in tackling climate change. Cath will lay out how a thriving rural economy can be achieved by fixing a broken planning system, improving digital connectivity in rural areas, working on skills and innovation, simplifying the tax regime and how there needs to be more joined-up thinking between government departments.

Throughout the day, we encourage you to participate through using Slido, the interactive app, to take part in polls and ask questions. Please click the link below to join the conversation. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

We hope you enjoy the day.

Larking Gowen team



Bruce Masson
Larking Gowen



Laurie Hill
Larking Gowen



Cath Crowther
CLA



Click [here](#) to
access slido



Join the WiFi
All Saints Hotel –
no password needed!

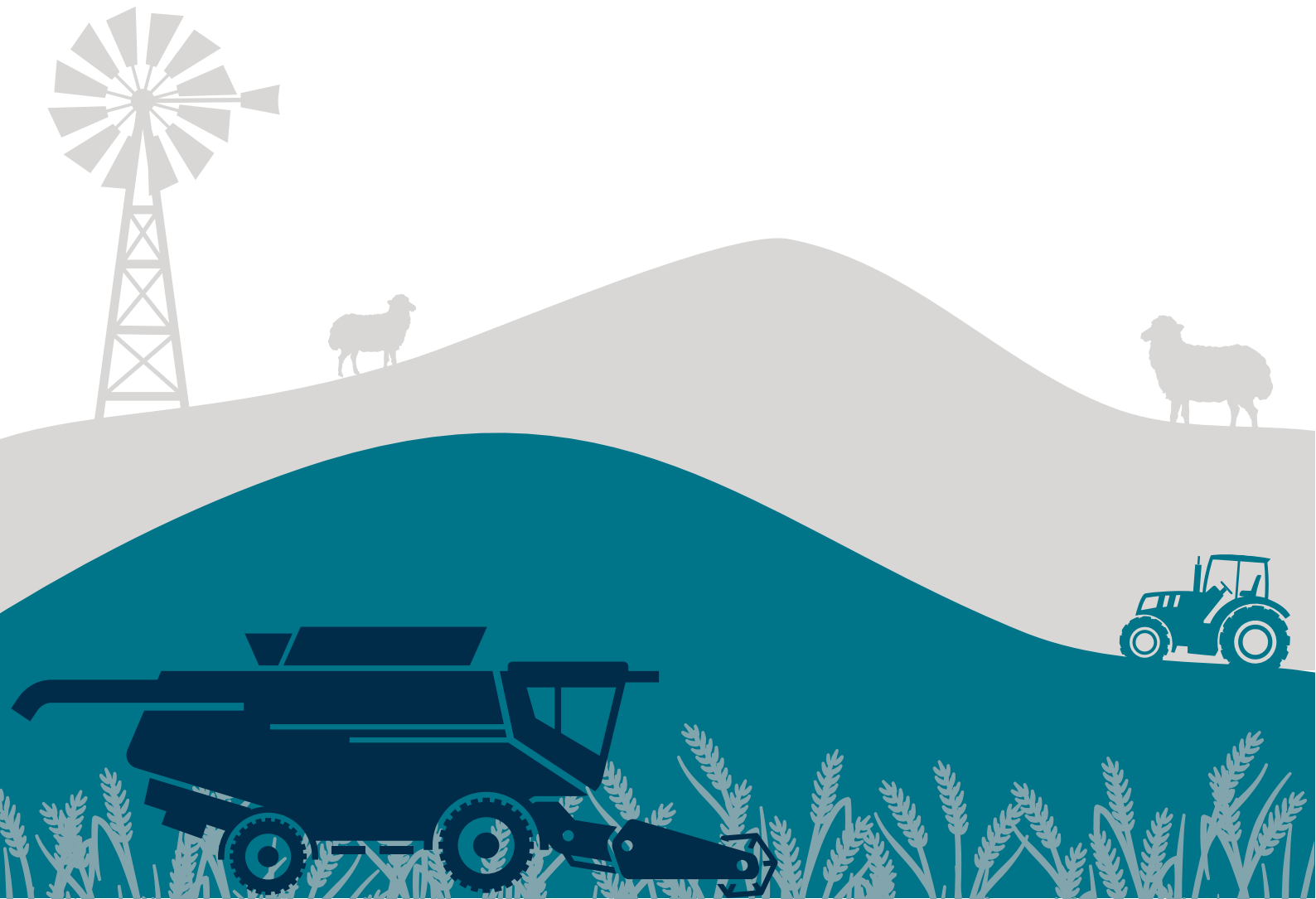


Political update

Gavin Lane, CLA Deputy President, will join us and give an outline of the current political situation following last week's Autumn Budget

Gavin grew up on his family farm on the edge of King's Lynn in Norfolk. At 25, he started farming on a contract farming arrangement with his father and now owns and farms land on two separate arable farms, both with large countryside stewardship schemes and using regenerative farming practices. He is involved with a family residential property portfolio and with his wife, Jane, has diversified into a holiday cottage letting business.

Within the CLA, he was chair of Business & Rural Economy Committee (BREC), chair of the Norfolk Branch and was previously chair of Agriculture and Land Use and also sat on Policy Committee. He has also chaired the Education Committee of the Worshipful Company of Farmers and is a Nuffield Scholar.



Session 1

Topic: Environment & biodiversity net gain

Speakers: Abigail Maynard & Emma Griffiths, Brown&Co

Emma and Abigail from Brown&Co will be discussing agri-environment and associated points to consider on biodiversity net gain/nutrient neutrality/planning and other practical planning points for farmers and landowners to consider on the topic.

About Emma:

Emma joined Brown&Co in 2019, having completed her Masters in Town Planning at Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford. She previously worked as a Planner within a multi-disciplinary consultancy practice, focusing primarily on small-scale residential development.

Since joining Brown&Co Emma has been elected as a Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, and has developed a particular interest in matters concerning biodiversity net gain and net zero.

She manages a wide range of projects, from development appraisals to major residential and commercial schemes, delivering work on behalf of a variety of clients including farming estates, developers, charities and councils.



About Abigail:

Abigail joined Brown&Co in 2015 and is based in East Anglia, predominately working in Norfolk. Abigail is one of the agri-environmental specialists within the Firm.

Abigail has extensive knowledge of past Agri-Environmental schemes and the current Countryside Stewardship schemes.

She has successfully applied for Mid-Tier, Higher-Tier, Water Capital Grants and Wildlife offers including arable, mixed and lowland grassland stewardship agreements.



Topic: Sustainability & reporting Speaker: Michelle Masson

Michelle Masson will discuss the 'why' and 'how' of 'sustainability & carbon reporting', a new area for many in the farming industry, with advice on how to get started and planning for the future.

Michelle has worked across many sectors in recent years providing support in Streamlined Energy & Carbon Reporting (SECR), reporting and developing baseline carbon reporting.

Michelle will discuss sustainability v ESG (environmental, social & governance), rapid changes in reporting requirements, identifying risks and opportunities, together with customers requesting Sustainability Policy and Carbon Calculations.

Michelle will also talk about organisational boundaries in this regard, Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions, baseline/reporting period, materiality of influence and impact, accuracy and repeatability of data, where to start, conversion factors and sequestration.



Coffee break

10:15am

ESG (environmental, social and governance) panel discussion

As the ESG lead at Larking Gowen, Laurie Hill will host this session and be joined on stage by Cath Crowther, Michelle Masson, Abigail Maynard and Emma Griffiths. Each expert will talk around this hot topic from their perspective, covering how to start implementing an ESG strategy and why you need one.

The panel will be open for questions.



Session 2

Topic: Diversification & succession Speaker: Sam Steggles, Goat Shed

Sam Steggles, owner of the Goat Shed, will be talking about farm diversification and the success behind the newly expanded farm shop and kitchen.

Sam will share his experiences, along with everything he has learnt in his time running the business, including advice on what he would do differently if he were to start again.

About Sam:

Sam worked with his grandfather, one of the first people in the country to import Simmental cattle from Switzerland to the UK, at his farm in Wacton, South Norfolk. They would breed the cattle, and at the age of 12, Sam's parents bought him a Jersey cow called 'Sophie' for Christmas. Sam bred Sophie and started his journey selling cows, sheep, rabbits and pheasants.

The Goat Shed story began with a family holiday to Cumbria, which saw Sam, his wife Caroline and their baby son return home to Norfolk with a herd of ten goats. Sam started milking the goats and experimenting with making cheese, and it wasn't long before the cheese production was moved to Honingham. By 2018, Fielding Cottage was producing 12 tonnes of Wensum White and Norfolk Mardler goat's cheese each year which were stocked by local restaurants, pubs and delis.

In November 2019, Sam was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship for sustainable food business growth. He intended to travel around the world, but the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to this. Sam decided to use the business to support the community by sourcing and supplying products the supermarkets couldn't... and the Goat Shed was born!

The rest of the story can be found throughout the timeline on our website: [About the Goat Shed \(goat-shed.co.uk\)](https://goat-shed.co.uk)



Topic: Farming Speaker: Edward Vipond, Troston Farms

How Troston Farms is managing cropping risk on a wide range of soil types with the backdrop of no direct support.

About Edward:

Edward Vipond is the third generation to farm in Suffolk and manages Troston Farms near Bury St Edmunds. Edward attended Moulton College & Aberdeen SAC, thereafter working for Velcourt for 14 years across the East of England.

A spell in Gloucestershire followed, managing what turned into two estates in the county and two in Scotland,

before returning to Suffolk. Edward completed a Nuffield Scholarship in 2004, travelling across Australia, North America and Europe.

Troston Farms spans 1800ha spread across 22 miles, with soil types ranging from heavy clay to blowing Breckland sand. The farm grows a range of combinable crops including milling and feed wheat, milling rye, sugar beet, forage maize, forage rye, beans and, more recently, sunflowers.

Spread across the farming business are two Countryside Stewardship schemes spanning over 50 hectares which include habitats for ground nesting birds, rare arable weeds and many other species of flora and fauna.



Topic: Risk/insurance/Inheritance Tax/succession planning/ Furnished Holiday Let

Speakers: Alan Boswell Group & Bruce Masson, Larking Gowen

Bruce Masson will be joined by the team from Alan Boswell Group to discuss issues around Inheritance Tax and strategies to mitigate potential liabilities, enabling a plan for long-term succession. We'll also look at the insurance requirements of businesses in an ever-increasing world of red tape and the types of insurance cover that are required for a business in the current climate.

Gavin Dearsley, David Jacob, Sally Key and Marc Ward, Alan Boswell Group, will all share their expertise within the field.

About Gavin Dearsley, Director:

Gavin started at Alan Boswell Insurance Brokers Ltd as Risk Management Adviser in 2016, having spent five years at NFU Mutual where he was Senior Health & Safety Consultant for the East Region. A Chartered Safety & Health Practitioner and Biosafety Practitioner, Gavin has more than 20 years' experience in a variety of areas including risk management, health and safety, fire safety, facilities and environmental management.

Gavin offers risk management support to clients across many business sectors, including farming, engineering and construction. His experience in renewable energy, such as anaerobic digestion, and complex risks (including chemicals/pharmaceuticals manufacturing) allows Gavin to offer a wide range of services to our clients.



About David Jacob, Branch Director:

David has more than 20 years' experience in the industry and started his career in commercial claims for Sun Alliance. During that time, he dealt with some of the most significant incidents, including the October 1987 storms and Bishopsgate Bombing in 1993.

David moved across to broking in 1997 and continued with claims, accepting the position of Group Claims Manager for Alliance Insurance Management. The most challenging period was the July 2005 London Bombings when David was instrumental in obtaining Business Interruption settlements for clients when the general insurance market was denying any cover existed.

With the experience gained from resolving claims issues, David knows the benefit of having the correct cover in place. His current role as Branch Director focuses on seeking out new opportunities to show others what the Group is capable of when it comes to risk management.



About Sally Key, Director:

Sally is a Director of the Financial Planning team, having joined in 2011 from Barclays Wealth. Sally has a wide breadth of experience spanning 27 years, providing holistic advice and specialising in pensions, investments, Inheritance Tax planning, and tax planning.

Sally started her career at Norwich Union in 1996, where she was trained as a pension transfer specialist, before joining Barclays Wealth in 2004, assisting high-net-worth clients with their private banking and wealth management.

Sally holds an advanced pension qualification, allowing her to advise in specialist areas, such as SSAS and pension transfers, and works closely with professional connections and clients, making sure she understands clients' needs and objectives to deliver a plan to achieve their long-term goals.



About Marc Ward, Chartered Financial Planner:

Marc is a holder of the CII's Advanced Business Financial Planning qualification with knowledge of the tax and legal aspects of business. Marc's experience in business specific insurance and investment products, company tax planning, and his keen interest in planning for the business sector, has him well positioned to provide a holistic and rounded service to entrepreneurs and business owners.

Marc is a fellow of the Personal Finance Society and a Chartered Financial Planner. He is able to offer advice in pensions, investments, company schemes, and personal insurances. With his experience in personal pensions, auto-enrolment, defined & safeguarded benefits, SIPPs & SSASs, and hybrid schemes, he has a solid grasp of the pension environment for both corporate and individual clients.




Lunch & networking

13:15pm



Close

14:30pm



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with land use, planning,
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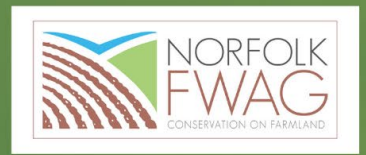
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 - Futureproof your farm, through accessing regional and topical Norfolk FWAG projects
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 - Access the latest policy, funding, and news updates through our newsletters
- and much more...

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- Stewardship Schemes - including Sustainable Farming Incentive applications
 - Woodland Planting & Management - exclusive fully funded EWCO support available
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 - Surveys & Management Plans (e.g. habitats, species, hedgerow, etc)
 - Pond Restoration - fully funded works through District Level Licensing
- and much more...

Enhanced Membership

£330 + VAT

includes a half day visit!



Contact Nathan@norfolkfwag.co.uk to learn more



Thank you for attending the Autumn Farming Conference, we'd love to hear your thoughts on the day and how you think we can improve for next year.

Please click [here](#) to leave your feedback.



We'll take care of business

To find out more contact:

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Regional Head of Agriculture - England

oliver.maxey@cybg.com
07884 117825

It's really important to us to have a specialist team who understand the challenges within agriculture. We have a long history of supporting our farming customers as they look to adapt their businesses to deal with the challenges ahead. Our team of Agricultural Managers are based throughout the UK and are always on hand to provide advice and support to help our customers thrive.

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tax planning or succession?

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every stage.

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 **Larking Gowen**

How can we help you?

We review the whole financial structure of our clients' farming and business enterprises regularly, to understand their needs, aims and future aspirations. In addition to the standard accountancy and tax compliance services we provide to our clients, we routinely perform specialist services such as:



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