

# Future of Causeway Farm



18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# Plan for this evening

- Brief overview of Suffolk County Council's County Farms estate
- Policy context
- Causeway Farm
- Group discussion
- Discussion in tables
- Feedback
- Next steps

# Suffolk County Council's Farms



- 4,960 hectares
- 127 farms
- £1m revenue pa
- Raised £9m through sales in last 10 years

Causeway Farm

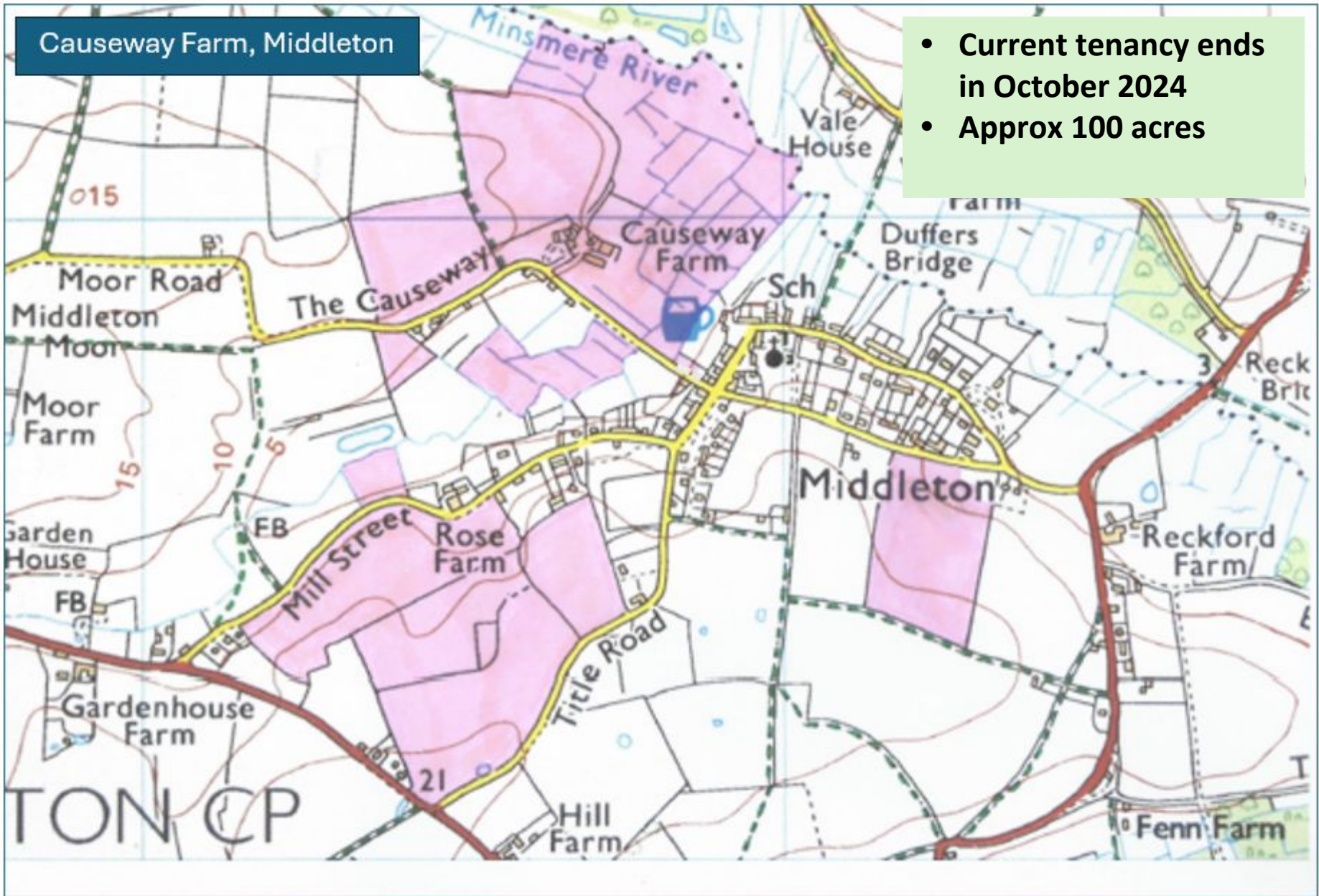
# The County Farms Estate - Future direction

## Some key points

- Informs policy until 2029
- Run the estate commercially
- Complement council's strategic priorities
  - Economic growth
  - Social capital
  - Greenest county
  - Sites for new development
- Commercially focused
  - commercial approach to promoting potential development sites (residential, commercial and industrial), to include renewable energy projects, and to work with tenants and partners, including District and Parish Councils where appropriate
  - Farm Diversification...promote tenant-led diversification (subject to a suitable business plan)
- ...supporting additional public access
- ...actively endorsed Care Farm initiatives...and will continue to do so.
- ...promote and support alternative (green) energy solutions
- ...to manage existing and to plant new woodland...
- ...promote use of environmental land management to improve both biodiversity and permissive access

Causeway Farm, Middleton

- Current tenancy ends in October 2024
- Approx 100 acres



# Questions for tables

1. Would it be a good idea for the Parish to be involved in the management, or possibly ownership, of part or all of Causeway Farm, for instance the Hastoe field?
2. Do residents think it would be a good idea to develop a care farm or similar social enterprise at Causeway Farm?
3. Should the Suffolk Wildlife Trust be invited to play a part in the management of part or all of the farm?
4. Is improved public access (e.g. permissive paths) and/or rights of way of any interest?
5. What is your feeling about further housing development and/or the possible sale of the farm buildings for conversion?
6. Should Causeway Farm be re-let as a farm/smallholding
7. Would you be agreeable to the county council selling off parts or all of the farm?

## Next steps

1. Write up feedback from this meeting and emails
2. Send to everyone and ask for any further comments
3. Prepare paper to send to SCC with recommendations for what we would like SCC to consider
4. Keep everyone informed via village newsletter