



Slow Food in the UK

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Fed up with the rain? Heat
and drought are mere
months away...





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Apart from emptying the compost bin from the kitchen, there is no point going to our allotment. The rainfall of the recent weeks and the failure of the developer to install a working drainage system have turned our vegetable beds into lakes. All our efforts to improve the soil by feeding the underground livestock of earthworms, microorganisms and fungi will have been in vain. As I find my way through the mud I think back to the summer mornings when I got up at 5am to water for a good hour. Will I be back doing that again in a few months' time, during another summer of record heat?

Grim reading

I'm extremely lucky to have an allotment, it's a pastime and a pleasure, mostly. I don't work it for a living as a farmer would. At the end of December, the government finally published the Farm Profitability Review compiled by former NFU president Baroness Minette Batters and therefore usually just referred to as 'the Batter's Report'. For the financial year 2023 – 2024 average farms in England made a loss by farming, income came from non-farm activities such as having an "event barn" and hosting birthday and wedding parties. "Analysis