

Delivery Plan for Environmental Land Management in National Parks

This document is 1 of a suite of [4 interconnected and interrelated workstreams](#) that have been devised by the English National Park Authorities in response to the [25 Year Environment Plan](#)



Our Vision: National Parks in England to be celebrated as living, working landscapes where sustainable farming and land management systems deliver a wide range of public goods; farmers receive a sustainable and realistic income, and National Park Authorities (NPAs) play a central role in shaping those systems for a ‘triple dividend’: enhanced environment, improved productivity and more vibrant communities.

We will achieve this by:

- Collaboratively working with farmers, land managers, Defra and other partners to develop an effective Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMS) and increase understanding of and buy-in to future farming policy and its focus on delivery of public goods, through supporting Tests and Trials, the National Pilot, and the traditional buildings restoration pilot.
- Linking national priorities to the local context, through an enhanced management plan approach that forms the basis of spatial prioritization within ELMs and links with nature recovery and other public benefits.
- Ensuring that the current investment in agri-environment and Basic Payment, estimated at £150m per annum across all English National Parks, is sustained but focused on ‘public payments for public benefits’ that support viable farm businesses.
- Developing the model of NPAs as ‘environmental brokers’, blending public-private and green finance, contributing to resilient rural communities and economies.

Over the next 10 years, these initiatives will enable:

- **National Parks to be priority areas within ELMS** – where applications receive a priority weighting or identified nature recovery ideas and other key public goods are allocated ring-fenced budget.
- **ELMS to provide funding for delivery of a broad range of public benefits that include cultural as well as natural capital** – ELMS will be a key tool to both manage and enhance natural and

cultural heritage and improve public understanding of, access to and involvement with natural beauty.

- **ELMS to be a tool for economic, social and environmental well-being** – an integrated approach to ELMS, facilitated at a local level has the potential to ensure investment in ELMS can deliver economic and social as well as environmental benefits. An initial investment of £150m in ELMS could, through local integration and facilitation deliver a wider economic benefit of £300m per annum.
- **Priorities to be identified and agreed at a local level within a national framework** - a formal role for National Park Management Plans within ELMS, and beyond, to determine how national and local priorities can be delivered with spatial priorities informing individual land management plans (as the potential application mechanism for ELM) and landscape scale action.
- **Resources for advice and facilitation** – dedicated farm advice and facilitation resource in each National Park working with farmers and land managers and across our boundaries with AONB partners to deliver better outcomes.
- **Farmers and other land managers to be engaged in design, delivery and monitoring of ELM** – they are empowered and supported with technical advice and support to ensure that the environment is as much a part of their business as food production.
- **The National Park brand to be recognized as a ‘quality mark’ for environmental management and high-quality food production.**
- **NPAs to have a key role as ‘environmental brokers’** – linking buyers (public and private sector) of environmental goods with potential providers (landowners, managers and farmers).
- **A clear and effective regulatory baseline** – that protects the natural beauty and environment of National Parks and statutory rights of access.
- **Public support** – the wider public are aware of, understand and support the role of NPAs, farmers and land managers in the caring for the National Park special qualities and the payment of public funds for public good delivery.



Clean & plentiful water



Clean air



Thriving plants & wildlife



Adaptation/mitigation
of climate change



Reduction/protection
from flooding



Beauty, heritage, access
& engagement

We will monitor progress against this Plan and undertake a light-touch review each year.

How can you help?

- **Better data and information** – Government departments and agencies to provide NPAs with improved data.
- **Working together** - to support the transition to a new farming system that delivers high quality food, environmental and other benefits and farmers/land managers are empowered to deliver and receive a fair payment for public benefits.
- **Working with government** - to ensure the current level of investment is at least sustained and re-focused on ELMS and that ELMS is clearly integrated with other funding sources and a new regulatory framework.
- **Building support and understanding** – within the farming community, across all stakeholders and amongst the public about the role of farming/land management in managing and enhancing our National Parks.