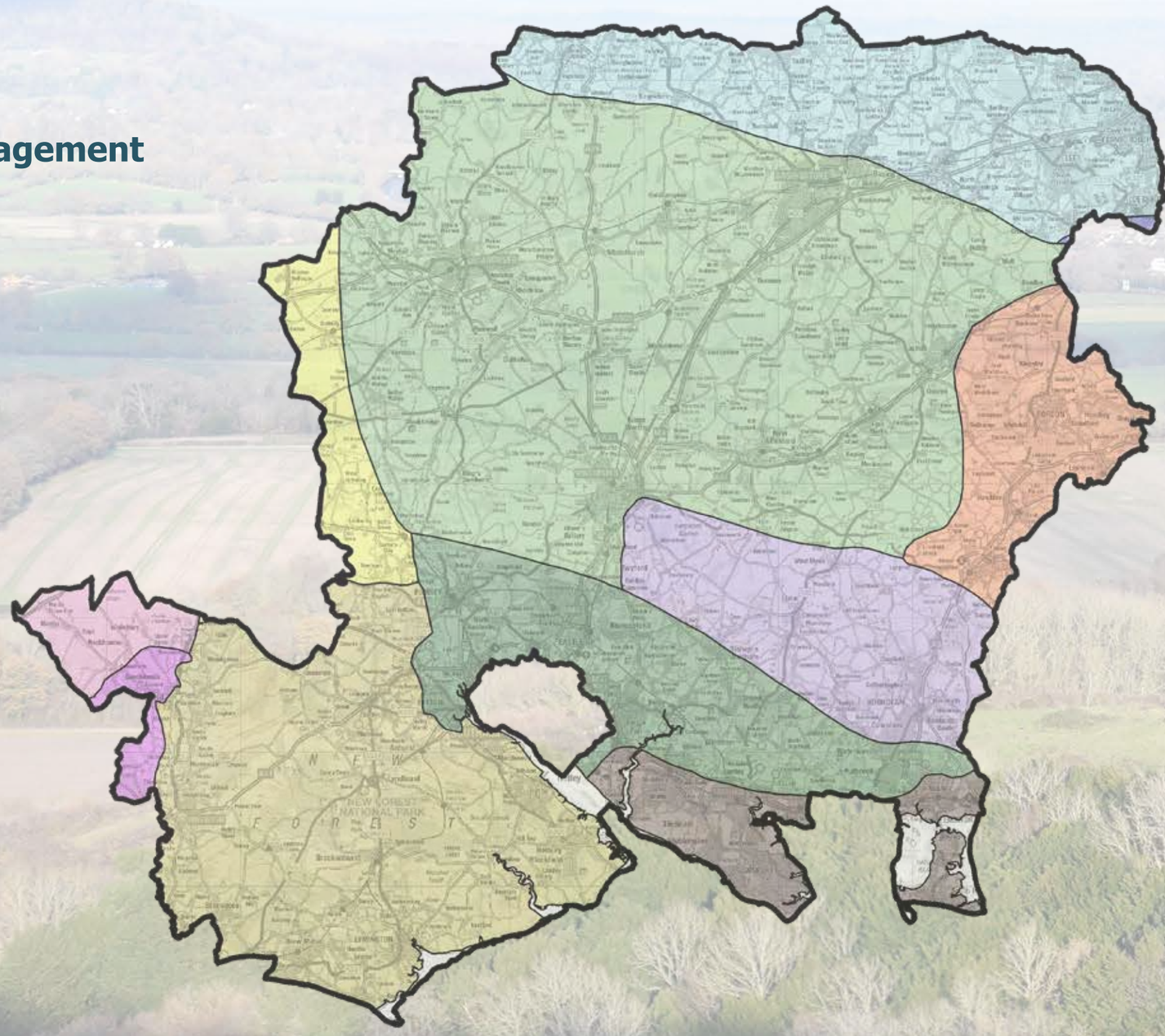
Farming in Hampshire:

National Pilot - Test and trialling a local governance of Environmental Land Management

ELM Convenor Advisory Board, Sponsored by Defra

Document 2 of 7



2 Land Management Framework Summary

by The terra firma Consultancy

terrafirma LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS · eftec economics for the environment · Environment SYSTEMS data services · Land App · Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Hampshire Convenor

NCA Landscape Management Framework 2024

This report contains the following information produced to guide the ELMs test and trial:

Schedule of Statutory Obligations;

Reference list of relevant legislation; and

Executive summaries and schedule of advisory actions for each of the ten National Character Areas covering the county of Hampshire:

NCA 120	Wealden Greensand
NCA 125	South Downs
NCA 126	South Coast Plain
NCA 128	South Hampshire Lowlands
NCA 129	Thames Basin Heaths
NCA 130	Hampshire Downs
NCA 131	New Forest
NCA 132	Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs
NCA 134	Dorset Downs and Cranbourne Chase
NCA 135	Dorset Heaths

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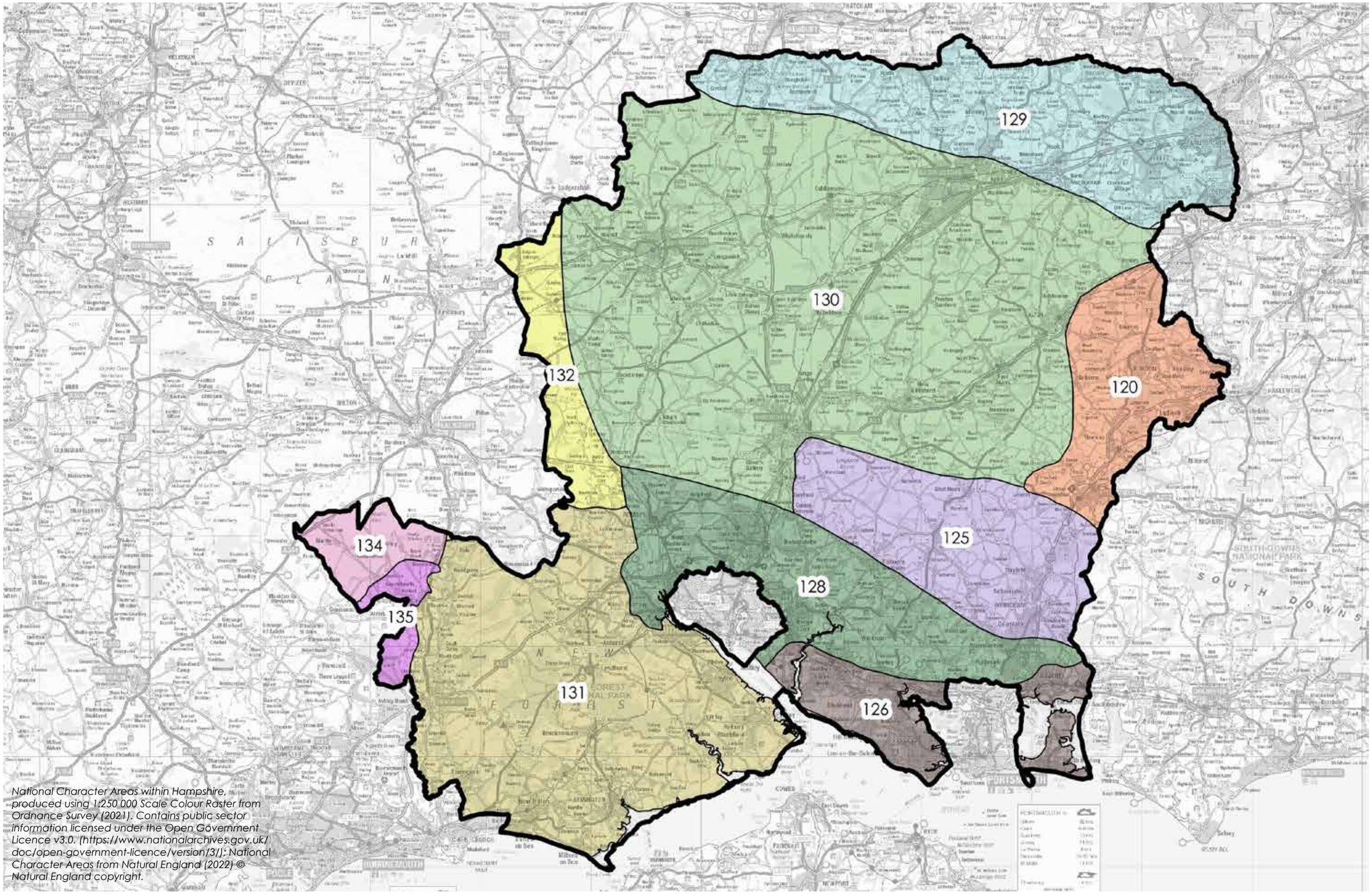
Map created for the 10 National Character Areas (NCAs) of Hampshire



National Character Areas within Hampshire, produced using 1:250,000 Scale Colour Raster from Ordnance Survey (2021). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. (https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/); National Character Areas from Natural England (2022) © Natural England copyright.

Schedule of Statutory Obligations

HAMPSHIRE ELM'S TEST AND TRIAL
IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE LANDSCAPE

Statutory Obligations

Table of Contents

Reference number	Activity	Reference / Outcome delivers / information For LandApp tool	Regulatory compliance
	SOILS **Using resources from nature sustainably** **Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides**		
	Protecting soil microbial health		
(1)	Comply with Code of Practice (SUiAR) if intending to spread biosolids Sludge enhancement to soils.	(Houses of Commons – Soil Health) (Farming rules for water) (Sludge Used in agriculture Regulations 1989) East Hampshire: Improve land and soils objective	Statutory obligation
	Reducing soil compaction (minimising disturbance)		
(2)	Land must be cultivated in such a way that minimises the risk of soil loss from surface water erosion leading to sediments (pollution entering the water environment	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
	Reducing Nitrates		
(3)	If the land is within Southern Water catchment consider Southern Water's Nitrate Measures Initiative 2023 / 24 Measure 1: Nitrogen Reduction Toolkit Advice and yield mapping: Support for Variable Rates of Nitrogen application, and / or variable seed rates, as recommended by their precision farming service provider.	Protects the chalk aquifer and reduce nitrate leaching into groundwater.	Statutory obligation
	Reducing fertiliser applications		
(4)	Obtain appropriate permits from EA if generating copious quantities of manure. pig farming, poultry farming.	(Environmental permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016 (EPR)) (EA 2020 Strategy for safe & sustainable sludge	Statutory obligation
(5)	If farmland is outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) and Vulnerable Drinking Water Areas: reduce fertiliser usage to meet EIP 2023 targets. avoid spreading manufactured fertiliser to fields at high-risk times. application of sewage sludge, waste soil or compost complying with Regulations and Code of Practice.	All NCA's (Farming Rules for Water in England 2018) (The Water Environment (WFD) (England & Wales) Regulations 2017 Climate Change Committee (2020) Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK)	Statutory obligation
	Reducing Pesticide use		
(6)	Undertake controlled and targeted pesticide application.	to meet UK Net Zero targets	Statutory obligation

	SUPPORTING FARMLAND WILDLIFE ALONGSIDE FOOD PRODUCTION **Thriving plants and wildlife** **Enhancing Biodiversity**		
	Calcareous species-rich grassland / Lowland dry acid grassland	Low national Sensitivity classification. Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	Most of the habitats mentioned below have some protection through the EIA (Agriculture) Regs and through being S41 habitats (NERC Act).
	Native scrub		
	Arable field margins	Low national Sensitivity classification. NE Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	
	Native scrub		
	Semi natural grassland		
	Lowland meadow	Low national Sensitivity classification. NE Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	
	Hay meadows		
	Calcareous species-rich grassland / Lowland dry acid grassland		
	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Medium national Sensitivity classification. NE Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	
	Moorland & upland peat		
	Lowland peat	Lowland peat covers peat soils below the moorland line	
	Wet pasture & coastal floodplain and grazing marsh	Medium national Sensitivity classification. NE Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	
	Water meadow		
	Standing open water: lakes & ponds	High national sensitivity classification. Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751) (National Trust (2017) 'The places that make us')	
	Ditch, dykes & wet boundaries		

	Lowland meadow (wet) water meadow	Medium national Sensitivity classification. Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	
	Filtration reedbeds		
	Scrapes		
	Saline lagoons	High national sensitivity classification. Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	
	NEW PLANTING **Thriving plants and wildlife** **Increasing carbon sequestration**		
	Tree planting maintenance & establishment (to reduce flooding, improve groundwater quality, reduce soil erosion)		
(7)	New tree planting may be acceptable but not over the whole of the Registered Village Green if it interferes with the use of the green. Mowing the grass, trimming hedges and arboriculturally works to trees must be undertaken with the landowners consent.	Registered Village Green	Statutory obligation
(8)	For new proposals and changes in land management landowners must demonstrate they will cause no additional nutrient damage to Habitat Sites already in 'unfavourable condition'.	(Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme) (Habitat Regulations)	Statutory obligation
	NEW WOODLAND PLANTING **Thriving plants and wildlife** **Increasing carbon sequestration**		
	New woodland planting (to reduce flooding, improve groundwater quality, reduce soil erosion)		
(9)	If proposing to plant trees within 7 m of a watercourse and / or river. Appropriate regulators must be consulted for new woods next to main rivers and flood defences, and the necessary consents obtained. Consent for tree planting may be required from the Environment Agency.	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
	MANAGING EXISTING TREES, WOODLAND & VEGETATION **Enhancing Biodiversity**		
	Woodland soils		

(10)	The regulatory authority must be consulted prior to the application of waste material is applied to forest soils, including sewage sludge, waste soil or compost, waste wood, bark or other 'listed substances'. Conditions applied to permissions or licences, including 'relevant objectives', must be complied with.	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
	Presence of ancient woodland, ancient semi natural woodland		
(11)	A landowner is required to protect all ancient woodlands including any boundary and drainage features. Protective Buffer Zones apply. Obtain further advice on the distance and appropriate land use from a qualified Ecologist. The land use within buffer zones may be restricted excluding tracking by farm machinery and ploughing. All have protection under NPPF with some sites subject to statutory designation as National Nature Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation, or Sites or Areas of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI).	(England Trees Action Plan 2021 – 2024 policies)	Statutory obligation
	Presence of other priority habitats		
(12)	A landowner is required to continue with conservation management of designated sites i.e. SSSI. Appropriate protection and conservation must be afforded where sites (habitats) are subject to the legal provisions of EU Directives and UK and country legislation.	ALL NCA's (UKFS Biodiversity [9])	Statutory obligation
(13)	Where a designated site or priority habitat or species might be affected, appropriate regulators and conservation agencies must be consulted prior to the aerial application of pesticides and the use of pesticides in or near water, and, where appropriate, authorisation obtained.	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
	Presence of wild birds and wildlife (including priority species) found on land or in woodland		
(14)	Appropriate protection and conservation must be afforded where species found are subject to the legal provisions of EU Directives and UK and country legislation.	(UKFS Biodiversity)	Statutory obligation
	FIELD BOUNDARIES **Enhancing Biodiversity**		
	Presence of veteran trees, trees in field boundaries and fields		
(15)	Ancient / old tree(s) are present on the land you need to check if covered by Tree Preservation Order: restrictions apply or classed as veteran (refer to the Woodland Trust map). If the tree is non-designated consider measures to protect the rootzone for example avoid ploughing too close. A non-designated ancient/ veteran tree may still be subject to legal protection if it provides a home to another legally protected species	(England Trees Action Plan 2021 – 2024 policies)	Statutory obligation
(16)	Protect from harm individual trees and woodlands covered by Tree Preservation Order. Seek permission prior to undertaking arboricultural management of the tree / canopy or before felling.		Statutory obligation

	Hedgerows		
(17)	Identify and protect hedgerows that meet the criteria set out in the UK Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Identify, retain and manage to maintain species diversity in accordance with the Regulations requirements (see appendices for details). These hedgerows may contain other features of landscape interest. Seek further advice if unsure if protected.	UK Hedgerow Regulations 1997 Ancient / Species rich hedgerows Low national Sensitivity classification. Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	Statutory obligation
	COMPLIENCE WITH BIOSECURITY (ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS) **Reducing risk of harm from environmental hazards** **Enhancing biosecurity**		
	Compliance with biosecurity		
(18)	If species found, comply with the legal provisions of the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulations (and domestic legislation where applicable).Species listed in the regulations must not be grown, cultivated or otherwise released into the environment unless under Order or Permit.	(UKFS Biodiversity)	Statutory obligation
(19)	A landowner must not undertake the deliberate planting of banned horticultural and food plants for harvest later. Refer to Be Plant Wise information on the Non-native Species Secretariat (NNSS) website.	Importing plants and crop seed (Regulated by Animal Plant Health Agency) (EFRAC Soil Health First Report)	Statutory obligation
	Pest & Diseases		
(20)	Report sightings of Thaumetopoea processionea (Oak Processionary Moth) to the Forestry Commission. Obtain further guidance on movements of OPM affected material i.e. cut branches or arisings from tree works (not movement of live oak trees).	OPM-affected oak material should be carefully handled so as not to result in further distribution of the pest. (Tree Health Management Plan) (The Plant Health and Phytosanitary Conditions (Oak Processionary Moth and Plant Pests) (Amendment) Regulations 2023) (UKFS Climate Change)	Statutory obligation
	Presence of invasive species		

(21)	A landowner must eradicate or continue to treat land to abate the number of invasive non-native species entering and establishing on all land. Trees and shrubs identified with / or starting to show signs of Phytophthora (within Hampshire hanger woodlands, iconic beech stands, trees in heathland) undertake appropriate control measures. (e.g. Rhododendron that are controlled and managed by removal to prevent from spreading or re-establishing). Where non-native species are invasive and pose problems, control or remove where this is feasible; act early while populations are still small. If disease control requires the removal (felling) and clearance of infected host plants the landowner must seek further advice on the best time and approaches for management action as this can vary with pathogen, host, environment, site and region. Prevent contamination entering the surrounding soil and pathway to groundwater. The 'Prevent List' for terrestrial species identified for the South East Region where prevention is the highest priority. 6 no. contingency plans (terrestrial and freshwater) available on the GB non-native species secretariat website. https://www.nonnativespecies.org/ . If species of concern are identified Natural England, or an agent acting on its behalf, is responsible for implementation on the ground. Notify Local Action Group (LAGs) for this area to arrange control measures for non-native invasive species.	(Plant Health (England) (Amendment) Order 2012) (Tree Health Management Plan) Plants listed in Appendices. (enforced by GB Non-native Species Inspectorate) INNS) (Plan for Water) (Water Restoration Fund) Applies to River catchments in Hampshire. Water bodies, drainage ditches, streams and public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways	Statutory obligation
(22)	Identify, isolate area and prevent dispersal of Japanese knotweed (the highest profile Schedule 9 species) Overview of possible treatment options https://ebsford.co.uk/invasive-vegetation-services/japanese-knotweed/ Dispersal of invasive species such as Giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed spreading via translocated by people undertaking a variety of outdoor activities using riverside public rights of way, bridleways, long distance trails.	Compliance with Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(enforced by GB Non-native Species Inspectorate)	Statutory obligation
	Badgers		
(23)	If badgers are present and badger setts found to protect from disturbance.		Statutory obligation
	Other invasive species		

(24)	Farmers, land managers and landowners must be aware and seek advice from the following organisations and implement: • Pathway Actions Plan (PAPs) i.e. developed for horticulture escapes and covering new routes. (Key Action 3.2) • Pest Specific Contingency Plan (Key Action 3.2) • Plant Alert • Identification of specific species of concern and identification sheets are available on the GB Non-native Species Information Portal (NNSIP) using the search box. Available at: https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/# (accessed 28 October 2023) Refer to 6 no. contingency plans (terrestrial and freshwater) available on the GB non-native species secretariat website. https://www.nonnativespecies.org/	**If species of concern identified Natural England, or an agent acting on its behalf, is responsible for implementation of the removal of species**	Statutory obligation
	CLEAN AIR		
(25)	The spraying of pesticides/ chemicals shall be applied in such a way, and at such times, that the risk of pollution of any surface water or wetland is minimised. Shall not be applied during rainfall or wind conditions when there is a risk that spray will drift or be blown out with the target area.		Statutory obligation
	EXISTING SURFACE WATERBODIES **Clean and plentiful water**		
	Protecting water quality		
(26)	Groundwater must be protected from harmful and polluting substances, including sprayer washings. The water regulatory authority must be consulted regarding the disposal of such substances .	(UKFS Water) Across all Hampshire catchments	Statutory obligation
(27)	Prior authorisation must be obtained from the water regulatory authority or lead local flood authority for the building, engineering and other activities in or adjacent to watercourses that affect river hydromorphology; this includes water abstraction, impoundments, constructing culverts.	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
	Creating interceptor Zones (defined buffers)		
(28)	Comply with imposed requirements aimed at preventing leakage and pollution. Avoid the storage of fertilisers or empty fertiliser bags being left overnight close to watercourses and water source pathways.	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation

(29)	Fertiliser shall not be stored on land that is within 10 m of any surface water or wetland; is within 50m of any spring, well or borehole; is waterlogged; has an average soil depth of less than 40 cm and overlies gravel or fissured rock (except where the fertiliser is stored in an impermeable container); or is sloping (unless the fertiliser is inorganic or it is ensured that any run-off will be intercepted by a sufficient buffer zone).	UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
(30)	Pesticide shall be applied in such a way, and at such times, that the risk of pollution of any surface water or wetland is minimised and shall not be applied during rainfall or wind conditions when there is a risk that spray will drift or be blown out with the target area.	ALL NCA's (UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
(31)	Pesticide, including any used packaging that has been stored in contact with pesticide, shall not be stored on land that is within 10 m of any surface water or wetland, or 50m of any spring, well or borehole; or on an impermeable surface draining to a surface water drainage system.	ALL NCA's (UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
	EXISTING WATERCOURSES **Clean and plentiful water**	High national sensitivity classification. Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)	
	Water management – water flow & condition		
(32)	A riparian landowner, farmer, tenant farmer or property owner must keep streams and ditches clear of brash, fallen trees and vegetation as far as practicable as part of riparian responsibilities. Avoid felling trees into watercourses and routinely remove debris to maintain free flow along ditches and watercourses crossing farmland. Responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010: If you own land adjoining, above or with a watercourse running through it, you have certain rights and responsibilities. In legal terms as you are a 'riparian owner'. If you rent the land you must agree with the owner who will manage these rights and responsibilities.	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
	Water management – preventing pollution		
(33)	The landowner must not be caused or knowingly permitted (unless authorised by the water regulatory authority) the entry of poisonous, noxious or polluting material into the water environment.	(UKFS Water) AONB national goal 4	Statutory obligation
(34)	Any water containing fish, or any tributary of that water, must not be rendered poisonous or injurious to fish, their spawning grounds, fish spawn or the food of fish.	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation

(35)	Water environment and working with potential pollutants. Permission must be obtained from the water regulatory authorities (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) to dispose of 'listed substances' to ground, including sprayer washings to protect the water environment. .	(UKFS Water [6] Compliance with permits and licences issued by the Environment Agency as regulatory body. (Plan for Water)	Statutory obligation
	Water management - reducing watercourse erosion		
(36)	The landowner, farmer, tenant farmer or property owner) must comply with Work Notices issued to polluters to restore water quality and prevent damage to, or restore, the physical condition of water if the riverbed or banks are damaged.	(UKFS Water)	Statutory obligation
	REGISTERED VILLAGE GREENS **Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment**		
(37)	If farmland abuts or includes a Registered Village Green the landowner, farmer or tenant farmer must not cause damage or realignment of a fence to enclose or encroach on a Registered Village. The landowner must maintain public enjoyment and access at all times.	Registered Village Green (SDNPA (2020) Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Theme 1 Objective 2, policies 29.30 and 37) (EFRAC Soil Health First Report)	Statutory obligation
(38)	The landowner, farmer or tenant farmer must not undertake any activity that causes injury to the Registered Village Green (e.g. remove turf).	Registered Village Green	Statutory obligation
(39)	The landowner, farmer or tenant farmer must not lay any manure, soil, ashes, rubbish or other material on a Registered Village Green.	Registered Village Green	Statutory obligation
(40)	The landowner, farmer or tenant farmer must not disturb, occupy or interfere with the soil of the green other than for the purpose of the better enjoyment of a Registered Village Green.	Registered Village Green	Statutory obligation
(41)	A livestock owner must not take cattle or other animals onto a Registered Village Green without lawful authority.	Registered Village Green	Statutory obligation
	REGISTERED COMMONS **Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment**		
(42)	The landowner, farmer or tenant farmer must undertake management of a Registered Common(s) respecting Verderers and Commoners Forest Rights. He / she/ they must not take cattle or other animals onto a Registered Village Green without lawful authority.	Registered Commons	Statutory obligation
(43)	A livestock owner must not take cattle or other animals onto a Registered Common without lawful authority.	Registered Common	Statutory obligation

	PUBLIC ACCESS **Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment**		
	Existing public right of ways		
(44)	All Public Rights of Way (footpaths, bridleway and Byways) , alignments **must** be respected and the route not obstructed.	(UKFS People) (SDNPA (2020) Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Theme 1 Objective 2, policies 29.30 and 37) (EFRAC Soil Health First Report) (National Trust (2017) 'The places that make us')	Statutory obligation
(45)	Permission must be obtained from the local authority before gates or stiles are installed across public footpaths or bridleways; the landowner must maintain these in a safe condition.	(UKFS People)	Statutory obligation
(46)	Responsible access **must** be allowed on mapped Access Land, including woodland dedicated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, unless a Direction is in place to restrict or exclude access.	(UKFS People) (NCA 130, North Wessex Downs AONB Strategic Objective S.O1)	Statutory obligation
	HISTORIC ASSETS **Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment**		
	Scheduled monuments		
(47)	Features subject to Scheduled Monument designation must not be damaged. Consent must be obtained from the relevant historic environment authority (Historic England) for any works that have the potential to damage the monument.	All NCA's (UKFS Historic Environment [1])	Statutory obligation
(48)	Remove historic and archaeological features from the area of cultivation. Seek advice from Historic England on the distance required.	historic and archaeological feature Scheduled monument	Statutory obligation
	Archaeology		
(49)	The historic environment authority (Historic England) must be informed if objects are found that come within the scope of the law covering archaeological finds. Metal detectors must not be used where legally restricted or on a Scheduled Monument site.	All NCA's (UKFS Historic Environment [2])	Statutory obligation

(50)	If unearth or encounter archaeological features and finds on farmland indicating a potential site of historical interest you must: • Report to Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer, Hampshire Cultural Trust and request assistance. • Protect newly discovered archaeological features unearthed during farming operations.	All NCA's AONB national goal 4). (UKFS Historic Environment)	Statutory obligation
	FARM / ESTATE DIVERSIFICATION **Protecting natural capital**		
	Building conversion		
(51)	Where planning permission is required, the landowner must meet the requirement for nutrient neutrality (or include mitigation as identified arising from the HRA) for any proposals with the catchment of designated Habitat Sites.	(Habitat Regulations) (NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)	Statutory obligation

Notes:

1. We have not captured statutory agreements with individual farmers on individual farms that relate to grants and planning condition obligations.
2. Of the 770 actions identified within Schedule A (and tailored for each NCA), 127 actions were identified with potential for Statutory Obligation status. Following advice and external review 51 actions have been confirmed as a statutory obligation - requiring the landowner, private farmer or tenant farmer to act. A further 30 actions could also be considered 'statutory' (see below) if a condition of grant and/or planning approval. For this test and trial these 30 actions (yellow marked) have been given 'advisory' status within the 10 individual NCA Schedules. Further work to establish their final status will be required as indicated in the recommendations below.
3. Items between 6 and 7: Consultation with Convenor board member has identified most of the habitats mentioned have some protection through the EIA (Agriculture) Regs and through being S41 habitats (NERC Act).

Outcome of external review

At the request of The terra firma Consultancy and Mr. Merrick Denton-Thompson (facilitator) an external review of the actions and statutory obligations was undertaken by Penelope Stokes (Director at Stoke & Co., Chartered Surveyors & Land Agents, Winchester).

This exercise confirmed the complexity and difficulty found in applying 'statutory obligations' and 'advisory' status to each action.

Purpose:

To review each action against the basic definition of a Statutory Obligation is "*a duty that is mandated by laws or statutes which you must fulfil, irrespective of the industry or profession in which you operate, where non-compliance can lead to penalties, fines or other legal consequences*." i.e., also asking the question "If the farmer does not do this activity, is he/she/they going to be prosecuted?"

Feedback:

The review used a system of red, yellow and green marker applied to each action. Feedback from the review exercise indicated:

- Green: 60 actions confirmed as Statutory Obligation. This number would be reduced following the removal of duplication to 52.
- Yellow: 30 actions require further investigation due to:
  - Not Statutory obligation but GP/advisor and could be a condition of funding;
  - No Statutory obligation on farmer to do this. But it is a Statutory obligation or condition on farmer should he be doing this activity (whether or not in receipt of grant funding).
- Red: 37 actions changed to advisory.

Recommendations for further work

- appoint a specialist consultant in environmental law (Defra or other organisation) be appointed to review the statutory obligations list and advisory list;
- establish 3rd party responsibilities for each action;
- produce a methodology that enables the obligations of conditions of grants and stewardship agreements to be considered alongside the statutory obligations;
- it would be helpful if further work on the schedule could identify and quantifying if the activity only happens in certain circumstances. [As an example, and for their differentiation, the UKFS as a guidance document identifies Legal Requirements (LRs) which are 'musts', Good Practice Requirements (GPRs) which are 'shoulds' and Guidelines (GLs) which are 'considers' which is quite a helpful layout, with most of their points in their document noted though as being GPRs.]
- An excel based list of the legislation collated for the purpose of this Hampshire ELM's test and trial is provided.
- The Statutory Obligations list will require updating as new legislation and regulations come into force. This will determine if any advisory actions require a change of status to statutory obligation.

Reference List of Relevant Legislation

HAMPSHIRE ELMs TEST AND TRIAL

Legislation Reference List. Intended to act as a startig point to create a single point of reference for person qualified in environmental legislation tasked with reviewing legeslation against actions listed in the Statutory Obligations.

Reference no.	Regulatory compliance	Link	Referred to / reason for inclusion	Comments, to assist person tasked with explanding this list
1	Animal Welfare Act 2006	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents	Farmers paid to produce Public Goods rewarding positive action on environmental issues and animal welfare improvements. Makes owners responsible under the Welfare of farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). Financial assistance is given based on purposes /environmental measures.	
2	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46		
3	The Agricultural Act 2020	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/21/contents	**Background legislation to the 25 Year Environment Plan - Environment Act 2023, Agriculture Act 2020 and Fisheries Act 2020**. ELMS is a group of 3 schemes: Sustainable Farming Initiative, Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Landscape Recovery. ELM is a system of paying farmers public money for public goods. 'The principle public good we want is to invest in is environmental enhancement' Quote p36 Agricultural Act 2020. Financial assistance provided for: •Managing land or water in a way that protects or improves the environment. •Supporting public access to and enjoyment of the countryside, farmland, or woodland and better understanding of the environment. •Managing land or water in a way that maintains, restores, or enhances cultural or natural heritage. •Managing land, water or livestock in a way that mitigates or adapts to climate change. •Managing land or water in a way that prevents, reduces, or protects from environmental hazards. •Protecting or improving the health or welfare of livestock. •Conserving native livestock, native equines, or genetic resources relating to any such animal. •Protecting or improving the health of plants. •Conserving plants grown or used in carrying on an agricultural, horticultural, or forestry activity, their wild relatives, or genetic resources relating to any such plant. •Protecting or improving the quality of soil. •Starting, or improving the productivity of, an agricultural, horticultural, or forestry activity. •Supporting ancillary activities carried on, or to be carried on, by or for a producer.	
4	Climate Change Act 2008	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents	Environmental law designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the UK. Binding targets have been set that will reduce these emissions from levels recorded in 1990 by at least 80% by 2050. Net Zero contribution to climate change by 2050	
5	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents		
6	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/1	Part 1 Access to the countryside. Chapter 1 Rights of access. (1) Principle definition for Part 1	
7	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/2	Part 1 Access to the countryside. Chapter 1 Rights of access. (2) Rights of public in relation to access land.	
8	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/12	Part 1 Access to the countryside. Chapter 1 Rights of access. Rights and liabilities of owners and occupiers.(12) effect of right of access on rights and liabilities of owners.	
9	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/13	Part 1 Access to the countryside. Chapter 1 Rights of access. Rights and liabilities of owners and occupiers.(13) Occupiers' liability	
10	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/14	Part 1 Access to the countryside. Chapter 1 Rights of access. Rights and liabilities of owners and occupiers.(14) Offence of displaying on access land notices deterring public use	

11	The Coast Protection Act 1949	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/74	The Act vests Coast Protection Authorities general permissive powers to carry out coastal protection works. Background legislation to UK Gov's 'Plan for Water': Environment Act 2021, Coast Protection Act 1949, Environment Act 1995, Flood and Water Management Act 2010.	
12	Control of Pollution Act 1974	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40	environmental issues such as air, noise, water and atmospheric pollution as well as waste on land. **NVZ**	
13	The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 1991	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1991/324/contents/made	Slurry stores must comply. If the farm is in a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ) extra rules for storing organic manures apply.	
14	Environmental Protection Act 1990	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents	Law in the UK that controls waste management and emissions into the environment. **Background legislation to the Environment Improvement Plan (EIP 23).** And NVZ	
15	Environment Act 1995.	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents	Chapter 1 The Environment Agency. A duty to exercise a general supervision over all matters relating to flood defence in England and Wales.	
16	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted	25 Year Environment Plan sets out the Government's aim to put nature on the road to recovery for future generations. It has given us some of the tools needed to deliver for our environment, from cleaning up the country's air, restoring natural habitats, increasing biodiversity, reducing waste, and making better use of our resources**. Background legislation to the 25 Year Environment Plan - Environment Act 2023, Agriculture Act 2020 and Fisheries Act 2020.**	There are several actions arising from the 25 year Environment Plan and delivered through the Environmental Improvement Plan 23 (EIP 23). Our 'tree' created to understand the inter-relation of Acts as they filter down into Regulations has been done to the best of our knowledge after reading Gov. publications. Research has identified many UK Gov. strategies with actions that mentions legislation. These strategies have been useful to follow a thread but not used to determine a stat. obligation - except for the UK Forestry Strategy . In this strategy actions have been identified as link to a statutory obligation of given as advisory. In some instances it is clear from the wording in an Act that there is a stat. obligation placed on a farmer/land owner but this still needs specialist expertise to review and confirm.
17	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/1/enacted	Part 1 Environmental Governance. Chapter 1 Improving the natural environment. 1. Environmental targets: The priority areas are - (a) air quality. (b) water. (c) biodiversity. (d) resource efficiency and waste reduction	
18	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/1/enacted	Part 1 Environmental Governance. Chapter 1 Improving the natural environment. 1. Environmental Targets: (6) A target is a "long-term" target if the specified date is no less than 15 years after the date on which the target is initially set.	
19	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/2/enacted	Part 1 Environmental Governance. Chapter 1. Improving the natural environment. 2 Environmental targets: particulate matter. It is the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that— (a)targets set under section 1 are met, (b)the PM2.5 air quality target set under section 2 is met, and (c)the species abundance target set under section 3 is met.	
20	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/8/enacted	**Background legislation to the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023.** Part 1 Environmental Governance. Chapter 1 Improving the natural environment. Environmental Targets. 8 Environmental improvement plans: (2) An "environmental improvement plan" is a plan for significantly improving the natural environment in the period to which the plan relates. (7) The document entitled "A green future: our 25-year plan to improve the environment" published by Her Majesty's Government on 11 January 2018 is to be treated as an environmental improvement plan prepared by the Secretary of State under this section	The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 sets legally binding targets on the UK, and to meet these the farmer/landowner is integral to the process but not clearly defined in terms of responsibility. Writing this as a lay person it appears that by the time an action to improve the landscape filters down through the environmental organisations, e.g. National Park, EA who have a stat. obligation to act, then becomes advisory unless it can be found stated clearly in an Act e.g. TPO trees etc. This is where the difficulty in delivering improvement to landscape health lies. Clarification of land owner responsibilities as part of the updating process of the Environmental Improvement Plan 2028 would greatly assist. This part of the Hampshire Test & Trial seeks to understand if this might be possible.
21	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/98/enacted	Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity. 98 Biodiversity gain as condition of planning permission.	

22	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/schedule/14/enacted	Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity. 100 Biodiversity gain site register (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for and in relation to a register of biodiversity gain sites (“the biodiversity gain site register”). (2)A biodiversity gain site is land where— (a)a person is required under a conservation covenant or planning obligation to carry out works for the purpose of habitat enhancement, b) that or another person is required to maintain the enhancement for at least 30 years after the completion of those works. (7)Regulations under this section may amend subsection (2)(b) so as to substitute for the period for the time being specified there a different period of at least 30 years.	
23	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/101/enacted	Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity. 101 Biodiversity Credits	
24	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/114/enacted	Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity. Tree felling and planting. 114 controlling the felling of trees in England.	
25	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/121/enacted	Part 7 Conservation covenants. 121 Duration of obligation under covenant	
26	Environment Act 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/122/enacted	Part 7 Conservation covenants. 122 benefit and burden of obligation of landowner. (2)Subject to the following provisions, an obligation of the landowner under a conservation covenant binds— (a)the landowner under the covenant, and (b)any person who becomes a successor of the landowner under the covenant	
27	The Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016 (EPR)	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1154/contents/made	Part 2 Environmental Permits: 12 requirements	
28	EU Regulation (1143/2014) on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species	https://www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation/england-and-wales/	EU Regulation 1143/2014 was retained in domestic law under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (external link). It was amended through several statutory instruments, including The Invasive Non-native Species (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, to ensure operability following the UK’s exit from the EU but applies to Great Britain only. Henceforth, we refer to it as the ‘Retained Regulation’. The Retained Regulation imposes restrictions on a list of species of special concern.	
29	UK Forestry Standard.	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard	UK Forestry Standard 4th Edition (2017)Appendix 1 – Legislation and Conventions. Activity extracted from the 4th edition. Government webpage states: updated Good Forestry Practice Requirements will be applied to existing woodland plans at the time of their renewal. The 5th edition will be applied after 1 October 2024. Until then, the 4th edition (2017) should be used (UK Forestry Standard)	The Standard lists the legislation that supports the specific activity given. UKFS identifies land owner statutory obligations.
30	Fisheries Act 2020	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/22/schedule/10/enacted	**Background legislation to the 25 Year Environment Plan - Environment Act 2023, Agriculture Act 2020 and Fisheries Act 2020**. Reviewed as schedule 10 mentions Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and MMO's.	
31	Flood and Water Management Act 2010	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/schedule/2/crossheading/land-drainage-act-1991	Schedule 2 - Land Drainage Act 1991, Section 14A	
32	Flood and Water Management Act 2010	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents	Part 1 Flood and coastal erosion risk management, points 7,9,11,13,and 23. **Schedule 2 Amendments to other Acts**: **Coast Protection Act 1949, Land Drainage Act 1991, Water Industry Act 1991, and Environmental Protection Act 1995**. Schedule 3 Sustainable drainage. Schedule 4 **Reservoirs Act 1975.**	
33	The Food Law Regulation and Food Safety Act 1990.	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/16/contents	Provides the framework for food safety.	
34	Hedgerow Regulations 1997	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents	Points 1-7, Schedule 1: Part I, Part II criteria. Schedule 2 woodland spp. Schedule 3 Woody species	
35	Hedgerow Regulations	4 March 2024 notification of new regulations. Pending.	To protect wildlife. The regulations will include a two metre ‘buffer strip’ from the centre of hedgerows, and a hedge cutting ban between 1 March and 31 August	These regulations will sit alongside the existing Hedgerows Regulations 1997 which prohibit the removal of countryside hedgerows, or parts of them, without first seeking approval from the Local Planning Authority.

36	Information on the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and Regulations	https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/birds-directive_en#:~:text=The%20Birds%20and%20Habitats%20Directives,of%20this%20rich%20natural%20heritage.		
37	Land Drainage Act 1991	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents	Part II provision and securing drainage of the land, Restoration and improvement of ditches: 28 Orders requiring cleansing etc. and 30. Where a watercourse (such as a ditch or culverted watercourse) passes over, or forms the boundary of, your land you are responsible for such part of the watercourse. if a ditch is in such a condition as— (a) to cause injury to any land; or (b) to prevent the improvement of the drainage of any land and repair	
38	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents	Part 3 Wildlife - 41 biodiversity lists and actions, 43 - possession to pesticides harmful to wildlife. Part 9 Miscellaneous - 100 bylaws related to land drainage	
39	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/97	Chichester Harbour AONB Designation (1964) 'The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty. In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met insofar as it is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.'	
40	Plan for Water'	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-water-our-integrated-plar	UK Gov's 'Plan for Water' influenced by Environment Act 2021, Coast Protection Act 1949, Environment Act 1995, Flood and Water Management Act 2010. .Annex B: Statutory bodies and organisations responsible for the water system.	Plan for Water indicates responsibility placed on organisations who will, though partnering, be rely on farmers to help deliver. This indicates any action in the Plan likely to involve a farmer / landowner is considered advisory.
41	The Plant Health (England) (Amendment) Order 2012	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2922/note?view=plain	Chalara Management Plan 2013	
42	The Plant Health and Phytosanitary Conditions (Oak Processionary Moth and Plant Pests) (Amendment) Regulations 2023	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/497/regulation/4/made	Oak trees. Regulation 4	
43	Planning and Energy Act 2008 / Town and Country Planning Act 1990	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/21/contents	Law that allows planning authorities in England and Wales to impose requirements on local planning applications regarding energy use and efficiency.	Anticipate farmer would be required to follow Local Plan Policy, hence a stating as statutory obligation. (Town and Country Planning Act 1991: 36 Local Plans, 38 Waste polices and 57 Planning permission required for development.
44	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents		
45	The Partnership Act 1890.	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/53-54/39/contents	Partnerships are often used in a farming context.	
46	Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents	Illegal to attempt to kill, injure or interfere with the setts of badgers without a valid licence. Protection of Badgers Act was passed in 1992 to further consolidate the Badgers Act 1973, 1991 and the Badgers (Further Protection) Act in 1991.	
47	The Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/151/contents/made	Points 1-11	
48	Reservoirs Act 1975	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1975/23	Size, role of EA, construction engineer and certification. Owners of large lakes and other large, impounded water bodies (like moats) with a volume of 25,000m³ or more have statutory safety responsibilities under the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, as a flood caused by the failure of a dam could result in loss of life or damage to property. In July 2022, Defra published its plans to strengthen and modernise reservoir safety legislation. The threshold will be tightened to 10,000m³ and owners will have to register these smaller 10,000-25,000m³ impounded water bodies, referred to as 'small raised reservoirs', too. All property owners have statutory duties for the safety of others under legislation such as the Health and Safety at Work (etc.) Act 1974 and the Building Act 1984; they should ensure lakes, dams and other features are maintained and (where required) also prepare flood plans and maps.	Assuming this applies to farmer seeking to store water on his / her land?.
49	Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989 (SUiAR)	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1989/1263	para. 85. statutory obligation. Code of practice for spreading sewage sludge. Links to other laws and best practices. Spreading sewage sludge (biosolids) under this regulation plus intensive pig and poultry farming and operations generating manure. Permits required and regulated by Environment Agency.	Complex area. Will need further review. Environment Agency Convenor board member has offered to assist.

50	The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/595/contents		
51	The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/contents	Owners of protected trees must not carry out, or cause or permit the carrying out of, any of the prohibited activities without the written consent of the local authority. As with owners of unprotected trees, they are responsible for maintaining their trees, with no statutory rules setting out how often or to what standard.	
52	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents/made	The WFD December 2000 became law in December 2003. Since leaving the EU, the EU Water Framework Directive has been revoked and replaced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by these regulations.	
53	Water Resources Act 1991	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents	Part V11 land and works: Flood defence and drainage works Section 165. General powers to carry out works points 1 - 7. Other sections of interest - chapter III (15-18), Part II water resources management (64,66 and 67 ecclesiastical property), Part III control of pollution of water resources chapter 1 (82-84)	Requires further study and specialist knowledge to establish farmer responsibilities. Ecclesiastical land ownership is mentioned.
54	Weeds Act 1959	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/7-8/54/section/1	1. Power to require occupier to prevent spreading of injurious weeds. (private land in the UK).	INNS relevent here
55	The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/2078/contents/made	The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 are made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and set the minimum welfare standards for all farm animals. Schedule 1 sets out conditions under which all farm animals must be kept, with Schedules 2 to 9 providing additional species specific conditions.	
56	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69	Prohibits and limits actions involving wild animals and plants, and is the primary piece of legislation for wildlife protection in the UK. Prohibitions include taking, injuring, killing and disturbing – includes damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection. Includes all nesting wild birds and also specific species listed under the various schedules. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) protects all bats from 'intentional' or 'reckless' disturbance. Lighting in the vicinity of a bat roost could constitute an offence since it causes disturbance and potential abandonment of the roost, It can also prevent bats from emerging which leads to entombment and death.	
57	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Schedule 1 – birds	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1	Birds which are Protected by Special Penalties. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 meanwhile prohibits the killing, injuring or taking of wild birds, or taking or damaging their eggs and nests.	
58	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Schedule 2 - birds	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/2/enacted	Birds that may be taken and killed. Complies with the European Council Directives on the conservation of wild birds.	
59	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Schedule 5 – animals	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/5/enacted	Animals which are Protected	
60	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Schedule 8 - plants	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/8/data.pdf	Plants which are protected from picking, uprooting or destruction of specific plant species	
61	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Schedule 9	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/9	Animals and plants listed including invasive species. It is illegal to plant, or otherwise cause to grow in the wild, any plants listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) in England and Wales.	
62	Commons Act 2006 and Commons Registration Act 1965	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/26/contents	Commons and Village Greens. Owners liability. The Verderers hold the Atlas of Forest Rights. The New Forest Act of 1949 gave the Verderers additional powers to make and amend byelaws. 'In carrying out their statutory role as managers of the New Forest, the Forestry Commissioners are constrained by the existence of rights of common. However, these rights are subject to the Forestry Commissioners' statutory powers. The Commissioners have power, amongst other things, to authorise the use of land in the New Forest for the purpose of recreation and the appropriation of land in the New Forest for car parking and for camping sites. They also have powers to provide tourist, recreational or sporting facilities. The powers in the various New Forest Acts and those in the Countryside Act are only exercisable with the agreement of the Verderers.' (https://www.verderers.org.uk/forest-rights/)	
63	Inclosure Act 1857 section 12	https://www.verderers.org.uk/policies-and-byelaws/	Village Greens are protected from encroachment and development by the Inclosure Act 1857 s12 and the Commons Act 1876 s29. The only development permitted is for the better enjoyment of the green for sports and pastimes. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 allows a public right of access on foot over most Registered Commons.	
64	Commons Act 1876 section 29	https://www.verderers.org.uk/policies-and-byelaws/	Village Greens: The only development permitted is for the better enjoyment of the green for sports and pastimes.	

65	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made	Part 3: Protection of animals (42-45). Part 3: Protection of Plants (46-48)	
66	The Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR)	https://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/copr/#:~:text=The%20Control%20of%20Pesticides%20Regulations,some%20types%20of%20biocidal%20products	HSE - The Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) **is one of the laws** that controls biocides in Great Britain (GB) and Northern Ireland (NI) to make sure that when they are used properly, they do not harm people, pets or the wider environment. GB Biocidal Products Regulation (GB BPR) also applies.	Complex area needs further investigating.
	Unable to locate			
	Legislation?	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-plants-and-plant-products-from-the-eu-to-great-britain	UK has left the EU there are new plant health requirements in place to export and import plants and plant products between the UK and the EU. Referee to high priority, regulated and unregulated plants, CITES, pests& diseases, trees.	
	Future			
	Environment Act 2028	UK Soils Strategy. Actions and recommendations for improving soil health in para 77 and 78 for Act. Soil health actions currently advisory for farmers / land owners.	Environmental Improvement Plan 2028. The current recommendation by House of Commons is to include soil health on equal footing to air and water plus setting binding targets	

NCA 120 Wealden Greensand

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Land Management Framework

National Character Area 120 Wealden Greensands Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the Wealden Greensands NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

Introducing National Character Area

NCA 120 Greensands

Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

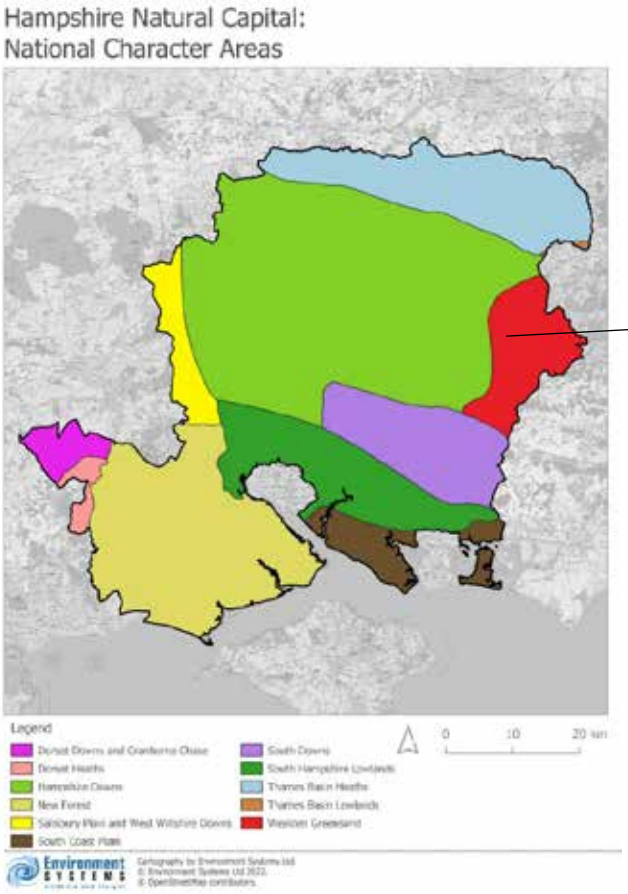
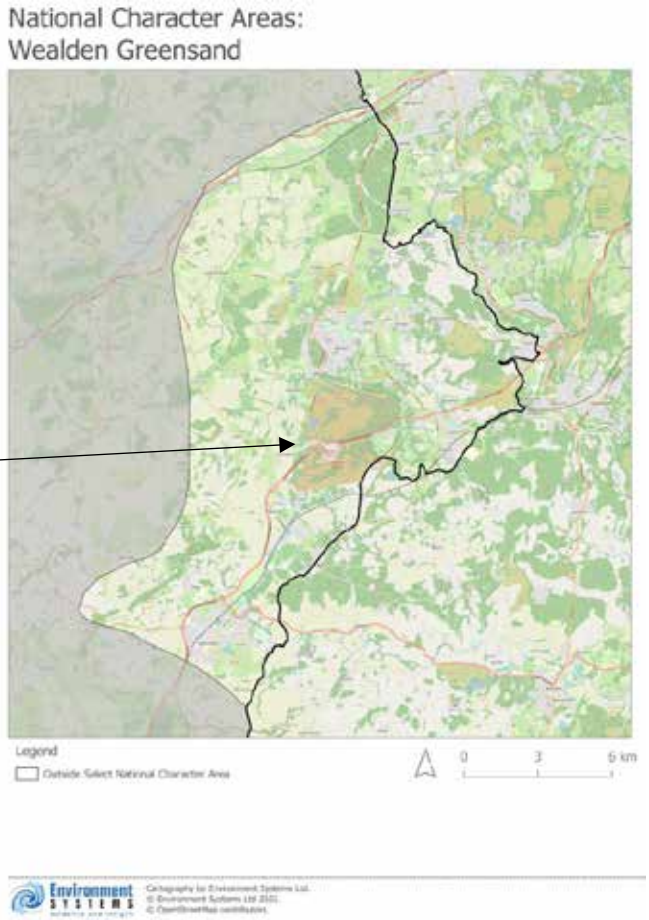


Figure 2: OS map with NCA 120 boundary



Introducing NCA 120 Wealden Greensand

5% of Hampshire sits within the Wealden Greensand National Character Area (NCA) which comprises a long, narrow Greensand ridge, typified by scarp-and-dip slope topography, including outcrops of Greensand escarpments separated by a clay vale: the overall undulating and organic landform particularly in the west gives a sense of intimacy to the landscape.

On higher ground the sandy soils support extensive heathland. Variety is provided by open areas of heath and acid grasslands on acidic soils, by the river valleys, by the parkland landscapes and by the mixed farming found throughout the area, with marked differences between the western, central and eastern areas.

Surface water is an important feature across the Greensand, with many streams and rivers passing through the NCA: the Western Rother, Wey, Arun, Medway and the Great and East Stour.

The settlement pattern is a mix of dispersed hamlets, farmsteads and houses interspersed with villages, many of medieval origin.

Across the NCA, Grade 1 and 2 soils account for only 16 per cent; Grade 3 soils make up 40 per cent of the area (73,706 ha).

Over 73,706 ha of the Wealden Greensand NCA is farmed.

Livestock farms accounts for 34 per cent of holdings with sheep farming, pigs and cattle are a notable feature in this landscape compared to 27 percent of land producing cereals and other arable crops. 2 per cent of land is over to fruit production compared to 52 per cent of grass and uncropped land.

Fields are predominantly small or medium, in irregular patterns derived from medieval enclosure. Boundaries are formed by hedgerows and shaws.

Priority habitats are notable habitats with woodland, including ancient semi natural and PAWS accounts for a quarter of this NCA (25 per cent reflects the predominance of low-grade agricultural land). Broadleaved / Yew woodland dominates with sweet chestnut coppice a remnant of past centuries.

Common land is limited (646 ha) across the NCA, with the largest commons found on raised plateaux of greensands and gravels. On these deposits, farming is largely limited to rough pasture and there are medium size estates. Compared to woodland cover only a small area of the NCA is covered by semi-natural habitat and includes mosaics of lowland heathland and meadows, and acid grassland.

The NCA contains an extensive public rights of way network (3,315km compared to the 4500km across Hampshire).

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils;

B. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;

C. Reduce pollution entering rivers and chalk streams. Use nature based solutions to improve water quality.

D. Protecting, connecting, enhancing and expanding key sites for nature, with the focus on priority sites;

E. Protecting Commons and Verderers rights;

F. Maintaining access to the countryside for health and wellbeing;

G. Protecting, enhancing, and expanding Lowland Dry Acid grassland; and

H. Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).[1]

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the Goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land [2]across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[3] : Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of **farming and land management** to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities;
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils;
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching;
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation;
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices;
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards;
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

[2] Compliance with terms of the Hampshire ELM's test & trial.

[3] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continue to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land for sustainable food production;
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the chalk aquifer;
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve good water quality and 'Good' ecological status.
- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5)
- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health;

Objective no. 5:

- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters;
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting;
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042;
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038;
- Create new water attenuation areas, and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies;
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023);
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land;
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023).

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [1] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[2]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[3] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[4].

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international commitment in protecting migrating birds and wildlife.

[1] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
2 MAGIC
[3] Environment Plan 25-year target
[4] Environment Plan 25-year target

NCA 125 South Downs

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Land Management Framework

National Character Area 125 South Downs Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the South Downs NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

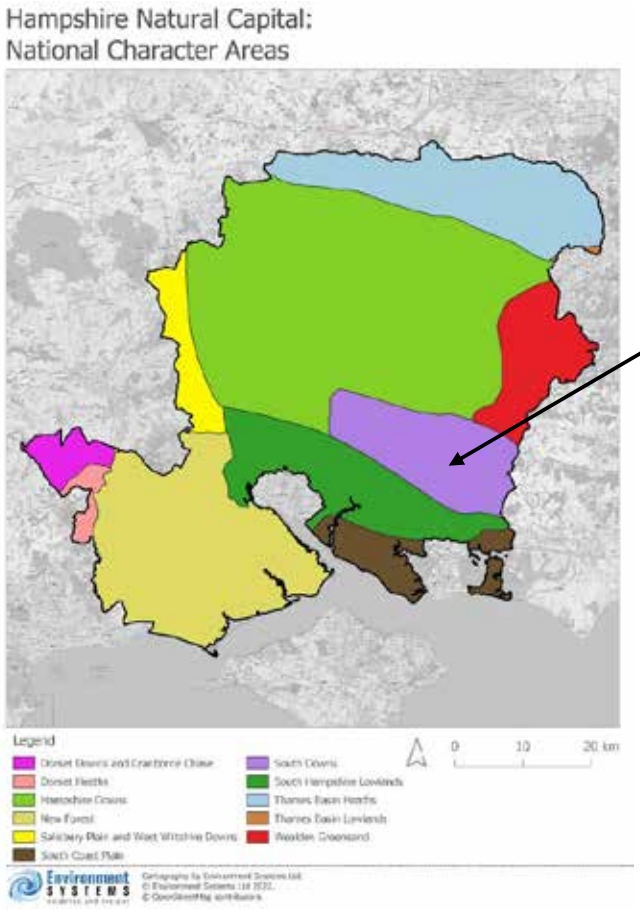
If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

Introducing National Character Area 125 South Downs

Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries



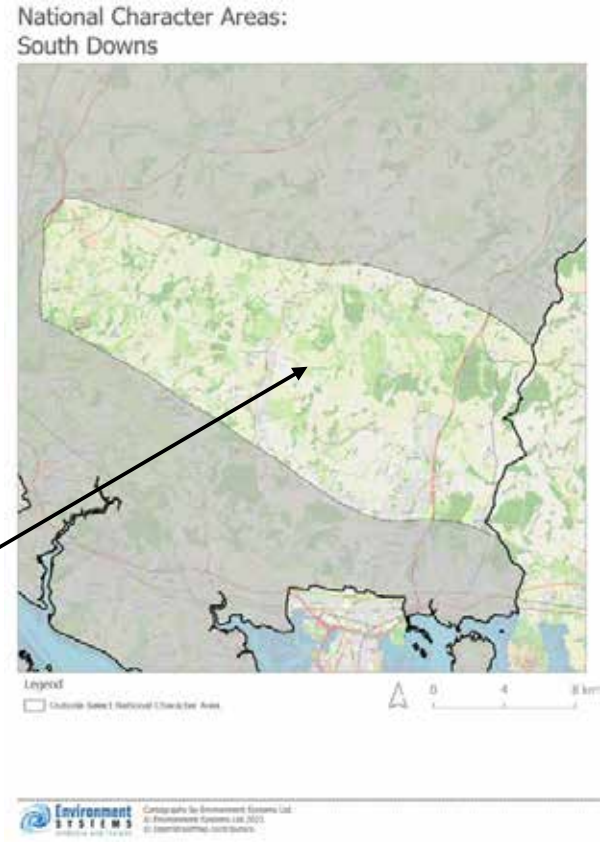


Figure 2: OS map with NCA 125 boundary

Introducing NCA 125 South Downs

An estimated 8% of Hampshire sits within The South Downs National Character Area (NCA) which comprises a 'whale-backed' spine of chalk stretching from the Hampshire Downs in the west to the coastal cliffs of Beachy Head in East Sussex.

The majority of the area, and nearly all of the area within Hampshire, falls within the South Downs National Park, a recognition of its natural beauty and importance for access and recreation.

In the west of the NCA ground water in the chalk feeds many of the rivers, streams and wetlands in the area and provides most of the water abstracted for public supply.

In many instances, farming has shaped the NCA over centuries; characteristic farming patterns range from arable in the west, wooded areas and mixed farming in the central areas and chalk grassland increasingly to the east. Over 80 per cent of the South Downs NCA is farmed.

The NCA has a wealth of well-conserved historical features including a range of archaeological sites from the Bronze and Iron Ages and early industrial sites from flint mines to ironworking furnaces. This is a landscape with a rich cultural heritage of art, music and rural traditions. Tranquillity is experienced most on the escarpment, dip slope and within the valleys of the chalk ridge, providing a sense of escape in a crowded corner of south-east England.

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils, and protect the fragile chalk soils from further erosion;

B. Reduce pollution entering rivers and chalk streams. Use nature based solutions to improve water quality.

C. Protecting, connecting, enhancing and expanding key sites for nature, with the focus on priority sites;

D. Increasing woodland cover and permanent grassland for multiple benefits;

E. Enhancing access to the countryside for health and wellbeing;

F. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;

G: Restoration and management, including grazing, of species-rich, semi-natural chalk grassland to achieve favorable condition;

H. Extend semi natural species rich chalk grassland to achieve LNRS target;

I. Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).[1]

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

The South Downs National Park Management Plan sets an over-arching agenda for the National Park and this is referenced in Appendix I

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land [1]across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[2]: Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils.
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continues to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for sustainable food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the chalk aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.
- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider adopting Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5).

[1] Compliance with the terms of the Hampshire ELM's test & trial.

[2] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.

Objective no. 5:

- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.
- Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023)

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [4] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[5]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations

[4] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
5 MAGIC

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[1] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[2].

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international commitment in protecting migrating birds and wildlife.

[1] Environment Plan 25-year target

[2] Environment Plan 25-year target

NCA 126 South Coast Plain

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Management Framework

National Character Area 126 South Coast Plain Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the South Coast Plain NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

Introducing National Character Area

126 South Coast Plain

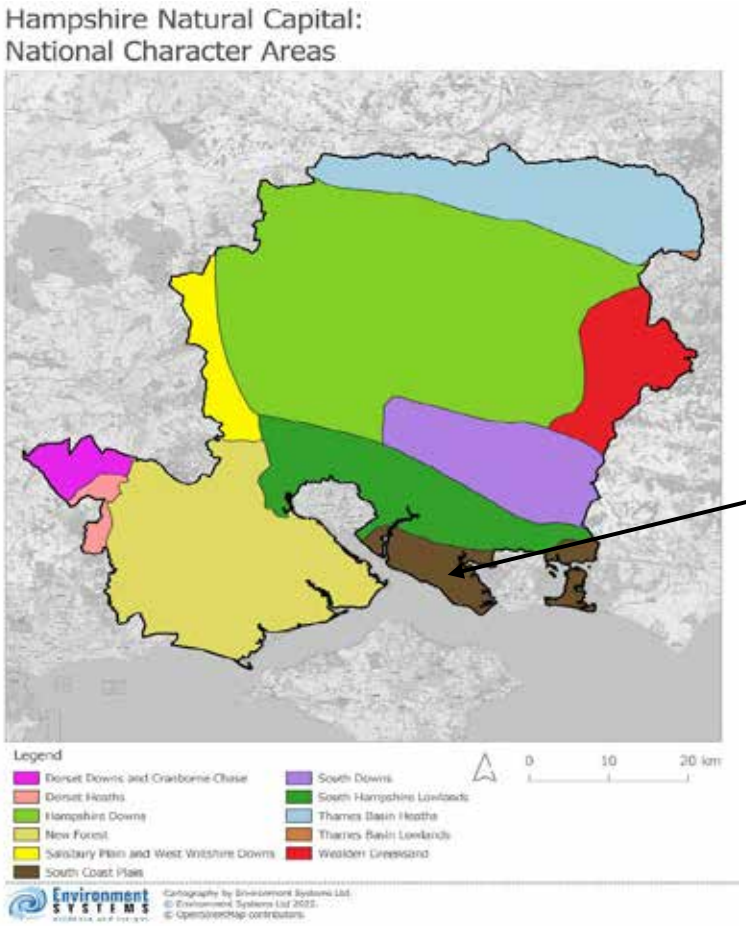


Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

Figure 2: OS map with NCA 126 boundary

Introducing NCA 126 South Coast Plain

An estimated 4% of Hampshire sits within the South Coast Plain National Character Area (NCA) which comprises predominantly flat, coastal landscape with an intricately indented shoreline that lies between the dip slope of the South Downs and South Hampshire Lowlands and the Solent.

With its internationally important Chichester, Langstone, Portsmouth harbours' this is a diverse landscape that is densely populated, generally very low lying and supports intensive arable farming and horticulture. Other important characteristics are the narrow tidal creeks, mudflats, shingle beaches, dunes, grazing salt marshes and paddocks.

To the east of the NCA lies the Chichester Harbour National landscape, in recognition of the South Coasts natural beauty and importance for access, coastal habitats and recreation.

In the north of the NCA ground water in the chalk feeds many of the rivers, streams and wetlands in the area discharging into the harbours and Solent.

The water, supplied by chalk aquifer provides most of the water abstracted for public supply for a large population.

The total area of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone is 37,784 ha, which is 72 per cent of the NCA.

Settlement expansion and farming has shaped the NCA over centuries; characteristic farming patterns range from producing crops and raising livestock to the east within Chichester harbour. The lower coastal plain with its homogenous landscape of large arable fields and few hedgerows or trees in contrast to the smaller fields, ancient woodlands, coniferous plantations, broadleaf woodlands linked by hedgerows across the higher land of the upper coastal plain.

Over 22,194 ha of the South Coast Plain NCA is farmed.

Within this NCA agriculture land use is 42% arable, 34% grassland. 8% crops, and 8% horticulture (vegetables). The majority is grade 2 and 3 agricultural land with 5% woodland.

The NCA has a wealth of well-conserved historical features including a range of archaeological sites, and geological features.

This is a landscape with internationally important and priority habitats and small area of Common land.

The NCA has a limited public right of way network (673 km compared to the 4500km across Hampshire), rich in cultural heritage and rural traditions with very special sense of peace and tranquillity in the east.

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils;

B. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;

C. Reduce pollution entering rivers and use nature based solutions to improve water quality.

D. Maintain and expand coastal and flood plain priority habitats, specifically grazing salt marsh, broadleaved mixed and yew woodland (broad habitat) and reed beds;

E. Avoid introducing woodland in lower coastal plain and increase broadleaved woodland cover, shelterbelts and native hedgerows on upper coastal plain for multiple benefits;

F. Protecting, connecting, enhancing and expanding key sites for nature, with the focus on priority sites;

G. Enhancing access to the countryside for health and wellbeing;

H: Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).[1]

The Chichester Harbour National Landscape (formerly known as AONB) Management Plan sets an over-arching agenda for the eastern part of the NCA and this is referenced in Appendix I.

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county. https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land** [1]**across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[2]**:** Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils;
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continue to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for sustainable food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the chalk aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.
- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider adopting Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5)
- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.

[1] Compliance with the terms of the Hampshire ELM's test and trial.

[2] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

Objective no.5:

- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.
- Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023).

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act for reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme) (Habitat Regulations)

Objective no.7: Each farm delivering Net Zero Nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ). Outside of these each farm aims to deliver Net Zero[4] Nitrate emissions by 2040. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[5]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [6] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[7]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[4] NFU's Net Zero Farming's goal by 2040.
[5] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[6] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
7 MAGIC

entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[1] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[2].

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international commitment in protecting migrating birds and wildlife.

[1] Environment Plan 25-year target

[2] Environment Plan 25-year target

NCA 128 South Hampshire Lowlands

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Management Framework

National Character Area 128 South Hampshire Lowlands Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the South Hampshire Lowlands NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

Introducing National Character Area 128 South Hampshire Lowlands

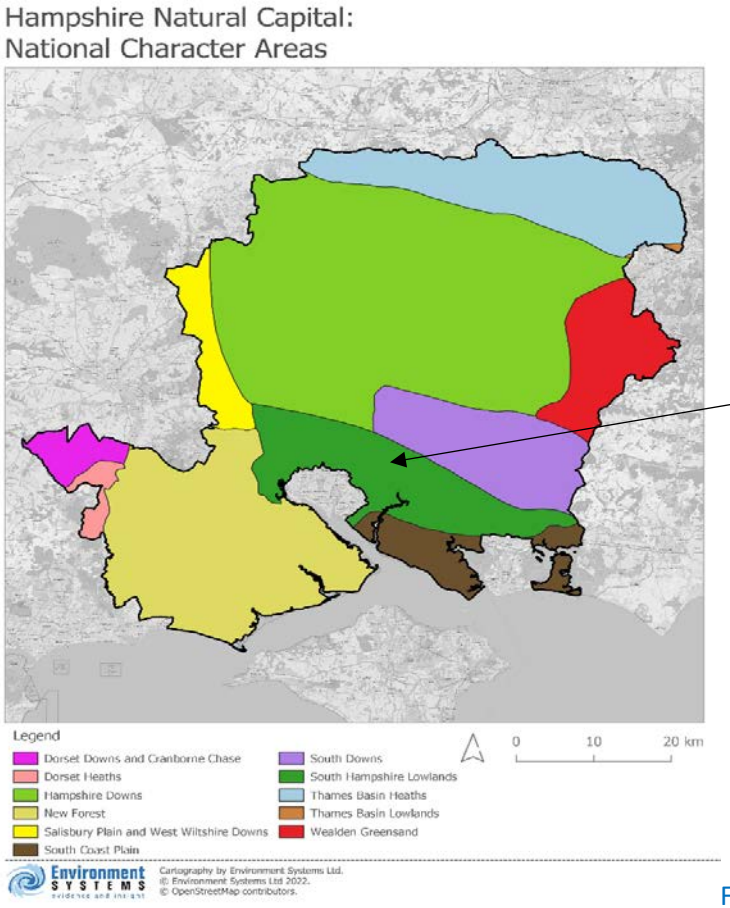


Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

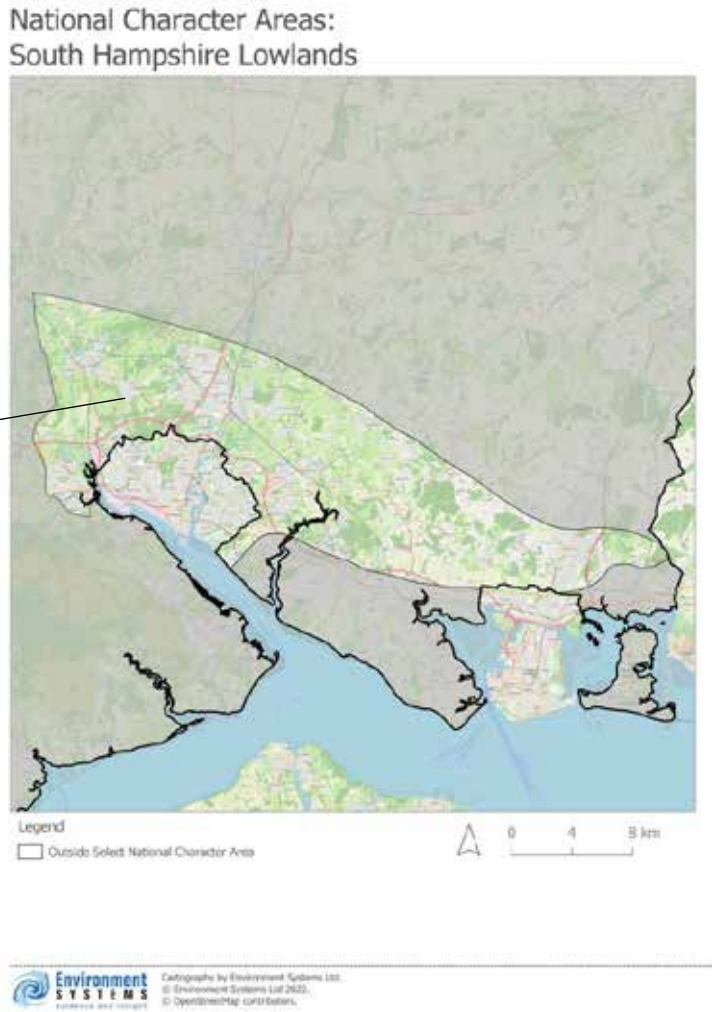


Figure 2: OS map with NCA 128 boundary

Introducing NCA 128 South Hampshire Lowlands

10% of Hampshire sits within the South Hampshire Lowlands National Character Area (NCA) which comprises of low lying plain between the chalk hills of NCA 130 Hampshire Downs and South Down, its southern edge following the line of Southampton Water.

The geology is typically tertiary sands, silts and clays associated with the marine, estuarine and freshwater landscape. In contrast an outlying ridge of chalk, Portsdown Hill, extends from Havant overlooking NCA 126 South Coastal Plain in the east – extending west to the New Forest (NCA 131).

Across the NCA, Grade 1 and Grade 2 soils account for only 10 per cent; Grade 3 soils make up 23 per cent, and Grade 4 at 38 per cent across the area. The urban conurbations make up 19 per cent.

Over 14,797 ha of the South Hampshire Lowlands NCA is farmed.

Farming is mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable. Cattle is the predominant livestock.

This is a landscape with intimate and enclosed field pattern. Many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland. Almost half of the 19 percent woodland across the NCA is designated ancient woodland, a legacy of the Forest of Bere.

The NCA is drained by several rivers: the lower reaches of the Test and Itchen, the source and headwaters of the Hamble and the middle section of the Meon provides most of the water abstracted for public supply of the surrounding large populations.

The total area of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone is 37,900 ha, which is 98 per cent of the NCA.

Southampton Water is internationally recognised for its importance for breeding and overwintering waterfowl and waders and for its wetland habitats such as mudflats and salt marshes. The rivers, coastal grazing saltmarsh, lowland meadows and rushy pastures are the most notable habitats of the area. This is a landscape containing many priority habitats.

The NCA is easily accessible with a limited public right of way network (427km compared to the 4500km across Hampshire), rich in cultural heritage and interest provided by Southampton Water.

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils;

B. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;

C. Reduce pollution entering Southampton Water, the Test and Itchen rivers. Use nature based solutions to improve water quality;

D. Protecting Southampton Water's internationally recognised habitats supporting breeding and overwintering waterfowl and waders and mudflats and salt marshes;

E. Protecting, connecting, enhancing and expanding key sites for nature, with the focus on priority sites;

F. Increasing opportunities for access to the countryside for health and wellbeing;

G. Restoration and management, including grazing, of species-rich, semi-natural chalk grassland to achieve favorable condition;

H. Extend semi natural species rich chalk grassland (to achieve LNRS target); and

I. Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).[1]

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land [2]across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[3]: Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils;
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

[2] Compliance with the terms f the Hampshire ELM's test and trial.

[3] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continue to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for sustainable food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the chalk aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.
- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider adopting Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5)
- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.

Objective no. 5:

- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.
- Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023)

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act for reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme) (Habitat Regulations)

Objective no.7: Each farm delivering Net Zero Nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ). Outside of these each farm aims

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations

to deliver Net Zero[1] Nitrate emissions by 2040. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[2]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [3] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[4]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[5] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[6].

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international commitment in protecting migrating birds and wildlife.

[1] NFU's Net Zero Farming's goal by 2040.
[2] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[3] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
4 MAGIC
[5] Environment Plan 25-year target
[6] Environment Plan 25-year target

NCA 129 Thames Basin Heaths

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Management Framework

National Character Area 129 Thames Basin Heaths Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the Thames basin Heaths NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

Introducing National Character Area

129 Thames Basin Heaths

Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

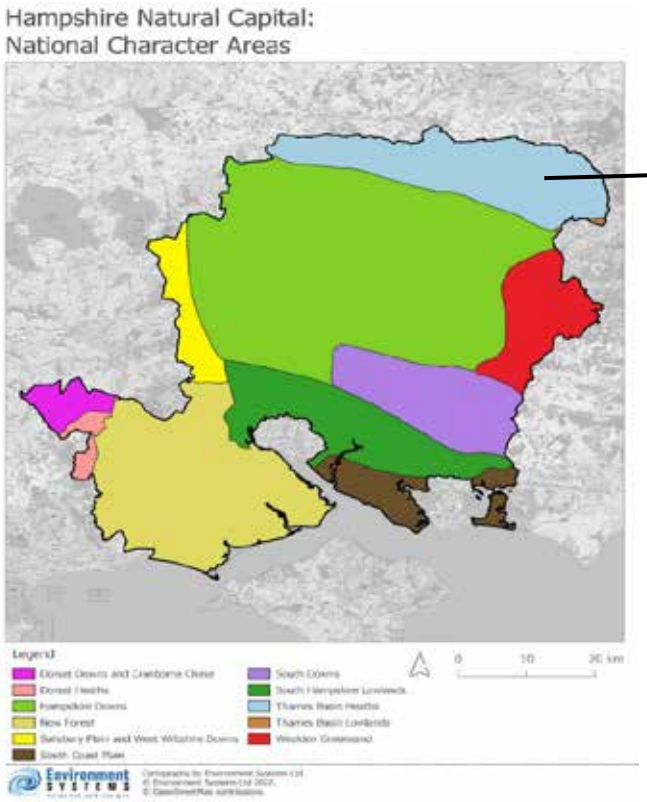


Figure 2: OS map with NCA 129 boundary

Introducing NCA 129 Thames Basin Heath

An estimated 11% of Hampshire sits within the Thames Basin Heaths National Character Area (NCA) which lies in the London Basin and stretches westwards from Weybridge in Surrey to the countryside around Newbury in Berkshire.
Further from London, in the west, the settlement pattern is a mix of dispersed hamlets, farmsteads and houses interspersed with villages, many of medieval origin.

Woodland accounts for a quarter of this NCA, reflecting the predominance of low-grade agricultural land.

Farmland is minimal, as soils are poor for any use other than rough pasture. Across the NCA, Grade 1 and 2 soils account for only 6,600 ha; Grade 3 soils make up 40 per cent of the area (47,700 ha).

Common land is found across the NCA, with the largest commons found on raised plateaux of tertiary sands and gravels. On these deposits, farming is largely limited to rough pasture and there are large estates.

Non-agricultural land uses are widespread and include large plantations and military bases.

Semi-natural habitat is extensive on the plateaux, and includes mosaics of wet and dry heathland, woodland and acid grassland.

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils;

B. Protecting, connecting, enhancing and expanding key sites for nature, with the focus on priority sites; with the focus on Internationally important heathlands;

C. Reduce pollution entering rivers and use nature based solutions to improve water quality

D. Maintaining access to the countryside for health and wellbeing;

E. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;

F. Protecting, enhancing, and expanding Lowland Dry Acid grassland; and
G. Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). [1]

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan

https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land** [1]**across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[2] : Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils.
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continue to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for sustainable food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the chalk aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.
- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider adopting Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5).
- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.

Objective no. 5:

- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.

[1] Compliance with the terms of the Hampshire ELM's test and trial.

[2] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.
- Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023)

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act for reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme) (Habitat Regulations)

Objective no.7: Each farm delivering Net Zero Nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ). Outside of these each farm aims to deliver Net Zero[4] Nitrate emissions by 2040. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[5]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [6] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[7]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[8] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[4] NFU's Net Zero Farming's goal by 2040.
[5] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[6] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
7 MAGIC
[8] Environment Plan 25-year target

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[1].

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international commitment in protecting migrating birds and wildlife.

[1] Environment Plan 25-year target

NCA 130 Hampshire Downs

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Land Management Framework

National Character Area 130 Hampshire Downs Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the Hampshire Downs NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

Introducing National Character Area

130 Hampshire Downs

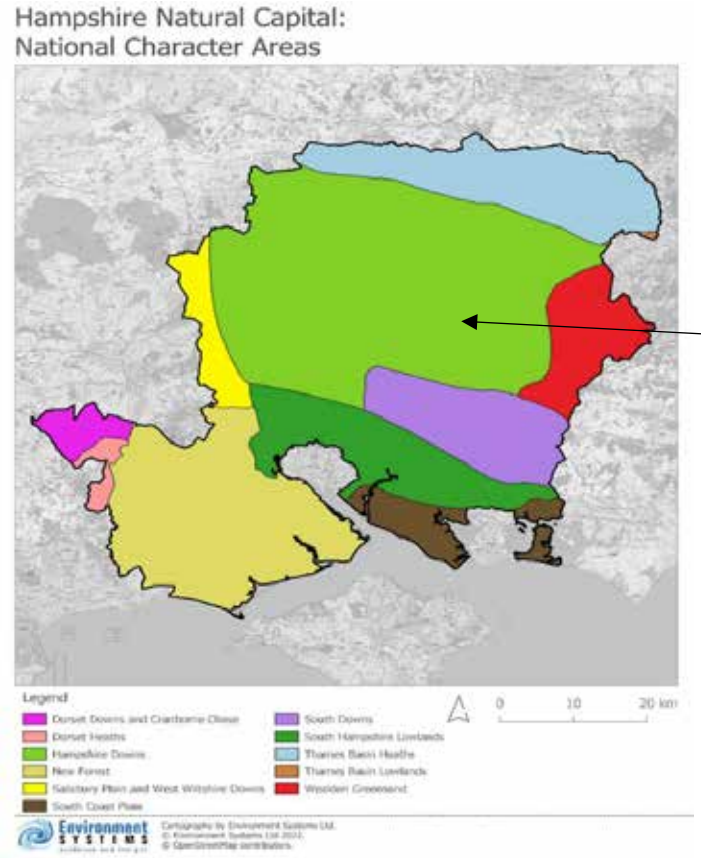


Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

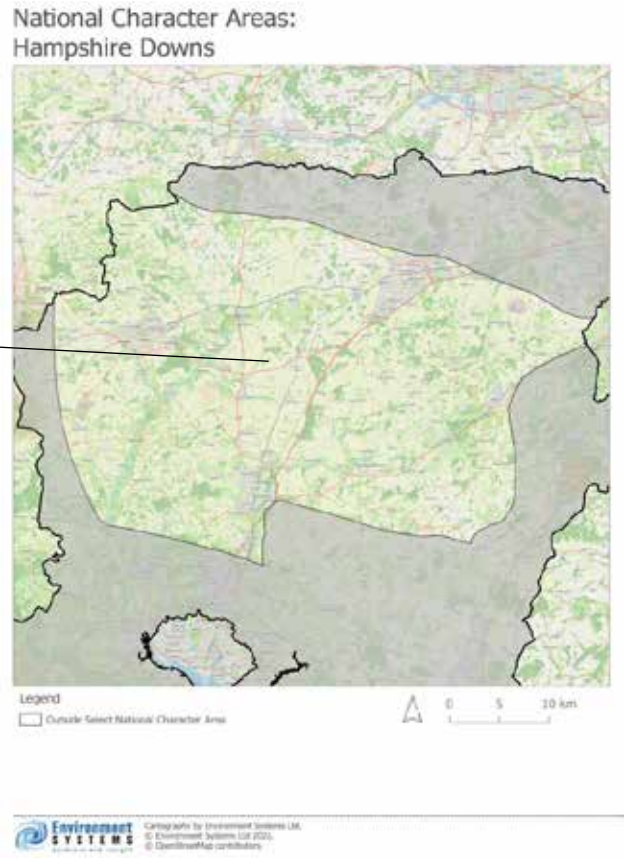


Figure 2: OS map with NCA 130 boundary

Introducing NCA 130 Hampshire Downs

An estimated 37% of Hampshire sits within the South Hampshire Downs National Character Area (NCA) with the majority of the area comprises the Hampshire Downs. An elevated, open, rolling chalk downland landscape that runs through Southern England, rising to 297 m in the north-west on the Hampshire–Wiltshire border descending gradually to approximately 100 m to 150 m in the south. The steep scarp slopes abut the change into NCA 129 Thames Basin Heaths.

The geology of the NCA consists almost entirely of chalk.

Across the NCA, Grade 1 soils appear absent and the thin chalk Grade 2 soils account for only 2 per cent; Grade 3 soils make up 87 per cent, by far the highest percentage, across the area.

Over 112,70 ha of the Hampshire Downs NCA is farmed. Large farm holdings, typically over 100 ha in size, cover 89% of the farmed area.

40% of land use is arable with cereals the dominant crop, followed by 10% grazing pasture and 5% woodland.

This is a landscape dominated by large arable fields with low hedgerows. Numerous ancient woodlands occur on the higher parts of the Downs in association with the heaviest clay-with-flint soils. Scattered woodland blocks and shelterbelts add to the landscape structure with larger blocks of woodland in the east. The wooded scarp of the Hangers the Chalk and Greensand scarp of the East Hampshire Hangers, overlooking the Western Weald dominates the skyline.

A fifth of the NCA to the north contains the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. In the south-east approx. 6 per cent contains the South Downs National Park (adjacent NCA 126 South Downs).

The water, supplied by chalk aquifer provides most of the water abstracted for public supply for a large population.

Surface water is an important feature across the lower lying floodplains in the NCA. The Rivers Test and Itchen flow in straight-sided, relatively deeply, incised valleys across most of the NCA.

The total area of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone is 147, 508 ha, which is 99 per cent of the NCA.

Fields are predominantly large across the valley sides and higher ground. Between the main river valleys field s area enclosed in the area to the north-west and west of Winchester.

The rivers, water meadows, peat soils, mires and fens in the flood plains, and chalk downland are the most notable habitats of the area. This is a landscape containing many priority habitats that are very fragmented.

The NCA is easily accessible with an extensive public rights of way network (1,865km compared to the 4500km across Hampshire), rich in cultural and ecclesiastical heritage associated with Winchester and its landscape to its north.

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils, and protect the fragile chalk soils from further erosion;

B. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;

C. Reduce pollution entering rivers and use nature based solutions to improve water quality.

D. Protecting, connecting, enhancing and expanding key sites for nature, with the focus on priority sites;

E. Maintaining access to the countryside for health and wellbeing;

F. Restoration and management, including grazing, of species-rich, semi-natural chalk grassland to achieve favorable condition;

G. Extend semi natural species rich chalk grassland (to achieve LNRS target); and

H. Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).[1]

The North Wessex Downs National Landscape (formerly known as AONB) Management Plan sets an over-arching agenda for the northern part of the NCA and this is referenced in Appendix I.

The South Downs National Park Management Plan sets an over-arching agenda for the south-east part of the NCA (dealt with separately at NCA 125) and this is referenced in Appendix I.

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land [2]across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

[2] Compliance with the terms of the Hampshire ELM's test and trial.

Objective no.3[1] : Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils.
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continues to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for sustainable food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the chalk aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.
- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider adopting Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5).
- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.

Condition no.5:

- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.

[1] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

- Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023)

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act for reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme) (Habitat Regulations)

Objective no.7: Each farm delivering Net Zero Nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ). Outside of these each farm aims to deliver Net Zero[4] Nitrate emissions by 2040. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[5]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [6] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[7]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[8] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[9].

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[4] NFU's Net Zero Farming's goal by 2040.
[5] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[6] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
7 MAGIC
[8] Environment Plan 25-year target
[9] Environment Plan 25-year target

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international commitment in protecting migrating birds and wildlife.

NCA 131 New Forest

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Land Management Framework

National Character Area 131 New Forest Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the New Forest NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

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Introducing National Character Area

131 New Forest

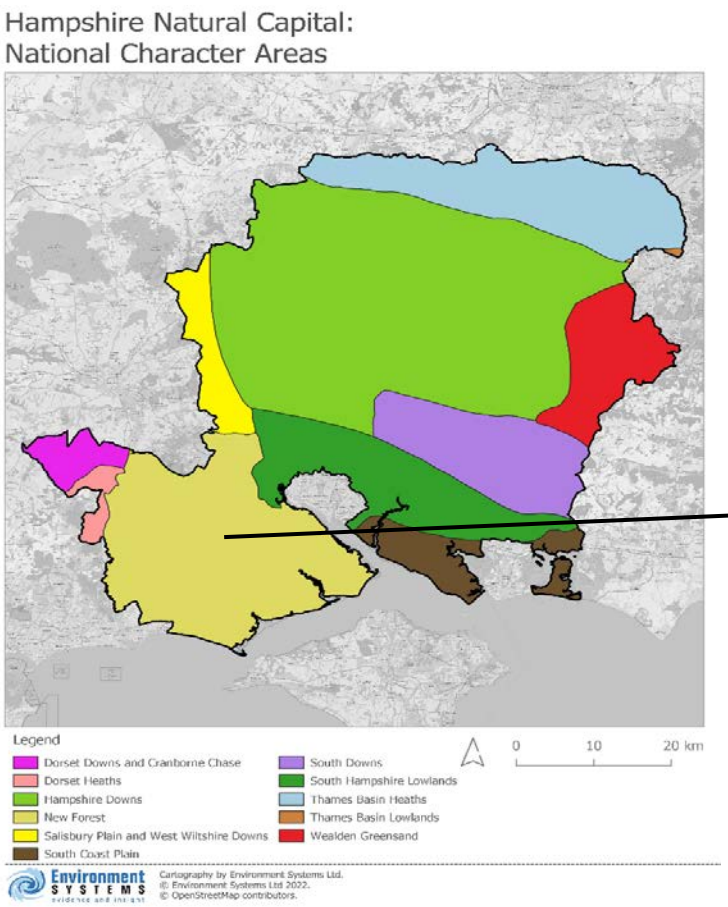

Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

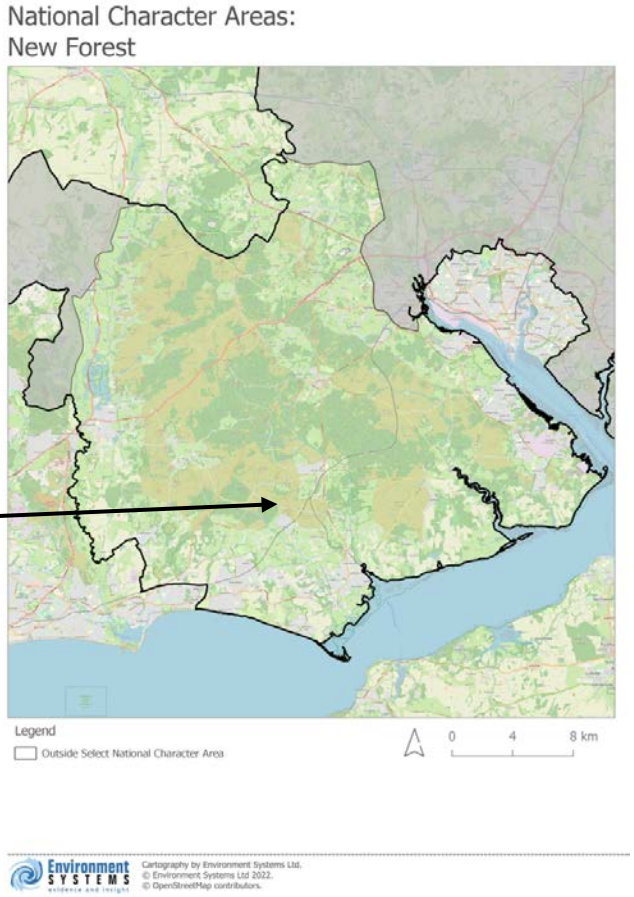

Figure 2: OS map with NCA 131 boundary

Introducing NCA 131 New Forest

An estimated 18% of Hampshire sits within the New Forest National Character Area (NCA) which comprises a mixture of extensive, open rolling heaths and valley mires, inclosures of broadleaf and coniferous plantation woodland, and large tracts of unenclosed ancient semi-natural mature oak and beech wood pasture.

75 per cent of the NCA is made up of the New Forest National Park (NFNP) whose protected landscape designation is in recognition of its natural beauty and importance for access and recreation. The NCA also includes the lower Hampshire Avon Valley defining its western boundary, and, to the east, the urbanised 'Waterside' from Totton to Fawley, with major oil-, energy- and port-related industry alongside Southampton Water.

The NCA has a strong sense of history throughout, expressed through the continuity of open woodland and heath, grading gently into each other, and the influence of the ever-present grazing animals.

The important lowland landscape has been retained, largely undisturbed by agriculture, because of its designation as a medieval royal hunting forest, the survival of grazing as part of a pastoral tradition, ancient Forest Law and more recent conservation policies. The locally distinct and traditional practice of commoning with characteristic smallholdings, enclosed pastures, farmsteads, hamlets and settlements on the Forest fringe has strong functional and habitat links with the heaths, woodlands and wood pastures.

NCA 131 is defined by the Lower Avon Valley to the west, the Lower Test/ Southampton Water estuary to the east with the Solent shore to the south. Also contains the Lymington and Beaulieu rivers and valley mires are common features.

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils,

B. Reduce pollution entering rivers and streams. Use nature-based solutions to improve water quality.

C. Protection of the internationally designated landscapes and coastlines, habitats and species;

D. Conserve and improve local distinctiveness in the traditional commoners' smallholdings, enclosed pastures, farmsteads, hamlets and settlements on the Forest fringe;

E. Promote the extent of open access, the high-quality semi-natural environment and the strong sense of human history as a special landscape for recreation and tourism;

F. Support and develop the 'catchment project' across the internationally recognised aquatic environments of the New Forest, Hampshire Avon and Blackwater drainage systems;

G: protect and continue to manage Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)[1].

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversi

The New Forest Partnership Plan sets an over-arching agenda for the National Park and this is referenced in Appendix I

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land [1]across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[2]: Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils,
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continue to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the chalk aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.

ty/informationcentre/sincsSINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county. https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

[1] Compliance with the terms of the Hampshire ELM's test and trial.

[2] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider adopting Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5).

Objective no.5:

- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.
- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023)

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act for reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme) (Habitat Regulations)

Objective no.7: Each farm delivering Net Zero Nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ). Outside of these each farm aims to deliver Net Zero[4] Nitrate emissions by 2040. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[5]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [6] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[4] NFU's Net Zero Farming's goal by 2040.
[5] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[6] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[1]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[2] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[3].

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international commitment in protecting migrating birds and wildlife.

1 MAGIC
[2] Environment Plan 25-year target
[3] Environment Plan 25-year target

NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Land Management Framework

National Character Area 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

Introducing National Character Area 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs

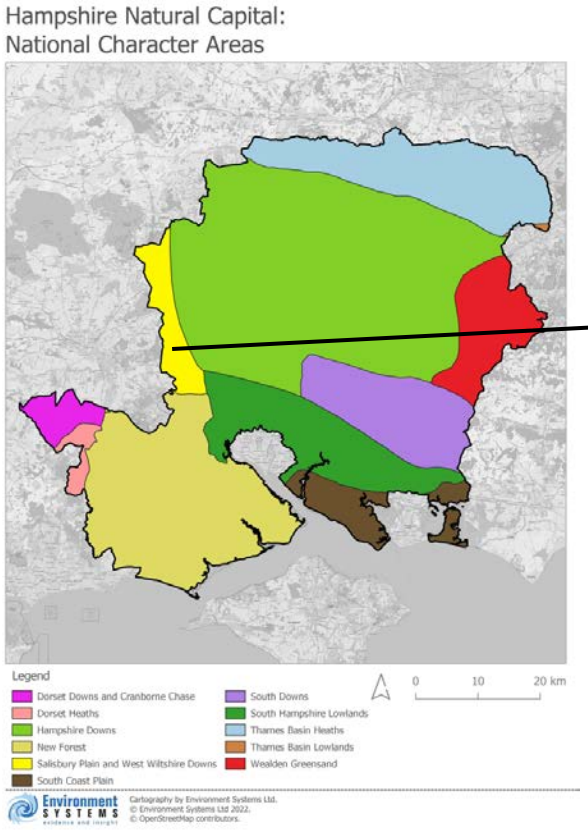

Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

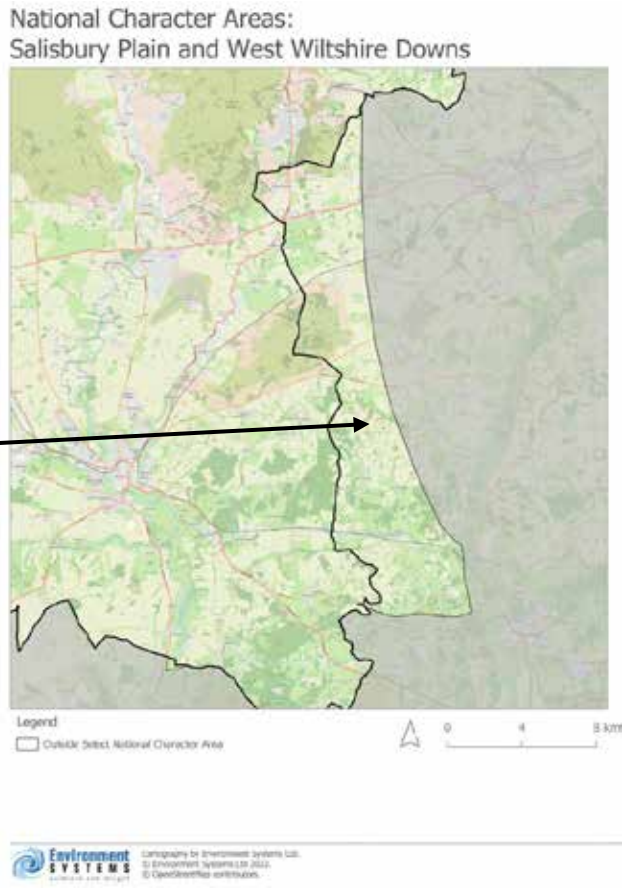

Figure 2: OS map with NCA 132 boundary

Introducing NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs

Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs NCA has the smallest representation in Hampshire of the 10, only occupying 3% of the land area. Located at the western boundary of the county, the chalk of the National Character Area (NCA) is part of a wider sweep, extending from the Dorset coast up across to north of the Wash into Yorkshire. The area is a catchment for rivers affecting the Hampshire Downs to the east. A substantial pipeline network moves freshwater between the NCA and the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase.

Majority of agriculture land is arable and Grade 3, with 8% woodland.

The total area of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone is 121,782 ha, is 100 per cent of the NCA

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils, and protect the fragile chalk soils from further erosion;
B. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;
C. Reduce pollution entering rivers and streams. Use nature-based solutions to improve water quality;
D. Management of pastures and more work may be required on the restoration of water meadows, some having been converted to arable;
E. Restoration and management, including grazing, of species-rich, semi-natural chalk grassland to achieve favorable condition.
F. Extend semi natural species rich chalk grassland (to achieve LNRS target); and
G. Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)[1].

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land [1]across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[2] : Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of **farming and land management** to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils.
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continue to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for sustainable food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the Chalk Aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.
- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider adopting Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5.)
- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon

[1] Compliance with terms of the Hampshire ELM's test and trial.

[2] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.

Objective no. 5:

- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.
- Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023)

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Interrupt pollution pathways to enable individual farms to meet Nutrient Neutrality[2]. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act for reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme) (Habitat Regulations)

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[4] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[5]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [6] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] See NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[4] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[5] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[6] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[1]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[2] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[3].

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international.

Objective no. 15: Demand for housing and other economic activity is met before land is used for emissions reduction. (UK Climate Change Committee's land use policy for Net Zero).

1 MAGIC
[2] Environment Plan 25-year target
[3] Environment Plan 25-year target

NCA 134 Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Land Management Framework

National Character Area 134 Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

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Introducing National Character Area 134 Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase

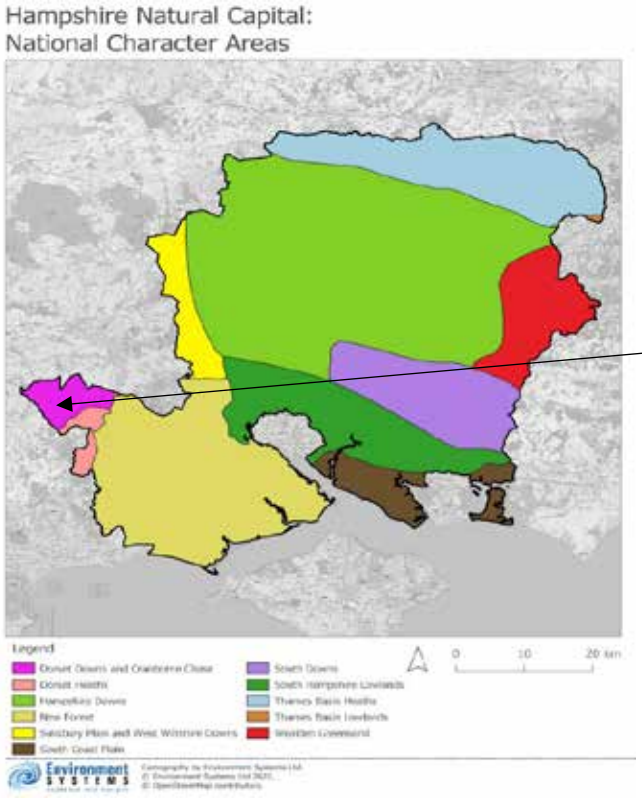

Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

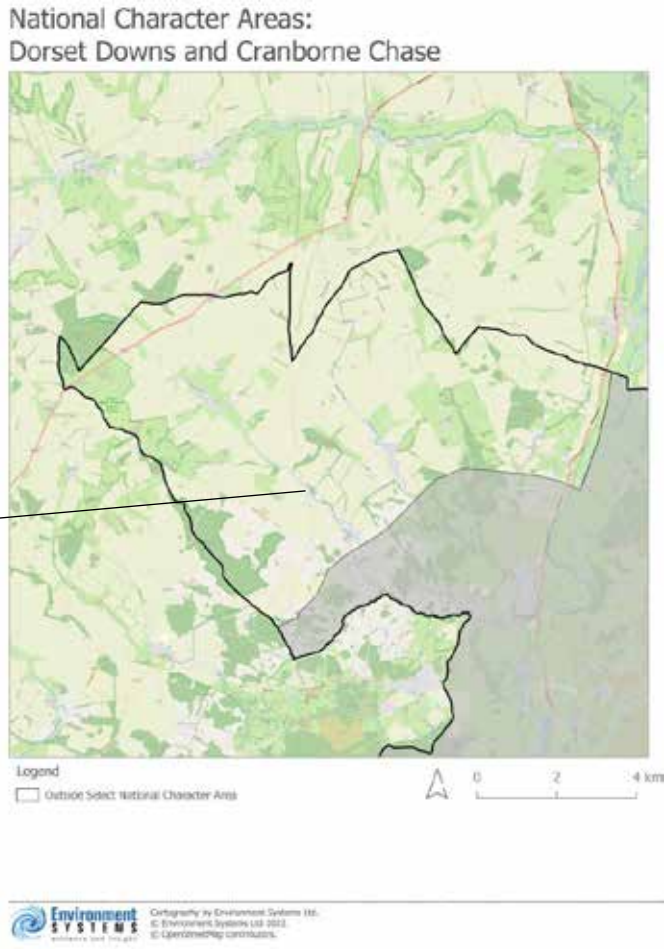

Figure 2: OS map with NCA 134 boundary

Introducing NCA 134 Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase

An estimated 2% of Hampshire sits within the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase National Character Area (NCA), most of which coincides with the Cranborne Chase Protected Landscape in recognition of its natural beauty and stunning, long distance views.

This strongly rural and agricultural NCA is characterised by large, open fields of pasture and arable, punctuated by blocks of woodland all draped over the undulating chalk topography. The NCA features one of the densest assemblages of prehistoric sites and monuments in Europe, with areas such as the South Dorset Ridgeway revealing some 8,000 years of human activity.

Food production is the most visible service provided by the NCA. However, the provision of drinking water and the charging of the important suite of chalk rivers that flow southwards out of this NCA (via the chalk aquifer), are also essential services.

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils, and protect the fragile chalk soils from further erosion;
B. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;
C. Reduce pollution entering rivers and streams. Use nature based solutions to improve water quality;
D. Manage and enhance the historic character of the NCA;
E. Manage and enhance the recreational and educational potential of the NCA in a way that clearly shows the links between people and the landscape, and between geodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide;
F. Restoration and management, including grazing, of species-rich, semi-natural chalk grassland to achieve favorable condition;
G. Extend semi natural species rich chalk grassland (to achieve LNRS target); and
H. Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).[1]

The Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan 2019 – 2024 sets an over-arching agenda for the AONB and this is referenced in Appendix I

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land [1]across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[2]: Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of **farming and land management** to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils.
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continue to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for sustainable food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the Chalk Aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.
- If located in the Southern Water catchment consider adopting Southern Water's Nitrate measures 2023/24 Scheme (measures 1-5).
- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.

Objective no. 5:

[1] Compliance with the terms of the test and trial.

[2] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.
- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.
- Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023)

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act for reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]4. (Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme) (Habitat Regulations)

Objective no.7: Each farm delivering Net Zero Nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ). Outside of these each farm aims to deliver Net Zero[5] Nitrate emissions by 2040. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[6]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [7] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[8]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations

4 Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations

[5] NFU's Net Zero Farming's goal by 2040.
[6] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[7] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
8 MAGIC

from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[1] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[2].

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitats to meet the UK's international commitment in protecting migrating birds and wildlife.

[1] Environment Plan 25-year target

[2] Environment Plan 25-year target

NCA 135 Dorset Heaths

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

A Test and Trial Project funded by Defra to support Environmental Land Management in England

Land Management Framework

National Character Area 135 Dorset Heaths Summary

This is a short summary of work collated 2023-4 by the Convenor Test and Trial team. It informed the baseline natural capital work undertaken by eftec and Envsys and fed into the background, priorities and schedule of actions into the trial toolkit but by LandApp. The full research and reports are available for all ten of the County's National Character Areas (NCAs) from their author terrafirma but ran into hundreds of pages.

This summary seeks to set out the Priorities to guide investment by farmers and land managers in the new environmental land management (ELM) systems in the Dorset Heaths NCA.

NCAs are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries, much of this developed through farming activity over the years.

The ELMS Convenor is looking at all ten NCAs within Hampshire and each NCA document seeks to pull together all the strands of regulations and advice a land manager should consider. Setting out opportunities for funding to support sustainable food production and the health of the landscape.

If you manage or farm land within this area you can access comprehensive information on:

- The options for actions you might consider to provide best outcomes for the environment on your land.
- What funding streams are available to assist from both public and private finance resources.
- All the guidance and regulations in one place.

These framework documents have been produced for the purposes of a Test and Trial and are not for final use. Statutory actions are all set out in a separate table and require checking with legal expertise and all advisory actions used in the toolkit and full documents, with their originating bodies. Stated NCA priorities set out here are advisory and would require Board recommendation and DEFRA approval.

Introducing National Character Area 135 Dorset Heaths

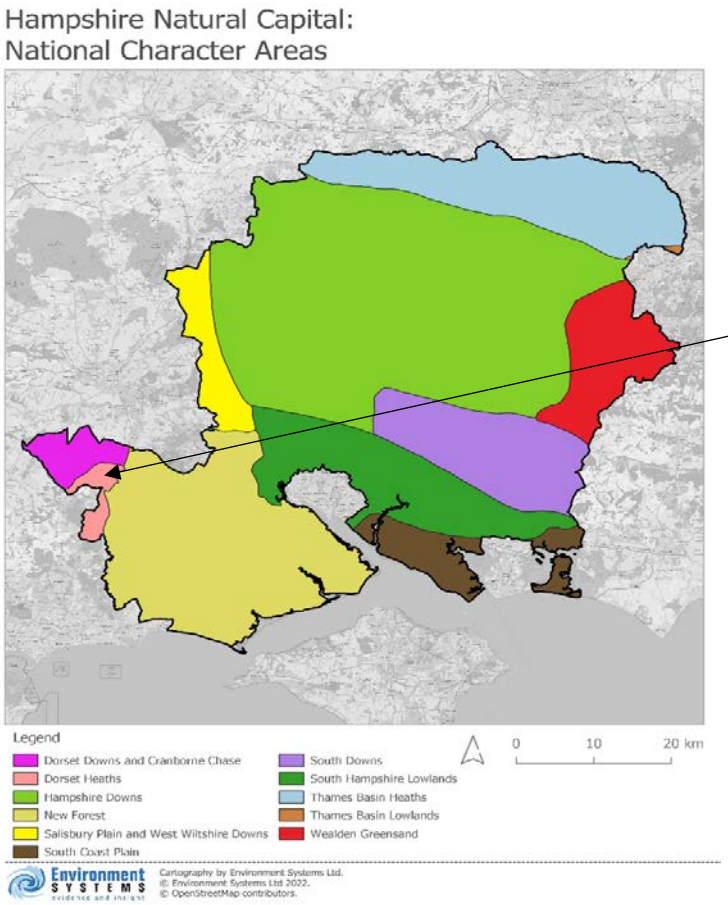

Figure 1: OS map with all NCA boundaries

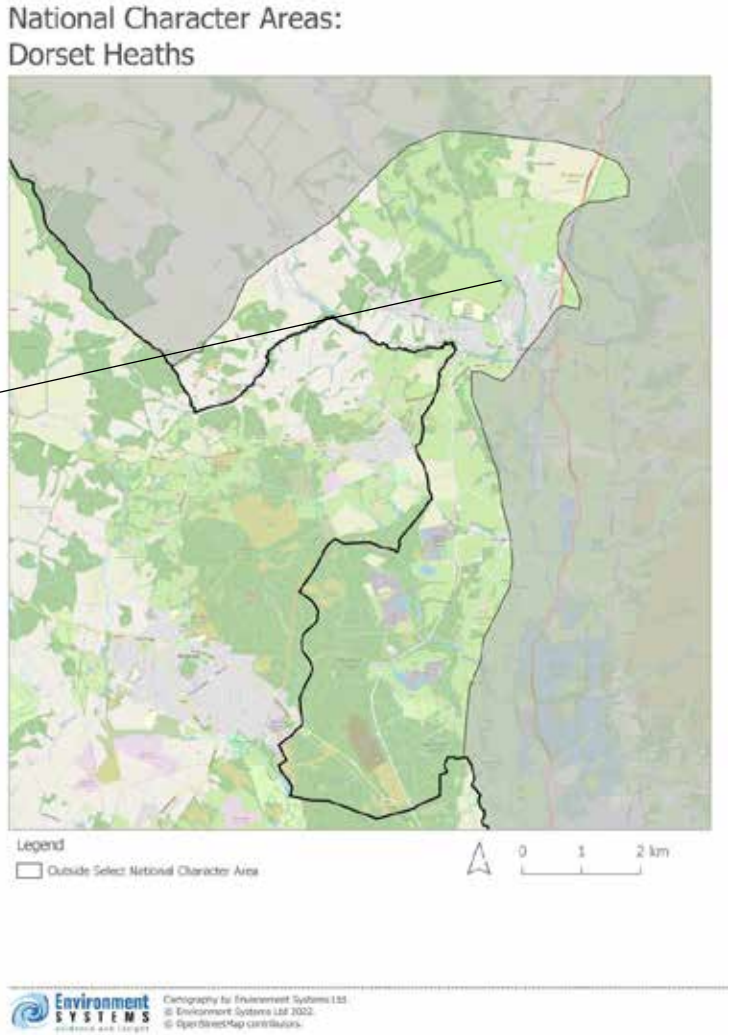

Figure 2: OS map with NCA 135 boundary

Introducing NCA 135 Dorset Heaths

An estimated 1% of Hampshire sits within the Dorset Heaths National Character Area (NCA) which contains some of the best lowland heath left in England, much of it designated for nature conservation and managed as nature reserves by a variety of organisations. The larger tracts of heathland, along with the often-adjacent conifer plantations, can still provide a real sense of wilderness and tranquillity, despite the close proximity of a major conurbation.

Land use is dominated by lowland grazing livestock farming. There is some arable cropping, especially maize. Large tracts of less-fertile marginal land dominated by conifer plantations or by heathlands.

The heathlands can provide a real sense of remoteness combined with bleakness or tranquillity, depending on the weather.

Overarching priorities / objectives listed for this NCA landscape:

A. Restoring and enhancing the microbial health of all soils;

B. Protecting, connecting, enhancing and expanding key sites for nature, with the focus on priority sites; with the focus on Internationally important heathlands;

C. Reduce pollution entering rivers and use nature based solutions to improve water quality

D. Maintaining access to the countryside for health and wellbeing;

E. Reduce nitrate levels through environmentally sensitive farming operations;

F. Protecting, enhancing, and expanding Lowland Dry Acid grassland; and

G. Protect and continue to manage Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). [1]

H. Enhance opportunities for recreation in natural greenspace by securing a network of new and revitalised suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANGS);

I. Promote creative and effective solutions to environmental constraints so that enterprise can pursue sustainable development solutions to enhance local prosperity.

[1] SINCs reflect good land management practice and rely on the continued stewardship by landowners. In Hampshire: 4,140 SINC's equating to 9% of land across the county.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/sincs

Hampshire ELM's Convenor Proposed Primary Objectives

Objective no. 1: Deliver public goods for public money based on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023: Clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Objective no. 2: A commitment to improve the health of **all land [1]across Hampshire** (see explanation in Technical Appendix RR).

Objective no.3[2]: Achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire." With the following outcomes:

- Retain sustainable food production at the core of farming activities.
- Protect, restore and maintain healthy soils.
- Protect the farm's natural resources, including the local water environment which is vulnerable to nitrate and pesticide leaching.
- Work towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a well-considered plan for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- Boost pollinators and promote farmland bird abundance on farm through good engagement, monitoring and land management practices.
- Adopt and uphold exemplar animal welfare standards.
- Improve on-farm biodiversity and connectivity between neighbouring farms, sites of special scientific interest, local sites of importance for nature conservation. The goal is to improve the wider landscape through good management and provision of joined up wildlife rich habitats.

Objective no. 4: Deliver enhancements that continues to protect the UK's food production and improves the health of the landscape and by:

- Continuing to prioritise and protect the highest-quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural lands for food production.
- The planting of interceptor woodlands to slow down and improve water quality entering the Chalk Aquifer.
- Managing land and water courses across 18 no. Hampshire water catchments to achieve 'Good' water quality and 'Good' ecological status.

Objective no. 5:

- Increasing the number and uptake of Agro-forestry type enterprises with a well-considered plan to increase carbon sequestration, responding to new market opportunities, and livestock health.
- Instigate Agro-forestry initiatives and planting of interceptor woodlands to manage and slow the flow of surface water in the headwaters.

[1] Compliance with the terms of the Hampshire ELM's test and trial.

[2] Hampshire County Council (2023) Hampshire County Farms Annual Report 2022/23, Member Briefing - 8th September 2023. Service Priority 2 Land management and farming systems - "Our aim is to achieve sustainable and adaptive systems of farming and land management to support high quality environmental, social and economic outcomes for Hampshire."

- Adopting the UK Forest Standard Requirements and Guidelines in relation to managing trees, woodland and new planting.
- To increase the % of broadleaved tree planting, delivering carbon sequestration and increasing woodland canopy cover in England in line with aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.
- Reduce sediment from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.
- Create new water attenuation areas and managing water flows using habitat creation initiatives such as reed beds, new wetlands and open water bodies.
- Increase pollinator-specific habitat referring to guidance in the National Pollinator Strategy: Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (EIP 2023).
- Avoid further permanent loss of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- Bring at least 40% of the farm's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this to 60% by 2030. (EIP 2023).

Objective no.6: Each farm delivering Net Zero decarbonisation in the Agricultural sector by 2050[1].

Objective no.7: Each farm must comply with the rules to reduce nitrate emissions on land within a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), contributing to the delivery of Net Zero Nitrate emissions target by 2040. Each farm outside a NVZ is advised to follow the same approach[2] in reducing nitrate emissions from 2024 onwards. Farmers and landowners are statutory obligated to meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act to reducing nutrient loads from agriculture[3]. (Natural England (2023) (Nutrient mitigation scheme).

Objective no. 8: If the above cannot be met interrupt pollution pathways to meet Nutrient Neutrality [4] within the catchments of protected nature sites.

Objective no.9: Deliver farming best practice within Drinking Water Protection Area and Drinking water Safeguard Zones (groundwater)[5]. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038. (Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment is having a large detrimental impact on freshwater and tidal water quality).

Objective no.10: Each farm delivering Net Zero Ammonia emissions by 2040. Farming operations contributing to the UK commitment to reduce ammonia emissions[6] by 16% in 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Objective no.11: Improve water quality and meet the legally binding targets under the Environment Act for reducing nutrient loads from agriculture. Achieve a reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen levels from agriculture entering the water environment by 40% by 2038.

Objective no.12: Each farm delivering zero avoidable waste by 2050[7].

[1] GOV. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
[2] Farming Advice Service (FAS Technical Article June 2020, NVZ: back to basics)
[3] Natural England (2023) Nutrient mitigation scheme and Habitat Regulations
[4] see NE Nutrient Neutrality and Nutrient Mitigation - guidance NE776)
5 MAGIC
[6] Environment Plan 25-year target
[7] Environment Plan 25-year target

Objective no.13: Work in partnership with adjacent landowners, Natural England and Southern Water to meet the 'Plan for Water' target of 75% of protected nature sites in favourable condition by 2042.

Objective no.14: Protect, manage and restore priority habitat type to meet the UK's international commitment to protecting migrating birds and wildlife.