

Farming in Hampshire:

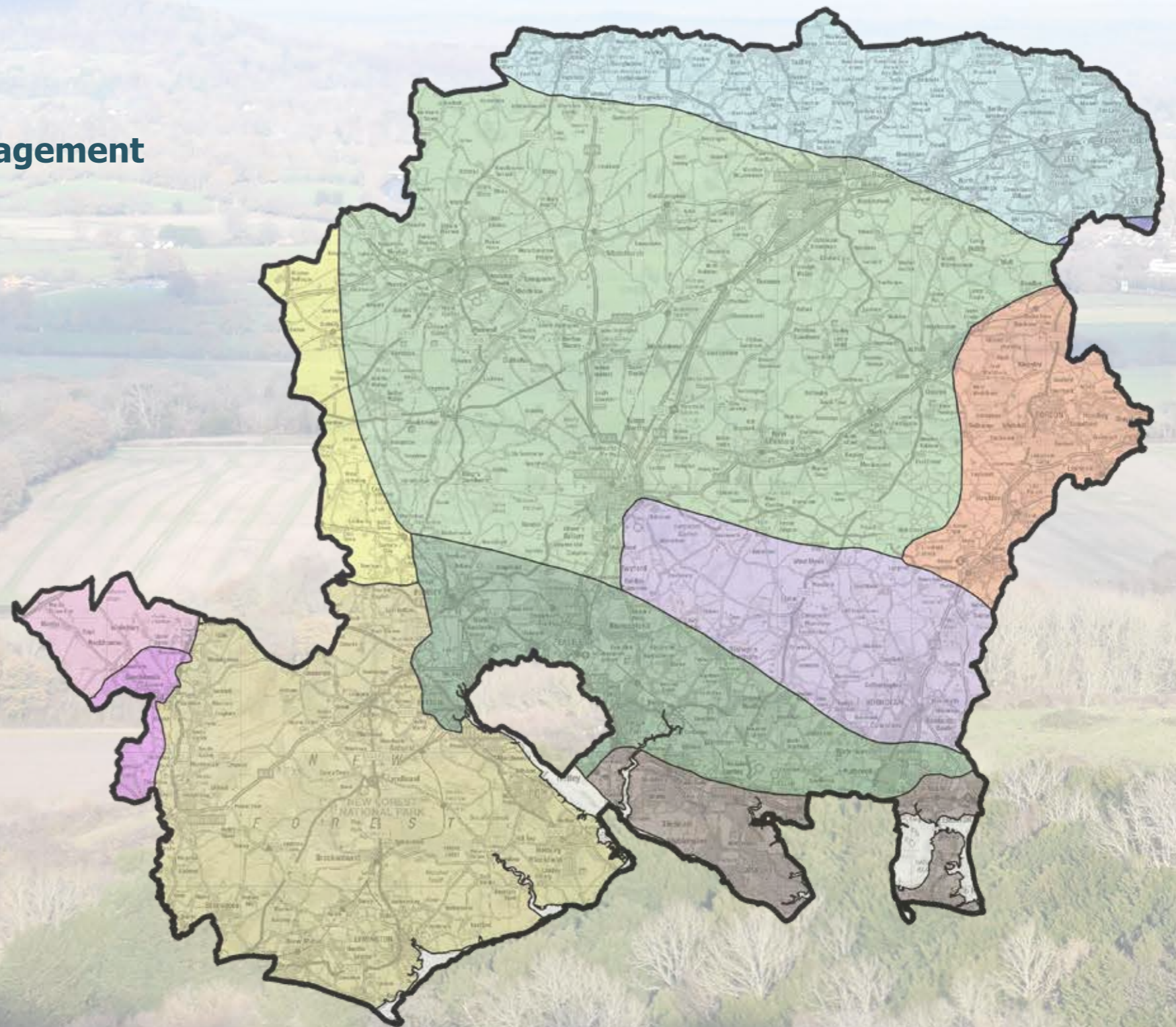
National Pilot - Test and trialling a local governance of Environmental Land Management

ELM Convenor Advisory Board, Sponsored by Defra

Document 6 of 7

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Appendices



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Appendix 1: Acronyms and Definitions

AONB - National Landscapes (formerly known as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

ALB – Arms Length Body

ASNW- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

BNG - Biodiversity Net Gain

CCC - Climate Change Committee (2020)

CLA - Country Land and Business Association

CMP - Catchment Management Plan

CPRE - Campaign to Protect Rural England

CSS - Countryside Stewardship Scheme

Defra / Defra - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

dWRMP24 - Draft Water Resource Management Plan

EA - Environment Agency

EFRAC - Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

EIP 2023 - Environment Improvement Plan 2023

ELM - Environmental Land Management

EPR - Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations

FC - Forestry Commission

FETF - Farm Equipment and Technology Fund

FRfW - "Farming rules for water"

Hampshire LFRMS - Hampshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

HBP 2030 - Healthy Bees Plan 2030

HCC - Hampshire County Council

HICA - Hampshire Integrated Landscape Character Assessment

HIOWT - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

HLNRS - Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

ICW - Integrated Constructed Wetland

INNS - Invasive non-native species

IPM - Integrated Pest Management

LNR - Local Nature Reserve

LNRS - Local Nature Recovery Strategy

MAGIC - The MAGIC website provides authoritative geographic information about the natural environment from across government.

MMO - Marine Management organisation

NBU - National Bee Unit

NCA - National Character Area

NE - Natural England

NENMS - Natural England Nutrient Mitigation Scheme

NERC - Natural Environmental Research Council

NFCFMP - New Forest Catchment Flood Management Plan

NFU - National Farmers' Union

NNR - National Nature Reserve

N,P,K - Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium

NPPF - National Planning Policy Framework

NPS - National Pollinator Strategy

NSSMP - North Solent Shoreline Management Plan

NVZ - Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

OECMS - Other Effective Conservation Measures

PRoW - Public Right of Way

RAMSAR - A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention

REAL - Renewable Energy Assurance Limited (Compost Certification Scheme)

RIGS - Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites

REAL - Renewable Energy Assurance Limited (Compost Certification Scheme)

SDA - Severely Disadvantaged Areas (referred to in SFI handbook 2023)

SDNPA - South Downs National Park

SEO - Statements of Environmental Opportunity

SEHCFMP - South east Hampshire Catchment Flood Management Plan

SFI - Sustainable Farming Incentive

SM - Scheduled Monument

SMN - Soil Mineral Nitrogen

SOM - Soil Organic Matter

SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest

SuD - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

SUiAR - Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations

SPA - Special Protection Areas

TAP - The Aquifer Partnership

T&T – Test and Trial

UKAS - UK Accreditation Service

UKFS - United Kingdom Forestry Standard

WFD - Water Environment Directive

WEP - Whole Estate Plan

WMP - Woodland Management Plan

BEIS- Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

EWCO - England Woodland Creation Offer

FIZ - Forestry Investment Zones

NEVO - Natural Environment Valuation Online Tool

ORVal - Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool

PAWS - Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites

WTH - Woodland Tree Health

Appendix 2: The Project team

MDT Project Facilitator

Merrick supported DEFRA with the development of the brief and holds the contract for delivery of this research and development project.

The terra firma team;

LF Project Director

Lionel has been tasked the role as principle driver of the project, servant to the board and author of the reporting to Defra including this Final Report. He also participated in the NCA Land management Framework research and production, taking on 3 of them. With regular discussion with Merrick and the project team, he has helped guide the process including the production co-ordination and consultation of the prototype Land App tool. He has seen it as important to reach out as much as possible in the project's interests and had individual meetings with nearly all Board Members and Executive Officers, attended 6 of the 9 LNRS consultation events, made half dozen miscellaneous visits to farms, farm advisers, protected landscape officers across different areas of the County and presented the project to the Local Nature Partnership for the county, local MP for East Hants, the leader of Hampshire County Council and to a new member of the House of Lords who has specific interests in the environment.

LH Project Administrator

Lynda has been the project co-ordinator for correspondence, consultation approaches, setting up meetings, issuing agendas and minutes, enabling consultation. Behind the scenes she has also done much of the sorting of project folders, checking and formatting each of the ten NCA Land management Frameworks.

AC Landscape Architect

Alice was tasked with the massive undertaking of collating all the statutory and advisory guidance to arrive at the potential actions schedules for each NCA that she then fed into the Land App tool. She also researched 4 of the NCAs for the overriding management guidance and potential priorities.

AG Landscape Architect

Alison undertook the research for the 3 NCAs in her native SW corner of the county and also attended the New Forest and Health and Wellbeing LNRS consultation sessions on behalf of the project team.

Eftec Company Information

Established in 1992, eftec is the first environmental economics consultancy in the UK. We address environmental challenges through an interdisciplinary approach, with economics as our foundation. We specialise in helping clients ask better questions, drawing insights from economics, science, social dynamics, and finance to support decision-making for a sustainable future. eftec was selected to bring together an understanding of the state of natural capital, (and its benefits), within the county and to map out the main opportunities to make improvements and provide an indication of the potential to fund these improvements. This work is key to enabling the Advisory Board to make judgements on the local priorities for improvement within the county.

Environment Systems

Environment Systems is an established environmental and agricultural data company, providing trusted evidence and insight to governments and industry across the world since 2003. The consultancy delivers bespoke advice and solutions for land management, monitoring and policy for ecosystems, natural capital evaluation, agricultural trials and agricultural supply chains. We work for government (Defra, Natural England, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot, local government), NGOs, water companies, global food brands and supply chain businesses. The company's satellite data services deliver always-on, accessible open data insights from satellite Earth observation and in 2023 delivered over 400 million sq km of satellite analytics. SENCE is our tool for natural capital assessment. Environment Systems has a team of over 40 professionals working at the interface of agricultural, environmental and data science.

Questions we are helping the Board to Address

As part of the Environment Land Management (ELM) Scheme Hampshire Advisory Board Test & Trial (T&T), we have been commissioned to provide a baseline natural capital assessment for the six largest National Character Areas (NCAs) in Hampshire.

This means understanding the benefits nature provides for Hampshire's economy and people, and the ecologically, economically and financially feasible ways of managing nature, within the regulatory requirements and the reality of businesses that depend on nature.

We also want to empower land users and managers with this information so they can make better choices about their finance options.

In the process, we will learn about how to communicate this information and provide lessons for Defra too.

Our work is designed to answer the following questions:

- What are the key natural assets that support life and the economy in each of the NCAs? Baseline Natural Capital Assets
- Given the existing land uses and management practices, what benefits do these assets provide and how valuable are they? Benefits assessment
- Private benefits like food provision, water supply and quality, timber
- Public benefits like biodiversity, air quality, access to nature for recreation and physical health – which do not generate cash flows in conventional markets but may attract private investment and public funding
- The disbenefits of agriculture such as emissions of greenhouse gases, diffuse pollution (environmental costs)
- What are the risks to the sustainable management of these natural assets and their benefits?
- What are the priority opportunities for improvement that could be made to land management in each NCA? Priority determined by ecological feasibility, economic benefits and financing opportunities.
- What potential private and public sector finance is available to fund these improvements?

Land App

Land App, a digital mapping platform (<https://theLandApp.com/>) was chosen as the digital mapping platform to support the ELMS Convenor in Hampshire. Land App is a spatial data platform built to empower the land management sector in designing optimal land-use strategies and the appraisal of scenarios. Already have a well-established user base across the country, with key customers including Savills, Strutt and Parker, Sandringham Estate, Cholmondeley Estate, the Game and Wildlife Conversation Trust, and The Wildlife Trusts. Alongside this, in Hampshire, they work closely with the Environmental Farmers Group (EFG - 123,000 ha across 242 farms), and Test to Itchen Cluster (40 farmers, ~20,000 ha); making up a significant block of the rural land in Hampshire.

Dan Geerah – Director of Growth – designed original concept of the ELMS Report, and supporting the development of the training programme for the pilot participants.

Ben Harries – Data Engineer – created the technical workflow for disseminating information, upkeep of the database and training support.

Land App was tasked to focus on three key aims of the ELMS Convenor.

- Spatial Priority
- A New Mechanism
- Delivering clean, and appropriate Advice and Guidance to land managers.

Key challenges that were identified at the start of the project:

- There is no policy or financial driver to “deliver” the Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Even if there were a requirement to do so, outreach and engagement with land managers is inefficient and expensive due to the fragmentation of landowners.
- Landowners don't have an easy way to appraise different schemes and options.
- Landowners that do apply have no clear mechanism to pre-assess their eligibility for schemes — leading to many applications failing initial application, (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessments or incorrect land cover data on RPA System).
- A lack of spatial data from landowners results in missed opportunities for informed policy-making, data-driven reporting and monitoring success.

Land App Board Summary – Hampshire ELMS Convenor - Test and Trial

Creating a Database of the Statutory Requirements and the Advisory Measures:

The project benefited from the existing Land App Cloud-based architecture, that started its journey in 2017. The Land App aggregates over 95 datalayers from arm-length bodies, including Natural England (e.g. Priority Habitats and Habitat Networks), Environment Agency (e.g. Floodzones and Drinking Source Protection) and Rural Payments.

Land App also has been integrating with the Rural Payment Agency and HM Land Registry for easy access to field and farm boundaries. This allowed the project to benefit from the a fully integrated system for building the prototype.

- Terra Firma undertook the initial literature review and the collation of this is outlined in sections above.
- Land App converted this Word Document into a standardised, cloud-based database, and provided a consistent structure for all measures to fit into the table. This was dictated by common themes that were found across the measures (Table 1).
- Each row of the database was allocated a "where"; a geospatial identifier for where that Measure is relevant. This allows for the specific row in the database to be "included" or "excluded" from that layer. Where the farm boundary intersects this location, that measure will be displayed to the land manager.
- To set this up, Land App aggregated 41 datasets from various arms-length bodies, water companies and third-party providers via a Web Feature Service (WFS), and held the data on a secure cloud-based database (via PostGres). A full list of the data used can be found in Appendix A.
- All data was held in Vector format to allow for clean interoperability with the live database.

Sharing the relevant actions with the holdings

- Each trial farm then used the Land App to generate an area of interest. This was either a holding boundary built of the HM Land Registry Title Numbers, Parish Boundaries (from Office for National Statistics) or RPA Land Cover (via the RPA API - <https://environment.data.gov.uk/rpa/api-doc/>)
- An Example Map can be found in Figure 1.
- This land holding data was shipped, via the Land App API, to the Actions Database, whereby the processing engine filtered the data layers (found in Appendix A) by the data layers it intersected. Land App then built a bespoke Python-based Report Generator, extracting only the relevant actions for that farm as a PDF Report. This report was then emailed to the Trial Members.

Landholder consultation - Request for Pilot Participants

- All Participants were invited to an hour overview webinar, hosted by the Project Team. These were all recorded and can be found here:
- Session 1: <https://youtu.be/CoJXnKGi8G0>
- Session 2: <https://youtu.be/8wuKVszf-Dw>
- Session 3: <https://youtu.be/cT5RR0v4Ghk>
- After the session, each participant received a short email outlining what is required for them to participate in the trial, including links to guidance and an overview instructional video:

Hello [Trial Member Name],

Thank you for participating in the Hampshire ELMS Convenor.

Please read this email carefully to understand your expectations when completing the pilot. The stages we require you to go through (estimated time = 2 hours):

Click Through Instructional Video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY-jAAIH0d4>

- STAGE 1 - Digest your report - please find some time to review the attached PDF "ELMS Convenor Report". This report outlines the project, your National Character Area Priorities, and your Statutory Obligations and Advisory Measures that we recommend you consider addressing on the holding.
- STAGE 2 - Choose your measures - please follow the hyperlink here to choose from your advisory measures the ones you would like to consider on your holding. Make your choices from the list by marking the 'checkbox' next to each measure.
- Once you have read and chosen your Advisory Measures, the "OUTPUTS_Your Mapping List" tab should now be populated with all your chosen measures.
- The Project team have selected a number of "High Priority Actions", highlighting key actions that you can complete to support the wider ambitions of the National Character Area.
- STAGE 3 - Map your plan - the Land App team has now set up a map for you to draft a Plan which you can access here.
- NOTE: if you haven't registered for the Land App, you should have an invite from the Land App team in your inbox. If this hasn't come through, please register here.
- From your list of chosen Actions ("OUTPUTS_Your Mapping List"), please map your chosen actions onto your Land App map. To guide you, there is a column called "Land App Mapping" - this should help you choose which plan in the left hand panel to map to.
- STAGE 4 - Complete a feedback form here - this will help the project team improve the service.
- STAGE 5 - Complete the Defra feedback form here to allow Defra to better understand how you found the process.

If you have any questions, please contact the Land App Support team at support@theLandApp.com

Best wishes,

Dan, at Team Land App

- Each participant was then requested to fill out a short feedback form to the Project Team, alongside the Defra feedback, asking about the Farm Actions Report, and the Land App mapping tool.

About your holding

Focus area of this report

Single Business Identifier: 107xxxxxx
 National Character Area: **The Hampshire Downs (130)**
 Holding size: **849.62 ha**
 Water catchment: **River Test**

Placeholder
(to be edited for final article)

Collation and Review of Land App consultation. Prepare findings and recommendations.

Results:

Technical Build:

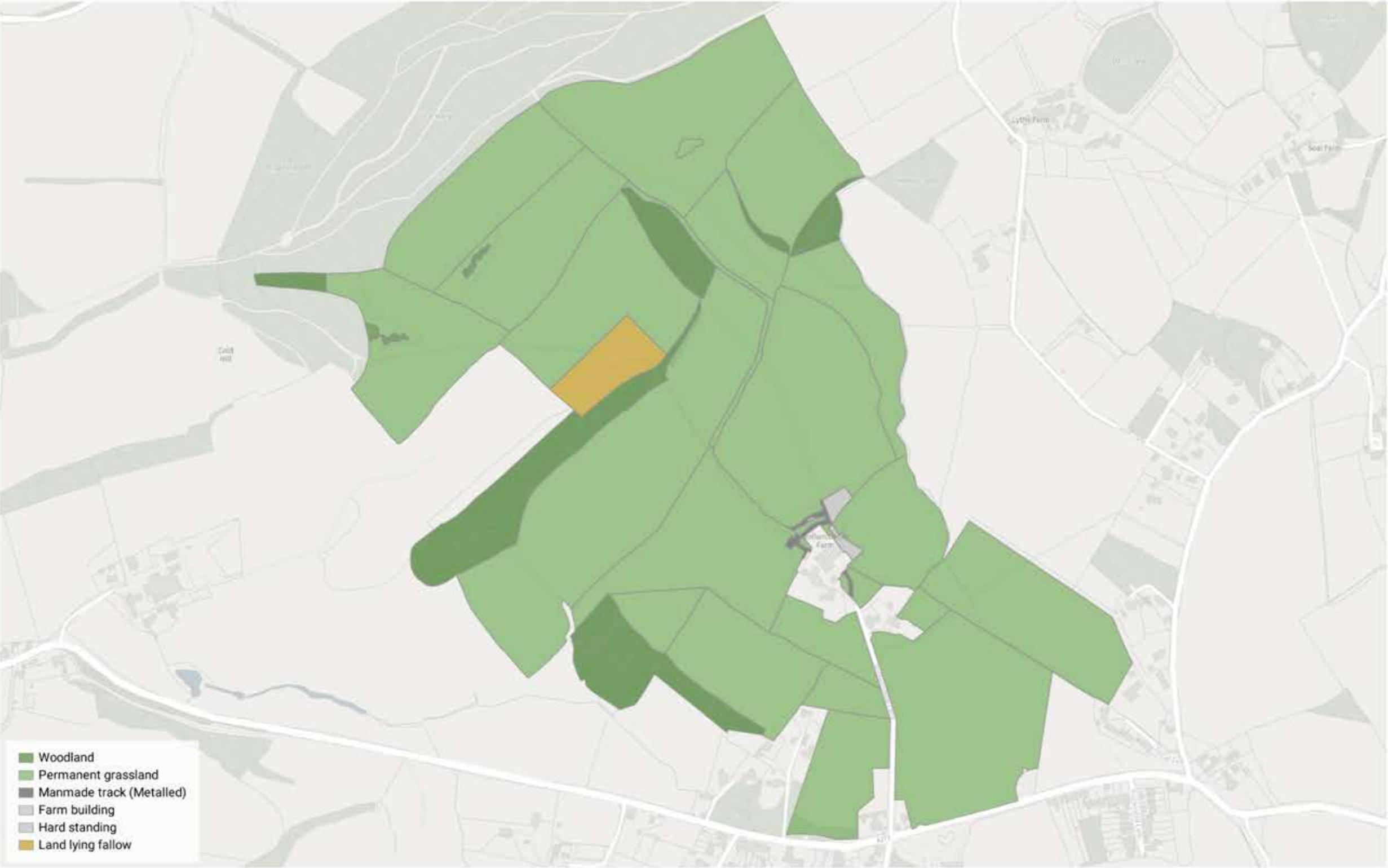
The Land App

- The Statutory Obligations and Advisory Measures were held on a Secure, shared Google Sheet (<https://www.google.co.uk/sheets/about/>), which allowed all project members to directly add, edit and consolidate the actions in real time. The sheet is stored on a cloud-drive, which means it was accessible by other softwares.
- The sheet was then connected to the Land App via the Land App Integration API (<https://help.theLandApp.com/en/articles/6056013-technical-guide-integration-api>) pulling flattened GeoJSON data into our processing engine, FME (https://docs.safe.com/fme/html/FME-Form-Documentation/FME-Form/Workbench/What_is_FME). Here the GeoJSON data was processed against the targetting layers from the Arm-length bodies, with Vector data held on a PostGres Database (<https://www.postgresql.org/>).
- Each farms boundaries were also assessed against the same data layers from PostGres, allowing a data join between which layers the farm intersected, and which Measures were therefore relevant to them. This was then additionally joined to the Eftec and Environment Systems NCA summaries, based on location.
- The processing engine then formatted a PDF, containing the agreed structure (using the PDF Styler Transformer <https://engage.safe.com/transformers/pdf-styler/>), alongside shipping a condensed list of Advisory Measures to a bespoke Google Sheet for each participant.
- On average each farm report took an Average Elapsed Time of 1 minute and 6 seconds to run (with an Average % CPU 72.81%).

Category	Data Layer	Sub-Category	Count	Area (ha)	% of Area	Length (m)	Source
Access	CRoW Common Land	n/a	1	0.20 ha	0.02%		Natural England, Natural Resources Wales
Access	Public Rights of Way	n/a	10			4239.56 m	Various Local Authorities
Administrative	Counties and Unitary Authorities	n/a	1	849.62 ha	100.00%		Land and Property Services NI, Office for National Statistics
Administrative	Local Planning Authorities	Test Valley LPA	1	849.62 ha	100.00%		Office for National Statistics
Administrative	Parish Boundaries	Sub-Total	2	849.62 ha	100.00%		Office for National Statistics
		Nether Wallop	1	521.37 ha	61.37%		
		Broughton	1	328.25 ha	38.63%		
Designations	SSSI	Broughton Down	1	0.21 ha	0.02%		Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot
Geology	England Peat Status GHG and C Storage	Deep Peaty Soils	2	1.77 ha	0.21%		Natural England
Geology	Indicative Atlas of Radon	Sub-Total	20	849.62 ha	100.00%		British Geological Survey
		1	19	849.60 ha	100.00%		
		2	1	0.02 ha	0.00%		
Water	Boreholes	Sub-Total	3				British Geological Survey
		SU23NE26	1				
		SU23NE27	1				
		SU23SE14	1				
Water	CaBA Catchment Partnerships	Test & Itchen Catch...	1	849.62 ha	100.00%		Environment Agency
Water	Floodzone 2	n/a	1	7.22 ha	0.85%		Environment Agency
Water	Floodzone 3	n/a	1	5.86 ha	0.69%		Environment Agency
Water	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones	Sub-Total	3	2,548.86 ha	300.00%		Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Scottish Government
		Surface Water	1	849.62 ha	100.00%		
		Eutrophic Water	1	849.62 ha	100.00%		
		Groundwater	1	849.62 ha	100.00%		
Water	River Basin Districts	South East	1	849.62 ha	100.00%		Environment Agency
Water	River Waterbody Catchments	Wallop Brook	1	849.62 ha	100.00%		Environment Agency



Table 1 - Structure of the cloud-based database containing the Statutory Obligations and Advisory Measures for the ELMS Hampshire Convenor. In total, there were 1132 Measures in total (167 Statutory and 965 Advisory). These columns were filtered by using a holdings boundary as an area of interest; this made the average number of measures for each trial participant xx (xx% of the total pool).



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Generated on Land App using the RPA Land Covers API (<https://environment.data.gov.uk/rpa/api-doc/>)

200 m
Scale 1:6902 (at A4)

Figure 1: an example holding map, created on Land App using the RPA Land Covers API (<https://environment.data.gov.uk/rpa/api-doc/>), with permission of the land owner. Data provided land cover of the holding, and allowed the farm to be geospatially tagged against the Measure Database, allowing the project team to quickly understand the context of the farm, including which National Character Area it resides.

Appendix 3: The Brief

For ease of reference - Annex 2 from Appointment setting out scope and programme:

Critical Path and Stage Payments.

Proposed Outcomes and Process Activities.

Local and National Priorities

- Review the first phase outcomes in light of changing circumstances and the new brief.
- Develop a working relationship with the Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs - EA,NE,RPA,FC) with support from Defra. Empowering the ALBs to advise the Board and to contribute to agenda setting, including regulatory obligations.
- Analyse the statutory Management Plans for the 2 National Parks and the 3 AONBs.
- Agree a non-technical summary of national and local policies from each Management Plan with each protected landscapes administration to cover each relevant National Character Area (NCA) for land in Hampshire.
- Consult all relevant bodies on the draft non-technical summaries for each NCA
- Complete the national and local priorities for ELM investment for each National Character Area for Hampshire.
- Communications Strategy to include farm office poster wall hanging for each NCA and content of a web site.

Servicing the Advisory Board

- Complete Board membership.
- Set programme of 4 meetings in person and 2 zoom meetings – for agreement on in person meetings – The first meeting of the Board at Cholderton farm in July – visit in the morning with meeting in the afternoon. A progress meeting in November in Winchester. A final report meeting in March/April 2024 in Winchester.
- Prepare agendas, reports and minutes for each meeting.
- Arrange location, teas and coffees and lunches where applicable.
- Circulate reports and organise Zoom meetings as required throughout the year.

Support for Land Managers meeting their Regulatory Requirements.

- Agree a non-technical summary of regulatory requirements for each NCA with the ALBs.
- Develop a communications strategy to extend the knowledge of what the risks are for not complying.
- Secure contributions from the Advisory Board on how to secure commitment from land managers to meet regulatory obligations covering the various farming sectors.
- Trial approaches with one of the existing farm clusters.
- Record findings to be included in the final report to Defra.

Broker private finance and wider funding opportunities.

- Commission a two part strategic Natural Capital Account for each NCA – the first part to establish the baseline condition. The second part to predict the potential value of

upgrading the condition of Natural Capital in each NCA – never been attempted.

- Advisory Board to scope opportunities for private investment from across the private, public and voluntary sectors.
- Advisory Board to consider locally based initiatives for finance within the county of Hampshire.
- The Advisory Board to work with all the District Councils to agree processes of securing 'net gain' from development without changing land use.
- The Advisory Board to project opportunities for carbon sequestration in both soils and supporting vegetation such as an increased forestry and hedgerow strategy.
- The Advisory Board to work with all the Water Companies to help secure clean drinking water quality in the aquifers across the county.
- The Advisory Board to work with the RPA and other investors to support cash flow and reduce the current risks.

Communications, Consultations and Collaborations.

- Re-establish the connections with the individuals, farm clusters, private companies, tenant farmers, farm contractors, Parish Councils and other local interested groups.
- Winchester City Council to liaise with all 11 District Councils to consult and inform of the work of the Advisory Council with specific focus on the net gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the carbon agenda.
- Hampshire County Council to communicate through 'Hampshire Now' to all Council Tax payers setting out the work of the Advisory Board and outcomes from ELMs.
- Southern Water to liaise with all the water companies serving Hampshire to ensure the Advisory Board understands the needs of drinking water supply.
- The Hampshire Wildlife Trust to communicate with all relevant wildlife based charities – including RSPB, WWF, Plantlife, Butterfly Conservation, Bug Life and others to both seek contributions and keep the voluntary sector informed of the Advisory Board's work.
- Review the existence of local groups and consider where further groups might be needed to secure greater collaboration across Hampshire to secure the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan for the sustainable management of natural resources.

Appendix 4: Papers from Southern Water

Hampshire ELM Convenor Project Board

26th July 2023 Water Company Briefing Note

Southern Water, Portsmouth Water and South East Water, operate in Hampshire serving the community with clean drinking water. The County's water is predominantly sourced from chalk aquifers, augmented by river abstractions in the south. Our water sources are impacted by nitrates, pesticides and sediments that give rise to significant costs and risk to supply. Agriculture is implicated as an origin of these nitrates, pesticides and sediment. The water companies have an existing programme of work with landowners to mitigate risks to drinking water supplies. As part of the ELM Convenor Project the water companies will be collating a summary of our collective activities. This initial information collection exercise will hopefully help inform the project as it moves forward.

Background

Water Companies are required as part of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017 to avoid deterioration of water quality to reduce treatment required in the production of drinking water. Nitrates (particularly in groundwater) and pesticides (particularly in surface waters) pose risks to water quality across Hampshire. At water supply treatment works costly, energy-intensive specialist treatment or blending with other sources to meet drinking water standards are required.

High nitrate levels in groundwater can come from a number of sources including old or poorly maintained septic tanks and leaking sewers & wastewater discharges, but in rural Hampshire the largest proportion is from fertiliser applications, manure storage and spreading. The standard for nitrate in drinking water is 50 mg/l, which is a public health-based standard. Water companies therefore work with land managers in our catchments to mitigate the entry of nitrates to drinking water sources. Nitrates can remain in chalk aquifers for many decades, and much of the current levels of nitrate are from fertiliser used many years ago. Nonetheless, rapid transport of nitrates from contemporary use does cause annual peaks, particularly after heavy rainfall events. This makes it vital to act now to prevent greater impacts in the future and to keep seasonal peaks below the 50mg/l standard.

Pesticides are widely used to control pests, weeds, and plant disease. There are a number of pesticides that are difficult to remove from water by conventional treatment methods. Pesticides can be easily carried from land to nearby streams and rivers when it rains. Water companies work with land managers to mitigate risk and reduce pesticide losses to water. Water companies also face challenges from a number of other parameters such as turbidity, often arising from soil erosion, and microbiological contaminants, including Cryptosporidium, a pathogen originating from livestock.

An intensive programme of raw water testing is carried out by water companies to identify contaminants and possible sources, with grant-funded mitigation methods being targeted where they will be most effective. It should be noted that water company funding is limited and managed through the water industry regulated processes.



Hampshire ELM Convenor Project Board

7th November 2023 Water Company Catchment Work Brief



Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the critical catchment water issues faced by the water companies, reflect current catchment work and to outline a forward look regarding how we will interact with the Hampshire ELM Convenor Project.

Background

Southern Water, Portsmouth Water and South East Water operate in Hampshire serving the community with clean drinking water. Bournemouth Water (South West Water/Pennon Group) operate in the Bournemouth water supply area. The County's water is predominantly sourced from chalk aquifers, augmented by river abstractions in the south. Our water sources are impacted by nitrate, pesticides and sediments that give rise to significant treatment costs and risk to supply. Agriculture is implicated as an origin of nitrate, pesticides, and sediment. Other sources of contaminants exist. The water companies have an existing programme of work with landowners to mitigate risks to drinking water supplies. The water companies are working as part of the ELM Convenor Project to better understand and inform how strategy, governance and delivery emerge.

Water companies are required as part of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017 to avoid deterioration of water quality as to reduce treatment required in the production of drinking water. Nitrate (particularly in groundwater) and pesticides (particularly in surface waters) pose risks to water quality across Hampshire. At water supply treatment works costly, energy-intensive specialist treatment or blending with other sources to meet drinking water standards are required. They have therefore adopted a catchment approach to protecting drinking water resources, working with land managers and other partners to address the root causes of raw water quality risks, rather than relying entirely on more traditional end-of-pipe treatment solutions. As well as reducing risks and challenges to treatment processes, and so ensuring long-term sustainability of drinking water sources, catchment management also brings wider benefits to the environment, rural communities and their economies.

Water companies prepare 5-year Asset Management Plans (AMP's), in which catchment water quality priorities are identified and catchment management actions proposed to address these. Once approved by EA, Defra and Ofwat, these action plans become regulatory obligations including the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP). The next AMP is AMP8 and will cover the period 2025-30.

Drinking water resources in Hampshire

Southern Water, Portsmouth Water and South East Water supply the vast majority of the mains water needed by Hampshire's estimated 1.41 million population. Over 70% of this water is abstracted directly from groundwater held in the chalk aquifers. The remainder is sourced from the rivers Test and Itchen to supply much of the coastal conurbation. Bournemouth Water operate in the Stour and Avon catchment area.

Company	Total Hants abstraction MI/day	% from groundwater	% from rivers
Southern Water	173	46	54 (Test & Itchen)
Portsmouth Water	170	85	15 (Itchen)
South East Water	77	100	0
Total	420	71	29

The South East of England is classified by the Environment Agency as being under serious water stress. The twin pressures of more extreme weather events and a growing population are stretching the region's water resources. This challenge is felt strongly in Hampshire, where, for example, the amount that may be abstracted from the Test and Itchen at times of low flow is being reduced by the EA to protect these internationally important SSSI chalk rivers. Population is forecast to continue to grow by 6.4% between 2020 and 2027 alone (Office for National Statistics, 2020). Plans under way to head off a shortfall during droughts include a new reservoir at Havant Thicket, water recycling, new pipelines to transport water between areas, reducing leaks and programmes to reduce per capita consumption. Hampshire's resources also supply 30% of the Isle of Wight's consumption via a Solent pipeline.

Against this backdrop of serious water stress, the crucial importance of protecting Hampshire's water resources is clear. Although the impact of human activities on our precious rivers is rightly receiving increased attention, threats to the quality of the groundwater sources that provide drinking water for most of Hampshire are perhaps less well appreciated.

Critical water quality issues

Nitrate

High nitrate levels in groundwater can come from several sources. Poorly maintained septic tanks, leaking sewers & wastewater discharges can contribute. In rural Hampshire by far the largest proportion is from agricultural nitrogenous fertiliser applications, manure storage and spreading (Fig.1). The public health standard for nitrate in drinking water is 50 mg/l. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause methaemoglobinaemia (blue baby syndrome) in young children. The removal of nitrate from drinking water requires specialist treatment to be installed, which is both expensive and energy intensive. Water companies therefore work with land managers in our catchments to mitigate the entry of nitrate to drinking water sources.

Nitrate can remain in chalk aquifers for many decades, so that much of the nitrate recorded today is from fertilisers used many years ago. As well as this slow flow through chalk, there are also fissures and channels which allow rapid transport of nitrate from more recent use, causing annual peaks, particularly after heavy rainfall events. This makes it vital to act now to both prevent greater impacts in the future and to keep seasonal peaks below the 50mg/l standard.



The environmental impacts of nitrate include eutrophication of aquatic habitats, particularly marine habitats such as the Solent and its estuaries. This can be exemplified in failures to achieve designated site status, such as SSSI and European Marine Site condition assessments.

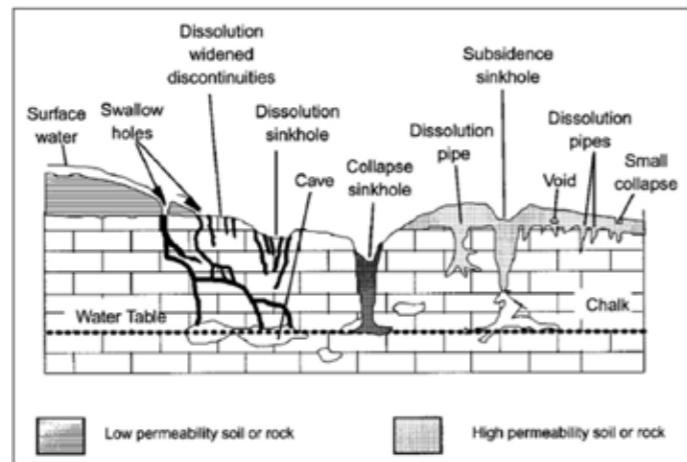


Figure 1. Chalk aquifers typically have “fast pathways”, via karst features such as surface pits/sinkholes and fissures, by which nitrate-laden water can be rapidly transported towards boreholes. This gives rise to peaks in nitrate levels following periods of heavy rain.

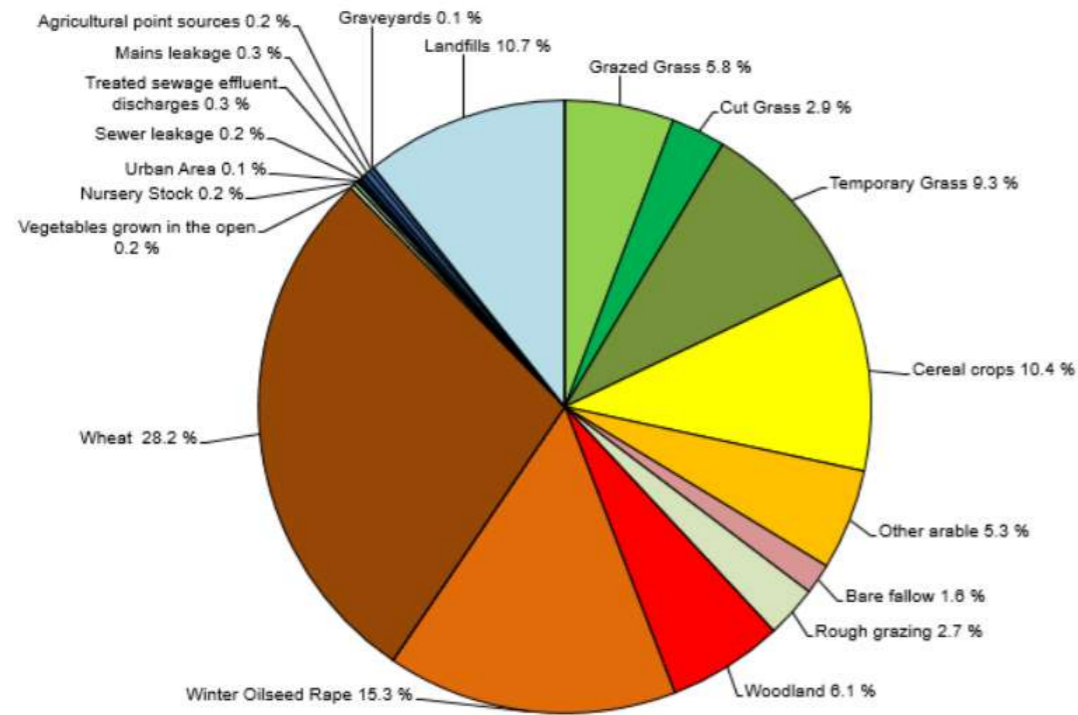


Figure 2. Source apportionment of nitrate in Hampshire



Case 1- Woodgarston, South East Water: Rising raw water nitrate levels caused cessation of abstraction at one borehole. Blending with another source was a short term fix until levels rose in that too. This necessitated installation of a nitrate removal plant, with capital cost of circa £10 million and with significant running costs and energy consumption. South East Water are also looking to install a further nitrate treatment plant at West Ham in the next AMP due to continued nitrate concentration increases.

Case 2- Timsbury, Southern Water: The summer of 2023 saw one of Southern Water’s supply works in Hampshire temporarily shut down due to nitrate levels in the raw water critically close to the drinking water standard. This was reported to the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI), the regulators of drinking water quality in England and Wales, due to the risk of 5,000 customer losing water supply. An alternative source was brought back into supply and blended with the high-nitrate source to ensure safe drinking water for customers.

High levels of nitrate in groundwater is the highest risk to drinking water sources in Hampshire. In AMP 7 (2020-25), Hampshire water companies had Nitrate as WINEP regulatory drivers across multiple groundwater catchments in which nitrate showed high and rising trends.

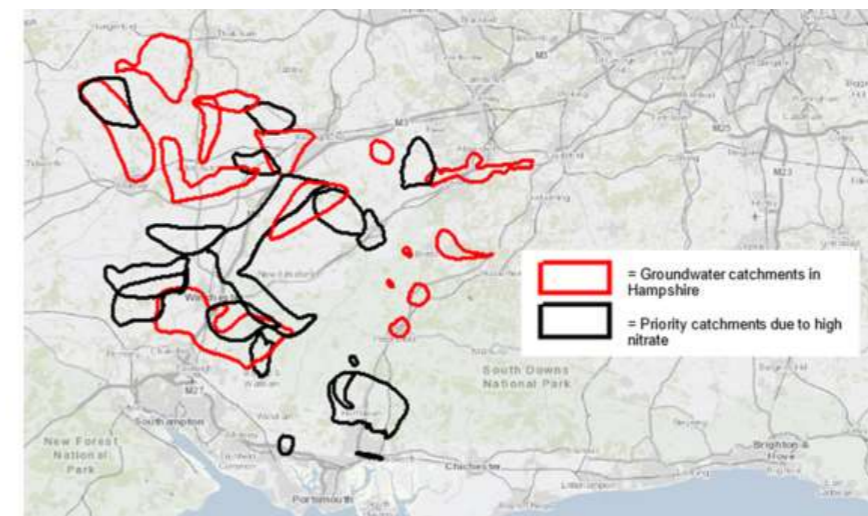


Figure 3. Nitrate priority groundwater catchments in Hampshire.

Nitrate mitigation measures

As illustrated by the above examples, when the trend in nitrate levels in raw water is predicted to approach the drinking water standard, operational treatment measures at the supply works assets may be possible to ensure public supply of healthy water is maintained.

Such asset based solutions may entail bringing other boreholes into operation, lining existing boreholes and ceasing abstraction when levels are high. The feasibility of these will depend on individual circumstances. Blending high nitrate water with that from sources with lower levels to ensure the blend supplied to customers is below drinking water standard is practiced by all three companies. For example, Southern Water uses relatively low nitrate water abstracted from the Itchen at Otterbourne to blend with higher level chalk groundwater. Blending is only possible where sources are sufficiently close, and where infrastructure makes it feasible. Additionally, blending is only an option as long as the other sources do not see similar rising nitrate trends. South East Water and Southern Water both operate nitrate removal plants at Woodgarston and Overton respectively. Such plants have high capital cost (circa £10 million for Woodgarston) as well as high running costs.



Growing crops that typically receive high nitrate applications (wheat, barley, OSR), even using practices such as precision applications, brings an intrinsic risk of nitrate leaching owing to the vagaries of weather. There is a greater risk associated with chalk geology with thin soils. Current recommendations allow for additional nitrate to be applied in shallow chalky soils as there is an understanding that a proportion of the fertiliser will be lost to the environment. Droughts can prevent the crop taking up applied nitrate, whilst extreme rainfall can flush nitrate from the soil before plants can take it up.

Encouraging farmers to switch to low or no nitrate crops (e.g. herbal leys) on most arable land needs to counter the likely profits foregone. Typical Water Company payments of £400/ha for herbal leys, on a par with Countryside Stewardship (CS) rates, are unattractive to most farmers, who can often gain on the gross margin from winter wheat. CS requires farmers to avoid double funding for the same measure on the same land.

Pesticides

The term pesticide refers to a wide range of chemicals used to control pests, weeds, and diseases, for example, insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. They are used both agriculturally, for example, pest control on crops, and non-agriculturally, for example, weed control on highways and railways. Pesticides can enter water sources through run-off from land to nearby streams and rivers and by leaching through soil to groundwater. The standard for individual pesticides in drinking water is 0.1 ug/l and for total pesticides in drinking water is 0.5 ug/l. There are several pesticides that are difficult to remove from water by conventional treatment methods. These pesticides may require specialist treatment to be installed such as granular activated carbon (GAC). Water companies work with land managers to mitigate risk and reduce pesticide losses to water.

Other parameters

Water companies also face challenges from several other parameters including turbidity, often arising from soil erosion.

Microbiological contaminants, including Cryptosporidium, a parasite originating from livestock, can also pose a risk. Cryptosporidium is particularly challenging as it is resistant to the standard disinfection processes used by water companies. It must either be removed by filtration or inactivated with Ultra-Violet light (UV), both of which are costly and require significant energy. Microbiological contaminants can come from a range of sources including livestock, sewerage and manure spreading.

An intensive programme of raw water testing is carried out by water companies to identify contaminants and possible sources, with grant-funded mitigation methods being targeted where they will be most effective. It should be noted that water company funding is limited and managed through the water industry regulated processes.

Water resource quantity is also a critical factor in water supply. Environmental pressures, development pressure and climate change impacts all create a need to carefully manage water resources and abstractions. South East Water are working with land managers to improve water resilience and are starting to consider options which hold water in the landscape. There are potential benefits of holding water in the landscape improves groundwater infiltration for water supply and additionally means land managers are more resilient in times of drought.

Current catchment mitigation actions

Catchment management solutions involve working with land managers on interventions that manage and reduce chemicals entering water systems. They are now recognised as an accepted method for preventing the build up of chemicals in aquifers. All three water companies offer similar chemical mitigation schemes targeted within, for example, their Nitrate priority catchments. There are a range of incentives for farmers to adopt practices that improve water quality. The below table describes how the water companies apply these incentives.

Catchment management incentives offered in AMP7 (2020 -25)	Southern Water	Portsmouth Water	South East Water	Example payment rates, Southern Water
Cover crops/ companion crops	Yes	Yes	Yes	£80-135/ha
Alternative crops/ arable reversion/low N input grassland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Herbal leys £400/ha
Soil, manure and tissue testing, crop nutrition advice	Yes	Yes	Yes	£1,500 per holding per year
Payment for Variable Rate N application	Yes	Yes	Yes	£1,000 per holding per year
Capital grants for precision farming equipment, drills, yard infrastructure, etc	Yes	Yes	Yes	50% of total cost to £10k cap
Supporting farmer knowledge exchange - workshops, support for Clusters, etc	Yes	Yes	Yes	Typically 50% of cluster facilitation costs
Pilots/trials	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trials into cover and companion crops, fertiliser rates, etc
Specialist advisory visits	Yes	Yes	Yes	Full cost

Some of the achievements of this collaborative approach with landowners so far:

Southern Water

During the first two years (2020/21) of the Nitrate Scheme being offered in Hampshire:

- 1,625 hectares of overwinter cover cropping
- 114.6 hectares of spring covers/ herbal leys / very low input grassland
- Measures such as SMN testing and support for variable rate N taken up by 26 farms
- Uptake of nitrate reduction measures under the scheme calculated to have reduced total nitrate leaching by an estimated 29,276 kg/N over the last two years
- Facilitation of two (now three) active farm clusters supported

South East Water

- Woodgarston = 90% of land area engaged
- Boxalls Lane = 45% of land area engaged
- Uptake of cover crops, alternative cropping and precision application equipment have been largely taken up in Woodgarston. We rarely have any bare ground over winter in the Woodgarston catchment thanks to cover crops and ongoing engagement. See Appendix I.
- Current rural septic tank/cesspit issues investigation project in the Lasham area for the next WINEP.

Portsmouth Water

- Annual Budget met each year.
- Catchment wide uptake of PES and Capital grant incentives
- Active and progressive Cluster group attendance and engagement



Bournemouth Water (South West Water/Pennon Group)

- Catchment scheme in 2015-20 to address metaldehyde issues in the Stour catchment through advice and product swapping offers alongside a water testing campaign. Funding a Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) officer in the Stour catchment. 2020 extend the scheme to a wider range of water quality issues, as the Metaldehyde ban was due to come into effect. The offer funds the CSF advisor and the use of Defra grants. SWW/BW has no additional grant offer currently.
- SWW committed to a 5 year scheme and to provide funding for farm advisors in partner organisations and grants for water quality, assurance of supply, biodiversity and Carbon outcomes. These are in line with the wider SWW Upstream Thinking Programme (UST) outcomes.

Forward look

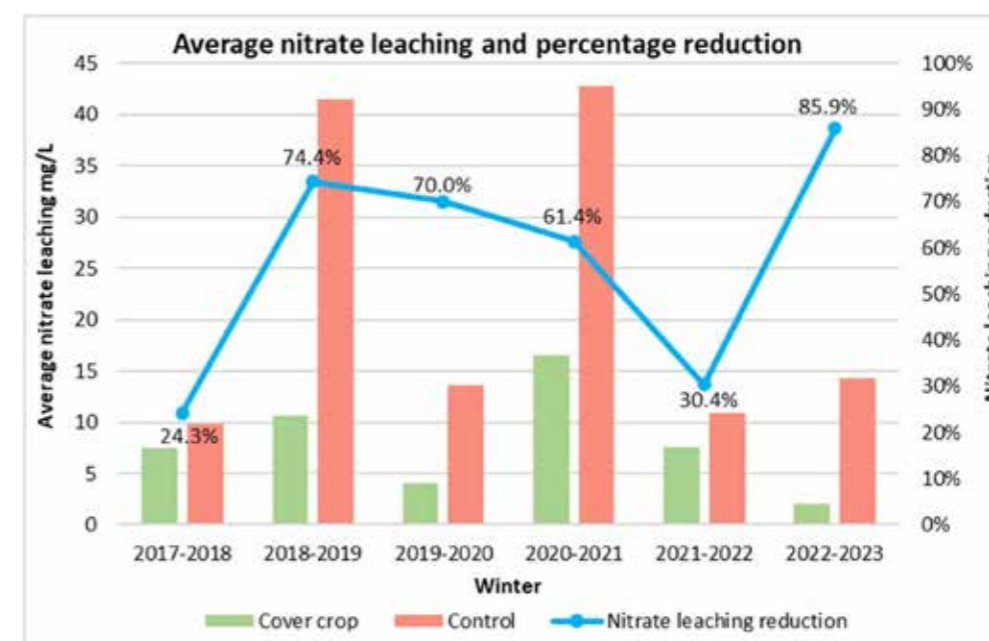
The South East water companies that have operating and customer interests in Hampshire are keen to engage with the Hampshire ELM Convenor Project to address critical issues that address water resources in this water stressed County. All water companies are considering how their catchment work will progress in the coming business planning periods, AMP8, and beyond.

As this test and trial progresses the water companies would like the Board to consider the following questions.

- How do the new ELM measures relate to soil health and water quality?
- How do the new ELM measures overlap with the Water Company current schemes?
- Considerations for shared mapping resources: who can help, where is funding available and where is there overlap?
- How can the two funding systems (ELMs and water company funding) integrate and offer synergy in the coming 2025-30 AMP8 and beyond, focussing on soil health and water quality?
- How can ELM governance support and be supported by water company involvement?
- What does success look like?

APPENDIX I: Woodgarston Cover crop trials

South East Water have devised a series of trials understating the resource protection value of cover cropping when reducing the risks of nitrate in groundwater chalk. They have run 6 years of trials and have held events to promote the findings to local land managers, advisors and industry leads. They have evidenced that cover crops have benefit to preventing nitrate leaching when compared to a bare stubble control, and thus protecting water quality. Monitoring has recorded an average cover crop nitrate capture within tissue of 42.7 kg/ha from our trials between 2017 and 2023. The trials were backed up with grants to support cover crop uptake and now bare fields in the catchment are rarely observed.



Hampshire ELM Convenor Project Board

1st May 2024 water company catchment work brief and final recommendations



Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to summarise the Water Companies interactions with the project and to outline a key set of recommendations for inclusion in the final Board paper to Defra.

Summary of project input to date

The water companies, through their Board representative, have attended all meetings and submitted two Board level reports on water quality and management in Hampshire that noted the following.

Southern Water, Portsmouth Water, and South East Water are the primary water companies operating in Hampshire, ensuring the provision of clean drinking water to the community. Additionally, Bournemouth Water, a part of the South West Water/Pennon Group, operates within the Bournemouth water supply area. The county's water sources, predominantly sourced from chalk aquifers with river abstractions in the south, face contamination from nitrate, pesticides, and sediments, primarily originating from agricultural activities.

Water companies are mandated by the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017 to maintain water quality standards and minimize treatment costs. Nitrate and pesticides pose significant risks to water quality, necessitating costly treatment or blending measures. Adopting a catchment approach to mitigate risks is prioritised, focusing on collaborating with landowners to address root causes.

Groundwater from chalk aquifers, supplemented by river abstractions, constitutes the primary water sources for Hampshire's population. However, the region faces serious water stress due to population growth and extreme weather events, leading to reduced abstraction allowances to protect environmentally sensitive areas. Plans to address water shortages include infrastructure development, water recycling, leak reduction, and consumption reduction programmes.

Nitrate contamination, primarily from agricultural sources, poses the most significant risk to drinking water. High nitrate levels require costly treatment solutions, impacting both financial resources and energy consumption. Similarly, pesticides enter water sources through runoff and leaching, requiring specialized treatment methods. Other challenges include turbidity from soil erosion and microbiological contaminants like Cryptosporidium, resistant to standard disinfection processes.

Water companies employ catchment management strategies to reduce chemical entry into water systems, offering incentives to land managers for adopting water quality improvement practices. These include promoting cover crops, alternative cropping, precision farming, and soil testing and infrastructure improvements. Collaborative efforts have shown promising results, with significant uptake of nitrate reduction measures and engagement with farming communities. Through catchment management strategies and incentive programmes, progress has been made in mitigating water quality risks. However, sustained efforts and innovative approaches are essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of Hampshire's drinking water sources.



1

Classification: BUSINESS

Water company planned approaches to working with agricultural payment schemes 2025-2030

All the Hampshire water companies will be continuing and developing their catchment work in the next business planning cycle from 2025 to 2030 (AMP8).

South East Water will continue to work with land managers across our priority Hampshire abstractions and will also be including some new catchments which have been identified as at risk from nitrate contamination. We will be focusing on innovative, regenerative techniques to reducing risks to groundwater and will be funding a series of trials through an Advanced-WINEP project at Woodgarston. We will also be working with agricultural land to help enhance the health and availability of surface water through our Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) projects.

Since 2010 South West Water (SWW) has been working through delivery partners, with farmers and landowners, to deliver their innovative and award-winning catchment management programme, Upstream Thinking (UST). The Upstream Thinking programme will continue to expand in AMP8 (2025-2030), with a proposed £15m for seven schemes on the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) and a further committed £10.9m to continue catchment management works outside of the WINEP programme, to maintain a presence across the eleven catchments and continue to mitigate water quality risks.

There are two Drinking Water Protected Area (DrWPA) schemes beginning in 2025 in Hampshire, the Avon and Stour, that have been developed in collaboration with Wessex Water and a wide range of other partners including NGO's and Land managers. The basis for the development of these schemes is that delivery partners would bring match funding into the partnership, to maximise investment and delivery opportunities. To provide context of match funding possibilities, SWW investment in AMP6 was £10.5m and with match funding this budget increased to £25.9m. SWW investment was more than doubled by match funding at a ratio of roughly 40% SWW and 60% match funding, of which a large proportion of the additional funding was delivery partners securing Natural England's Countryside Stewardship agreements.

As a large proportion of investment to mitigate the risks in DrWPA catchments is derived from match funding, largely from agricultural payment schemes, it is key that these can be tailored to support farmers and landowners to improve water quality and allow water companies to continue work in the farmed landscape.

Southern Water's Catchment Team have been reviewing their future nitrate reduction incentive offering in this continually evolving space. The current proposal is to continue to offer water company funded incentives for land management measures targeting nitrate reduction. In addition, Southern Water is reviewing the possibility of integrating with government agricultural payment schemes by offering top-up payments on selected measures offered under Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) for additional specifications that support nitrate reduction in water priority areas.

Proposed recommendations for inclusion in the convenor final report

We would like Defra to consider the following points with regard to the further development and implementation of ELM systems that will enable water quality and water quantity benefits.

- Define synergistic interaction between ELM Schemes and Water Company schemes, and help the two processes work effectively together
- Set out a visionary ideal land management target for key water quality areas, such as low/zero input farmland or zero input wildlife habitats and management practice standards in capture zones for public water supply abstraction points



2

Classification: BUSINESS

- Ensure that water companies have a role in helping farmers interpret opportunities through ELM support systems such as 'Land App'
- Discuss with the water companies how those companies can sponsor water related ELM outcomes (as per United Utilities and Forestry Commission examples), that benefit both water quality and water quantity objectives.
- Ensure that ELM governance systems both support and are supported by water company involvement
- Recognise the natural capital/ecosystem services value of groundwater & surface water quality (and quantity) and ensure that water company and agricultural costs are reasonably shared through mechanisms including ELM Schemes.



Appendix 5: Board Minutes and Communications

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

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

Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes (approved)

Title	Hampshire ELM Convenor Partnership Advisory Board, for Defra Test and Trial		
Purpose	Meeting of the new Advisory Board	Date	26.7.23
Location	Cholderton Estate	Time	11am-1pm tour – 2pm- 5.30pm meeting

Attendance and Distribution

Name		Position	Present	Distrib
Advisory Board Members				
James, Lord Malmesbury	JM	Chair	✓	
Margaret Paren	MP	Chair Hampshire Branch, CPRE	✓	
Dr Sean Ashworth	SA	Southern Water	✓	
Isobel Budden	IB	NFU	✓	
Lucy Charman	LC	CLA	✓	
Graham Tuck	GT	Southampton CC	✓	
Susan Robbins	SR	Natural Env & Recreation Team Manager, Winchester CC	Apols	
Debbie Tann	DT	Chief Executive, Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust	Apols	
Clr Russell Openheimer	RO	HCC	Apols	
Executive Officers of Advisory Board				
Kevin Austen	KA	Environment Agency	✓	
Allison Potts	AP	Team Leader Thames Solent Area, Natural England	✓	
Matthew Woodcock	MW	Partnerships Manager SE, Forestry Commission	✓	
Alison McQuaid	AM	Historic England	✓	
TBA		Rural Payments Agency		
Merrick Denton Thompson	MDT	Project Lead	✓	
Lionel Fanshawe	LF	Project Director	✓	
Louise Tricklebank	LT	BNG	✓	
Alison Galbraith	AG	Project support	✓	
Lynda Hooper	LH	Project Administrator	Apols	
Guests				
Catherine Boyd	CB	Defra	✓	
Louis Rimmer	LR	Defra T&T support officer	✓	
Susan Twining	ST	CLA	✓	
Hannah Fluck	HF	National Trust	✓	
Anthony Fry	AF	Cholderton	✓	
Gary Clarke	GC	Catchment Management Officer, Southern Water	✓	
John Durnell	JD	HloWT	✓	
Marcus Gilleard	MG	National Trust	Apols	

Pete Boustred	PB	Soton CC	Apols
Lynn Pye		Defra T&T Officer	Apols
Jo Heath		Head of Countryside, HCC	Apols
Erika Diaz Peterson		Historic England	Apols
Vince Hollyoak		Historic England	Apols
Sarah Dominey		HCC	Apols
Jo Heath		HCC	Apols

Items

1. Introduction and apologies

Introduction from MDT before the farm tour which also involved explanations from Henry Edmunds. Permission was given by all to have photos taken for publicity purposes. No further introductions were required at the start of the meeting. Permission was given by all in attendance to data sharing and that all can openly be cc'd into emails. *Action: Those not attending to raise any objections to Project Administrator Lynda@terrafirmaconsultancy.com*

ALL

2. The Commission and approach to Delivery (see attached paper 2)

MDT gave overview of first stage; tying strands together in a joined-up approach with public goods agenda. A landscape scale approach, at a county boundary scale which is supported by Department for Environmental, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Relationship with Natural England (NEs) National Character Areas (NCAs) the start point for mapping purposes, reflecting soils, management of the land and formed by farming processes but not always familiar to farming community.

First action is to review the stage 1 works and decide if we agree with the approach recommended.

NCAs – 10 different NCAs in Hampshire, 3 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and 2 National Parks (NPs) and their Management Plans (MPs-which are not obliged to be delivered). The essence of the MPs for protected areas should extend beyond their boundaries where NCAs extend. NPs and AONBs will be consulted.

Business Plan element of the project, including Natural Capital Accounting, is out to tender. The following companies were approached – Deloitte, PwC, Aecom, Dieter Helm's company and eftec. Outcomes are to align with the National Capital Accounting guidance.

The Project deliverables need to be non-technical and accessible for all – this open communication is critical for the whole project.

Need Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to be present. Current administrative system is very complex and very off-putting to farmers. Potential for this group to set up a local administrative unit.

CB explained that RPA is set up in a regional basis which is difficult to slot into the project but they are working on getting them involved.

Portal for local groups (of farmers) to get involved with inputs. Sometimes difficult for groups to find common ground. It was stated by CB that there is a role for the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) group to enable local groups and initiate them to collaborate.

JD: New Forest currently trying to set up groups to collaborate around funding sources – ELMS could facilitate targeted groups.

Agenda item for next meeting: Groups

CB: Tested having convener role; Local Nature Recovery Strategy; convener role powerful but difficult; met with all T&T groups and pilot conveners; key learnings:

- Private funding - difficult for farmers to engage;
- Effective working partnerships;

First time directly commissioned and running reviews; 1. deliberately didn't put T&Ts in communication with each other to see what scale works best. 2. Is county level right. 3. Are there

existing frameworks in place so don't have to set up new. 4. Feedback to DEFRA honestly but they will take a back seat role so it is a true reflection of roll out, but there will be regular feedback from DEFRA, i.e workshops, interim 6 month review. Should be better process than the stage 1 feedback.

LF asked for interaction with other T&Ts. CB – farming blog will set out who has secured funding and CB happy for communication.

AP: Very pleased to be here. Good timing how NE can work together with funding and health and well-being.

SA: How stable is ELMs – monitoring and evaluation, colleagues will have an early meeting to share outcomes; some outputs possible to measure in research design, but a bit early for outcomes. CB – recognition the system is in transition period,

ST: how will landowners / farmers be engaged with?

JM: JM is a farmer and copes with routine paperwork but found application for Higher Tier Stewardship impossibly complicated.

MDT: hope is that CLA / National Farmers Union (NFU) contacts will be present at meetings. Will take advice from CLA / NFU as to best way to communicate. Acknowledged critical importance of engaging with farmers / landowners (not just farmers); cluster groups were used in stage 1 – that would work. JD suggested a wider forum and focus groups more often – accountability at a local level.

MDT made the point that the system is incredibly complex; if based on management plans it would be better.

SA: setting up liaison groups to avoid conflicts of interest, e.g farmers and NFU. One of the lessons to be learnt from his experience with fisheries.

MP: Emphasis of engaging – focus groups, need to be attractive to all types of farmers / landowners.

HF: Data – what data apart from natural capital accounting? MDT – need help from all involved parties, e.g Forestry Commission.

ST: Data – link to Land Use Framework? CB can provide update and links.

ST: If farmers / landowners don't want to be involved how will their data be protected? MDT – primary concern to gather public data, not private. It is not the intention to interfere but to support, setting up framework and farmers slot in their land.

MDT requested the Board to consider the challenges facing the Advisory Board from the DEFRA commission for discussion at the next meeting on the 7th November.

3. Review of the first phase (see attached paper 3)

LF explained his role is to serve the board and his expertise is in landscape and he will interrogate the NCAs and produce basis for landscape management guidance based on mapped NCA. Aim is to produce something very accessible and simple. Anything to learn from other T&Ts would be helpful.

Stage 1 looked at 2 LCAs, now be looking at a total of 10 and consulting with NPs, AONBs. Lionel's work will in part, be looking at the baseline over coming months before next meeting in November. Also, will start interaction with the business plan and natural capital baseline specialist and follow up with all gathered, on different data all might provide and particularly on how to approach consultation.

Lessons from stage 1 – need to produce a simpler outcome with a clear message. Any suggestions most welcome. Also welcome any relevant county level mapping from the specialist areas represented at the meeting.

JD: At what level Natural Capital Accounting Assessment be undertaken? By necessity, high level as a County wide study.

4. Southern Water

SA: Also representing other water companies in Hampshire. Why important? Need water quality to be reasonable to minimise costs of treatment. Working in catchments to look at land management practices to improve water quality. Already met with Portsmouth Water, South East Water; also South West Water, Wessex Water on periphery, also Anthony Fry (Cholderton water company). Started data collection re catchment management – will present at next meeting.

How their inputs will fit into stage 2: areas of interest are understanding geography; regulatory standards and objectives; private finance – already have grant schemes to protect water quality – how can work towards a cohesive approach which is simpler for end users. Stacking – how to separate from other sources? How to integrate current liaison and to be complimentary to and to inform ELMS.

AF: they sit between areas and Environment Agency (EA) – not good communication.

5. Biodiversity Net Gain (see attached paper 5)

LT: Landscape scale, ecosystem services. Currently working on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) integrating into land management. A very big opportunity for land managers for offsite units. Lots of strategies being developed for landowners to understand (green infrastructure, nitrate neutrality, etc). BNG will be a legal requirement in November – minimum gain of 10% for developments. It will be a market for landowners to sell units to achieve gain. Potential for the ELMS group to facilitate this greatly. Early days for BNG and there is uncertainty and risk. BNG can be achieved on the development site or off site on sites either through broker or direct or arrangements through habitat banks. The latter could be the least risky as habitat bank leases the land, manages the process and takes on the risk. 30-year commitment timeframe. A big challenge is how small landowners can be involved; easier for larger landowners (e.g National Trust). Replacement / offset units have to be like for like habitats or better; more distinct / rarer habitats might be more valuable. Proximity of offset site to development site is important – e.g local authority area so it serves the local community. Cross-border offset not valued as highly. This could be clarified in Local Plans. If not in adjoining local authority it could be offset anywhere in the country. Uncertainty around how the market will develop. Areas of Strategic Significance – areas of priority in Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and Green Infrastructure (GI) strategies generally looking at large landowners and public land. Therefore involving small landowners is a

huge challenge. Is stacking an opportunity? Additionality will need to be demonstrated to secure multiple fundings and this will include BNG. How can land managers prepare? Main message is to get in early – Environment Bank has grown quickly. Being innovate in communication methods will be important. The ELMS group needs to understand the market, supply of different types of habitats, who the competition is, will cross-border offset be needed, e.g Plymouth has been very proactive in organising offset units. Understanding types of habitats available is important and any other benefits, e.g multi-functional land use, access to nature.

GT: Weighting of on-site / off-site habitat? LT: mitigation hierarchy still prevails; always on-site first choice. What happens if local authority thinks an off-site improvement might be more valuable to the local plan objectives? ST: Local authorities can be really clever in LNRS and LP to influence weighting of metric.

AP: Local authorities already working together; not necessarily working on GI strategies; Hampshire Ecological framework might prove best to share (undertook to provide data to LF after meeting) suggests top 3 options are set out in simplified format, need to be proactive and collaborative.

Planning Advisory Service website – good source of information, FAQs especially re BNG.

MW; a lot of people sitting on fence as to whether to go for BNG provision. Mapping of BNG – how will this work? On local plan maps? Standard costing data could be available – would be useful for comparison purposes.

LC: Sees the main role of convener – signposting of funding opportunities (Environment Bank not the only option). Hampshire ahead of the game in LNRS. Landowners are sceptical due to uncertainty of their own future requirements.

6000 units required nationwide – tax implications?

JD: need to understand their baselines in order to assess gain. High distinctiveness provision changes over time. HMRC doesn't know how to deal with development of units for sale – not resolved at all.

ST: Suggests that land managers need to communicate with NE – CLA and NFU disagree that they have done their best to communicate.

HF: Timescales for enhancement? Different habitats take longer to establish and become more valuable over time. The metric allows units to be resold once they have matured and become more valuable.

SA: BNG not just through the planning system. E.g water companies making enhancements to improve water quality – who gets credits for this.

6. Observations from Cholderton Farm visit

SA: Does Cholderton become a model?

LB: The farm is unique. ST: different for every farm.

AF: Main message is the importance of improving the soil. Cholderton is one example, there are other ways of achieving the same objectives.

Link to Cholderton film will be sent around by MDT separately.

MD
T

MDT: Really important work to meet the objectives of the Environment Plan with a scientific process, currently competing in an unfair market. Application of nitrates has a huge effect on emission of nitrous oxide into air and water system.

SA: Value systems being used in catchment areas – are these being used in agriculture?

HF: Passing on of knowledge one important aspect of heritage. Rich historic landscape stretching back thousands of years in Hampshire. The idea of learning and passing on is important. Using data? Anthony – universities, future farmers, Sparsholt visits.

LC: CLA doesn't necessarily agree Cholderton is a model applicable to all farms but there are a number of points to learn e.g Sanfoin.

Some farmers are more concerned with turnover not profit – Cholderton has lower turnover but less costs. The process of change is long-term and need to recognise the cost and loss of earnings during the transition period. MDT suggests feeding back to DEFRA.

Need to have data to support the case for landowners to make such changes.

Carbon neutral for next 50 years – MDT can circulate, also Stewardship options the farm has in place.

MD
T

7. Date of next meeting

7th November at 11.00 in Winchester – Chute Room at the County Council Castle complex.

Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes (approved)

Title	Hampshire ELM Convenor Partnership Advisory Board, for Defra Test and Trial		
Purpose	2 nd Meeting of Advisory Board	Date	07.11.2023
Location	Chute Room, Winchester, Hampshire	Time	11:30-16:00

Attendance and Distribution

Name		Position	Present	Distrib
Advisory Board Members				
James, Lord Malmesbury	JM	Chair	✓	
Margaret Paren	MP	Chair Hampshire Branch, CPRE	✓	
Dr Sean Ashworth	SA	Southern Water	✓	
Isobel Budden	IB	National Farmers Union (NFU)	✓	
Lucy Charman	LC	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	✓	
Graham Tuck	GT	Southampton County Council	Apols	
Susan Robbins	SR	Corporate Head of Economy & Community	✓	
Debbie Tann	DT	Chief Executive, Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust	Apols	
Hannah Fluck	HF	National Trust (NT)	Apols	
Clr Russell Oppenheimer	RO	Hampshire County Council (HCC)	✓	
Executive Officers of Advisory Board				
Kevin Austin	KA	Environment Agency	✓	
Allison Potts	AP	Team Leader Thames Solent Area, Natural England	Apols	
Matthew Woodcock	MW	Partnerships Manager SE, Forestry Commission	✓	
Alison McQuaid	AM	Historic England	✓	
Merrick Denton Thompson	MDT	Project Lead	✓	
Lionel Fanshawe	LF	Project Director	✓	
Alison Galbraith	AG	Project support	Apols	
Alice Cooper	AC	Project Landscape Architect	Apols	
Lynda Hooper	LH	Project Administrator	✓	
Guests				
Lynn Pye	LP	DEFRA T&T Officer	✓	
Dani Morgan	DM	DEFRA Monitoring and Evaluation	✓	
Dan Geerah	DG	Landapp	✓	
Tim Hopkins	TH	Landapp	✓	
Nicky Court	NC	LNRS	✓	
Duncan Royle	DR	Eftec	✓	
Katie Medcalf	KM	Envsys	✓	

Items

- 1. Introduction and apologies** Action by
 Introductions around the table and apologies noted.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting**
 JM- Asked if all had seen and were happy with minutes from meeting on 26 July 2023- No further comment. JM signed off minutes from last meeting.
- 3. Roundtable updates from the Project Team and Board members**
 Further to the minutes and in following up Board meeting 1;
 MDT- To send link for Cholderton Estate Test & Trial (T&T), of best practice on chalk soils. MDT
 MDT- Welcomed Eftec to the project and meeting after winning tender for Business Plan.
 MDT-Raised the issues of Rural Payments Agency (RPA) showing no interest in the ELM Convenor T&T despite the brief to pilot local delivery. With the delay in the Biodiversity Net Gain announcements we will be spending resources on the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) with no resources for delivery. This is exactly what happened to Management Plans for NPs and AONBs with 10s of millions of £s being wasted. ALL
 MDT- Asked board if they would consider approving approaching the Secretary of State to ask for some response to clarify delivery recommendations on LNRS, especially as both sustainable food production and nature recovery relied on the microbial health of our soils.
 MDT- Questioned how we marshal private and public investment through 'stacking' and 'blending' at the same time as securing a profitable farming industry. Essentially empowering a degree of profit from public investment. ALL
 TH- Asked how LNRS go about when using private and public money.
 NC-In line with sustainable food production and health of our landscape
 LF- Recounted the action to review any lessons learned (particularly from those gathered who had been involved) with Phase 1 of the Hampshire Convenor project, noting very little feedback to date beyond the need to make Phase 2 more legible and accessible. It is not too late to make any observations known.
 LF- Thanked all who had sent information to him for landscape frameworks. A first draft table and appendices for one NCA had been circulated a week before the meeting and feedback on this from the Board is now sought with urgency in order to roll out an agreed approach for all 10 NCAs, particularly the biggest 6 (90% of the County) which Eftec will be working on.
 Advised that 3 of the 10 NCA's are well under way, just missing input from Wildlife Trust and District Councils. This shall be followed up individually following the meeting. While we can access what we can through websites, it is far better to have the assistance of Board members advising from their own organisations, with their specialist knowledge, expertise and interests.
 LF- We need to firm up the approach and complete the frameworks with all the Eftec inputs before going to farmers/land managers and are all aiming to have materials in place for consulting with them late January. We would like the Board to get more

involved both in what we consult on and who and how best we consult. It was suggested that the next Board Meeting will be after the consultation goes out, so this needs to take place by calls and correspondence soon and perhaps the focus of that meeting should then be on the higher level task of how the Convenor organisation actually works. It was discussed and agreed that aspect would not form part of the consultation.

LF- Introduced Landapp, and benefits of working with them in order to access better technology and data and best bring together the landscape framework information into a legibly mapped and easily communicated format that has already been test and tried, albeit never to the level of information that is being gathered for the Convenor. DEFRA have the proposal for their joining our project but it will need the Board's recommendation which will be sought following the LandApp presentation.

SA- Advised that the content of his papers (copy attached) was to set the background of water in Hampshire and pressures of resources. Highlighted a couple of case studies and links to nitrates. Noted that more mapping is needed as Bournemouth water not included.

Talked about what 4 of the water Boards were doing to mitigate risks including use of cover crop, education, capital grants and funding for cluster groups.

As this test and trial progresses the water companies would like the Board to consider the following; how do the new ELMS measures relate to soil health and water quality and overlap with the Water Company current schemes?

Asked for consideration for shared mapping resources. How can the two funding systems (ELMs and water company funding) integrate and how can ELMS governance support and be supported by water company involvement?

What does success look like?

TH- Questioned if the aim of the group is to work together and share information.

MDT & LF Confirmed that this was the case. The T&T should align.

SA- Asked if SAFI report works and has it been built into project? This looks at whole country and where nitrates are strongest.

DG – Asked how we facilitate blended finance. Forestry Commission are happy to pay money for woodland planted and extra being paid if woods are delivering public good.

LP- Informed the Board that there were lots of T&T looking at blended finance at the moment with a specific team working on these.

TH- Asked why we weren't consulting with farmers now.

JM- Replied that we need to make it simpler for farmers first.

SA- Highlighted a timing issue as water companies have just submitted PR 24 Business plans to OFWAT on what agricultural measures will look like in 2025 and schemes that will be in place. OFWAT need to understand the importance of them.

MW- spoke about the huge streaming funds available and how farmers and landowners are holding off decision making to see what the best offers are available to them.

RO- bought up the issue of boreholes and whether Southern water encourage them?

TH- Said very difficult to get planning.

SA- Environment Agency (EA) would be best placed to comment on this issue and there was no simple answer to this problem of looking at ways to reduce demand. Did we want boreholes all over countryside?

MDT- Wanted to flag the importance of water quality to nature recovery, rather than just for human consumption.

JM- Wanted to discuss sewage in water.

MDT- Said it was not the time or within remits of the project to discuss this issue.

RO- Wanted to assure that County Council (CC) are on the case.

JM- Asked if any further response from Board- none raised.

JM- Thanked SA for response and Board accepts the paper.

LF- Questioned how we engage with farmers. If we go out to 40 farms, if we go to 6 in each NCAS, use NFU, CLA & Landapp, does that make sense to all and any other ideas? Before we go to consultation.

TH- Through clusters in targeted areas. Mathew Norris Hill could be coordinator, farmers like going through someone they trust.

DG- Facilitators are very trusted by farmers, use the entity already available.

LC- Are we preaching to the converted? not all landowners are part of cluster groups.

MP- Tenanted farmers where are they being heard?

TH- Need to start with already engaged people to gain traction.

LC- FiPL grants, catchment sensitive farmers, should they be part of this process.

NC- Tight timetable looking at community groups as well as farmers, probably over winter. LNRS very broad.

LF- We don't have targets only delivery. LNRS are starting consultation.

DM- There are 5 Local convener projects being funded by DEFRA, need to hear from wide range of stakeholders to be able to make a decision, need to distribute a survey with Landowner farmer and stakeholders, need feedback from board on how the process is going, trying to avoid fatigue of farmers.

DEFRA have to have standard format across 5 projects. Would also like to do survey at end point and focus workshops.

DM- Would also like to distribute separate questionnaire to Board members about 6 months in

MW- Facilitator engagement from RPA /CLA round table meeting. Got to engage with different people.

LC- Specialist targeted meetings and they will see 25 people around the table, less targeted you get a different mix and a lot more attendees wanting to engage.

LF- Really should be reaching out to big demographic of people, separate, email to let us know all the ways to do so.

LF- How does the convenor work? - Is it 1ST consultation and tools we need, or Convenor for delivering ELMS

DM- Survey been approved, it does ask farmers about broader attitude towards ELMS.

JM – asked LF WILL BE ABLE TO GETS SPI numbers?

LC- SPI numbers are not in public domain.

DM- will only be targeting those involved in T&T.

4. Stakeholder engagement with wider partners and future consultation

LF- Advised change in agenda order of presenters.

LF- Explained landscape framework approach in more detail, the NCA boundaries and how the table works. He set out how the intention is to be simple; activity and outcome led. Easy to then be adopted and adapted by LandApp with their work once appointed, as is the hope. LF noted that the Convenor Frameworks could be an ideal consultation and delivery tool but the targets for improving the health of the landscape need to come from elsewhere. The Environment Act, HCC's State of Hampshire Natural Environment and Eftec Natural Capital baseline all suggest where there are shortcomings and conversations are yet to take place with LNRS and Wildlife trust which is where many of the targets might come from.

LF- Asked Board to be critical and take time to look through what they had received but to do so very soon please. High level or detailed comments welcome but please all take a look and respond. We are sure that we haven't yet got it right yet as this is only a first draft and work in progress.

In terms of consultation, we had discussed an approach with Eftec and LandApp that could say, involve a virtual meeting for each of the 6 main NCAs, each with small group of farmers willing to be in a focus group (perhaps drawn from farm clusters and existing early adopters but also endeavouring to reach out to those on the fringe or from more diverse landholdings so as to be as wide as possible). With a minimum of 6 in each group we would be in the region of the 40-farm consultation that has previously been suggested for the T&T. This approach is for discussion, but we would like to get it in place for late January/early February in order to meet the project programme. Again, please share your views with us please.

MDT- said we need to make it simple for farmers, if I am a farmer, how easy in 5 minutes to understand what is expected of me and a natural capital approach is critical rather than public money for public good.

ALL

5. Landscape Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

NC- went through her papers (copy attached) from LNRS explaining who and what it is. Information will be on a public facing website and mapping enables to capture year on year, to see changes. Consultation is starting imminently and there is an opportunity for our project to work in tandem with some of this.

NC- said that it will take time to recreate these habitats.

LC- stated that there are no answers as yet to concerns around LNRS delivery.

IB- Designation isn't part of LNRS.

KA- Farmers are worried this is a trap and only get paid in the short term.

DG- Asked if there is anything we can do to help with clarity and hesitancy.

MDT- Said it's a shame there are questions that future designations might be necessary. Only one mention of soil health and nature will not recover without restoring microbial health of soil. HCC are taking this seriously but believes that we should not do the same with LNRS as we did to National Parks (NP) and Areas of

Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) wasting public resources and money on plans without any requirement for delivery.

MDT- Asked again that Board put in writing and ask Secretary of State for clarity and deliverability. All agreed. MDT to draft and circulate to Board for approval. TH to add wording to be included.

MDT/TH

6. Eftec and Envsys; Natural Capital Accounting and Mapping

DR- Pleased to be part of the project and explained collaboration between Eftec and Envsys. Introduction and outline of who they both are.

KM- Highlighted that they will need input from the Board.

DR-/KM Talked through papers (copy attached)

DR- Stated that they were keen to continue support of process beyond contract end in March.

KM- Would like to hold webinar with the Board early December to go through and update where they are up to, giving Board chance to ask questions.

MW- Discussed water flow and how it goes through Hants soil, tool that EA produced SAFI report and forest planting. Pointed that Eftec can look at these for data and info.

KM- Requested if anyone has access to data please send over, they are using Vector data.

SA- Asked what info available on soil health?

KM- Confirmed that very little, soil carbon good proxy and is difficult to obtain.

LC- Asked how do you overlay what's on the ground?

KM- Confirmed only data is what's publicly available again requested if anyone has access to more up to date data please send over.

DG- Confirmed Landapp have data but would need to look how that can be sent.

Again, Matthew Norris Hill Might was mentioned as possibly having data.

7. Land App

DG- Introduction of Landapp went through papers (copy attached)

DG- Happy to hear that everyone is after the same end goal.

DG- Explained that the app is free to farmers, there are 2 levels of subscription. Added value comes from BNG calculator, data sets and collaboration.

LC- Assisted digital scares some people.

DG- Aware that not everyone will be able to or have knowledge to use the app, but want to get to the point where everyone is one step away from help.

DG- Mentioned it would be good to have middleman at DEFRA to filter through changes so they can update the Landapp.

MDT- Asked Board if they are happy to put Landapp forward to DEFRA

LP- DEFRA have agreed if Board are happy, they can be put forward for potential sign off. Board in agreement

JM- Thanked DEFRA for attending.

8. **Next meeting-** February 2024-date tbc-Venue Chute Room
NC- to put forward potential clashes with LNRS

NC

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

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

Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes and Papers

(approved)

Title	Hampshire ELMS Convenor Partnership Advisory Board, for Defra Test and Trial		
Purpose	Third meeting of the Advisory Board	Date	27 February 2024
Location	Teams Meeting	Time	11.00-16.00

Attendance

Attendance and Distribution

Name		Position	Present	Distrib
Advisory Board Members				
James, Lord Malmesbury	JM	Chairman	✓	✓
Margaret Paren	MP	Chair Hampshire Branch, CPRE	Apologies	✓
Dr Sean Ashworth	SA	Southern Water	✓	✓
Hannah Fluck	HF	National Trust (NT)	✓	✓
Lucy Charman	LC	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	✓	✓
Isobel Budden	IB	National Farmers Union (NFU)	✓	✓
Cllr Russell Oppenheimer	RO	Hampshire County Council (HCC)	✓	✓
Debbie Tann	DT	Chief Executive, Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust	Apologies	✓
Susan Robbins	SR	Representing District Councils (Corporate Head of Economy & Community, Winchester)	✓	✓
Simon Kennedy	SK	Representing Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils	✓	✓
Executive Officers of Advisory Board				
Kevin Austin	KA	Environment Agency	Apologies	✓
DJ Gent	DJG	Environment Agency	Apologies	✓
Allison Potts	AP	Team Leader Thames Solent Area, Natural England	✓	✓
Matthew Woodcock	MW	Partnerships Manager SE, Forestry Commission	✓	✓
Alison McQuaid	AM	Historic England	Apologies	✓
Merrick Denton Thompson	MDT	Project Lead	✓	✓
Lionel Fanshawe	LF	Project Director	✓	✓
Alice Cooper	AC	Project Landscape Architect	✓	✓
Lynda Hooper	LH	Project Administrator	✓	✓
Guests				
Olivia Burton	OB	Defra	✓	✓
Lynn Pye	LP	Defra	Apologies	✓
Dani Morgan	DM	Defra Monitoring and Evaluation	Apologies	✓
Dan Geerah	DG	LandApp (part of project team)	✓	✓
Nicky Court	NC	LNRS	✓	✓
Duncan Royle	DR	Efttec (part of project team)	✓	✓
Katie Medcalf	KM	Environmental Systems (part of project team)	✓	✓

Items

1.	Attendance and Apologies	Action by
LH-	Made everyone aware that the meeting was being recorded	
LH-	Apologies from, MP, DT, KA, DJG, AM, LP & DM	
LF-	Apologised to SK who should be Advisory Board member rather than Executive Officer of the Board as set out on the agenda.	
2.	Minutes from last meeting	
JM	Welcomed all, asked if all were happy with the minutes from Board meetings on 27 November and February. All happy, JM to sign and send to LH to file	JM
3&4	Roundtable updates from Project Team and Board Members & Stakeholder engagement with wider partners	
LF	<p>Hoped all the Board had seen paper circulated with agenda and the more detailed half year report issued at the beginning of the month.</p> <p>All 10 NCA land management frameworks had been completed by terra firma & summaries, outcomes and actions master lists arising from this had been handed on to project team to be inserted into the LandApp document and will be presented later in the meeting.</p> <p>eftec and Environmental Systems have been working together and in turn, been coordinating with LNRS consultation and shared inputs to LandApp document. LF and colleagues have attended all the LNRS Consultation workshops that have been delivered and found these very useful as well as an opportunity to publicise our T&T. We have the potential to be a method of its delivery.</p> <p>LandApp will later demonstrate the tool that we are intending to consult farmers and land managers on next month.</p> <p>Regards consultation, we are very reliant on the Board for assistance with this. Thanked everyone, especially NFU and CLA reps who have biggest reach out directly with farmers. All potential consultees that are being referred to us are being sent an invitation and an example of the tool with a deadline for end of the week. This can be extended into next week when we shall collate responses and launch invites to demo meetings over the following fortnight with packs for trialling on their land. SR & SK have been tasked with reaching out to all the local authorities, so they are aware what we are doing and obtaining their thoughts on the Convenor from them too. LF and MDT will be approaching the protected landscapes and National Parks & AONB for the same reason and potentially to take part in the test and trial.</p> <p>Consultation programme:</p> <p>W/C 4 March- collation of responses to participate in T&T, emails out pack alongside the required questionnaire/feedback forms from Defra and LandApp.</p> <p>W/C-11 March- 1st Zoom meeting for those consultees who have received the packs and explain/ demonstrate how to use, suggest 6pm Wednesday 13th.</p> <p>W/C- 18 March - Tuesday 19 @ 6pm for 2nd Zoom for those unable to attend 1st one.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>DG to set up</p>

	<p>If any board member feels that these times aren't suitable to let us know. SR suggested a daytime one in the second week for those who could only attend in working hours.</p> <p>We will be recording these demos so they can watch at their own convenience.</p> <p>W/C- 25 March- request feedback forms are returned to us.</p> <p>Aspiration for a take up of 40 farmers across Hampshire 6 larger NCAs we are covering.</p> <p>Reminded all Board members to also do their feedback forms as requested, these will be re-sent. Only 4 received by DEFRA to date and this is an important part of the T & T.</p> <p>We may well call an Interim Board meeting in April to look at results of consultation and consider the potential of the Convenor via Zoom.</p> <p>We will set up the final in person final wrap up meeting before we do the final report. A later May date was put forward but the meeting suggested this would not work and Lynda will be back in contact with HCC to see options to book a room for this at the beginning of May.</p> <p>If we feel that there is more work to come from this T&T, it has been mentioned by Defra that we can apply for an extension and should do so in early April , a good 2 months before the current project end date. LF requested that all of us put some thought to that.</p>	All
SA	How do we inform and structure that discussion/ decision of the potential extension of the project, are we setting out actions for us to think about? Water companies have critical deadlines over the next year.	
LF	No thought yet as early days but may need further discussion.	All
JM	Invited MW to comment on number of items from last meeting	
MW	Will come back to this	MW
SR	Felt that 6pm for the zoom demo meetings wasn't great for all and needed a different time at each week to enable a wider audience. Group together working practitioners at suitable time for them.	
LF	Potential to do meeting during the working day. LandApp to agree timings.	DG
MW	Key point at last meeting was quite traditional in our targeting asking to whether to engage water companies. Portsmouth water had illustrated regards nutrient interceptors.	
LF	All Board had been requested and Rob Iddeson has been particularly helpful and specifically asking to get it to people who aren't NFU or CLA members. Asked MW if Water companies themselves might trial it?	SA
MW	Did work last year where Portsmouth identified the routes water is flowing.	
LF	The LandApp tool is more for farmer to look at funding streams. There are actions in there such as for interceptors if they wish to pick these.	
DG-	LandApp working with other water companies, although not direct users of LandApp tool, LandApp are shipping to them plans that are seeking funding to explore blended finance opportunities.	DR/MW/SA
	Happy to take call offline to demonstrate.	
SA	<p>2 points to make-</p> <p>-Mapping of fast flow pathways in the chalk have been done for Southern water geography and happy to reach out to other water companies and see what they have done and might be available.</p> <p>-Concept of how we blend ELMS payments and water company payments who are driving similar nitrate reductions, this point was made in Board papers presented</p>	SA

	already and need to be worked on. Critical timing as water companies are currently putting business plans and models now. Looking at ELMS as evolving and dropping in and how we add value to the outcomes. Not sure what Water company can bring to the table this point	
RO	Suggested we reached out to Parish Councils who have close links to farmers in their Parish. Have we planned on engaging with them? Also need to reach out to Hampshire Cabinet, briefing especially Edward Heron.	RO to facilitate
LF	Asked RO if there was a list that we could use. RO to put us in touch with someone at HCC.	RO
	Concerned if enough time to reach out to cabinet prior to consultation.	
5.	Natural Capital Baseline and Suggested priorities for the NCAs	
DR/KM	Presented and explained Natural Capital Assessment for Hampshire slides. See attached	
DR	Emphasized the need to keep it simple and digestible so points that need conveying are conveyed.	
HF	In chat, asked if Heritage Assets were included in the baseline information, also should be including SHINE heritage assets and indicating scheduled monuments.	DR/KM
DG	Replied to HF in chat - that they are finalising a Data agreement with ALGAO who host SHINE which will allow the tool to show features for farmers using their SBI number	
NC	In chat asked why not show Local Wildlife Sites as per LNRS on the biodiversity hotspots map and their condition. SSSI are only best example	DR/KM
DR	Will send baseline with sections for comments	DR/All
AP	In chat, said that pollination is a great way to give indication of biodiversity values, University of Reading has published a lot of information and may well give Hampshire specific values.	
LC-	In chat- Replied that LNRS have produced pollination maps for Hampshire with Reading Uni	
IB-	In chat -Asked if sequestration was included in figures?	DR/KM
MDT	In chat -says we need to look at detail closely food production versus GHG	
LC	In chat -says we need to be careful with use of the word 'regenerative' as means different things to different people.	
MW	In chat- is concerned we are using woodland as an either or (Bio or production)	
KM	In chat – replied to MW that only biodiversity natural woodland is on the maps farm woodland is another area that has not been addressed.	
SK	In chat – Says that Nutrient neutrality requirements are missing as a driver for NBS.	
MDT	In chat- Shows that we cannot rely on BNG to fund LNRS and must press the Government to ensure that LNRS becomes statutory framework for public funding.	
AP	<p>-Asked how do we present and share with farmers, needs to come from the other end of the lens for farmers as to why does it matter and what is in it for me? What does improving soil health deliver in terms of profitability and sustainability on my farm. Need to engage our audience.</p> <p>-No correlation between the amount of land in production and the FTE numbers it supports, how did you come up with these numbers? Does this need for thinking for sustainable green economy based on what we have now and what we need in the future. NFNP area of land farmed is very small, but FTE numbers are huge, is this to do with tourism as communing practice does not pay, and these mechanisms we have now don't make it easy so who else will pay for that? What does the audience need to really connect and drive their decision making. What more can we offer where ELMS options are not providing the driver for take up.</p>	
DR	Agrees that we need to share it differently with farmers to tap into their interest. FTE figures are from Defra.	

NC	Asked over what length of time is recreation of hectares of habitat possible and BNG is another one? We have national environmental targets to meet. LNRS looking at slightly different modelling and priorities.	
DR	BNG market is based on a 10- year view.	
SK	Mentioned that mapping has been done before and should we not be looking at what has been done before many times. Should LNRS be reviewing all the work and Defra need to account for this too. On behalf of the city, we are making a number of decisions on land use planning and how to ensure that BNG and nutrients are satisfied. Interested on how they can apply the great work.	
SA	In chat- 1-How do we accommodate that water derives from one area and flows to another. 2- How do we account for provisioning and supporting regulatory, cultural services of water. 3- What is the potential level of ambition for managing opportunities in this space.	
MW	Cost of nitrates going up it is an advantage to reduce any leaching. Concerned how woodland is referred to need to take conversation offline with DR.	DR/MW
JM	Concerned about engaging with farmers, in questionnaire have Defra taken onboard that farming is about sustainable businesses and the need for money and one of the main streams has disappeared.	
SR	How flexible and intelligent is some of the mapping to enable us to look across NCA as policy makers wanting to influence local landowners?	
KM	Data mining is a conversation that has been had between EnvSys and LandApp. This wasn't a consideration when the bid for the project was put together. Ideally another phase and input and insight from the Board to Defra to make this Data as useful as possible to everybody.	All
SR	Will provide this feedback	
MW	Defra have in the past allowed access to PDF to CS targeting.	
DG	Needs to be assessable to the farmers. High level data sets are held as images and need to be turned into Vector data. Moving to this model will allow us to live feed into the system.	
SA	Need to take chat offline with eftec to fill in a few gaps. Do we think the current ELMS measure payments are appropriate for the level of eco systems services that farmers are generating or protecting due to the action they are taking?	DR/SA
DR	This has potential to challenge the ELMS values	
DG	Defra have set precedent with new payment model of England Woodland creation and we have enough data to start delivery ELMS using geospatial prioritisation	
MDT	We must remember this is a Test and Trail and you can put propositions to the Board of a series of recommendations in the final report to Defra.	
LF	Invited HF to bring her question from chat room to the table.	
HF	Must include Heritage assets, scheduled monuments, and SHINE polygons to comply with 25 -yr. environment plan etc. Can weave these into National Character area summaries. We will have some comparable metrics for public benefit and value in about a year's time	
KM	Confirmed we do have that data and we can add that.	
6.	LandApp presentation	
DG	Presented slides- Advised that we will set aside some customer support time. LandApp will have their own feedback forms for the tool demo that farmers will use.	
LC	In chat- We need to consider landowners that have tenants perhaps for clarity on the tool.	
SA	In chat -Asked if critical water features are included?	

AP	In chat-Is there a table to reference actions to their origin in law/policy?	
NC-	In chat asked what if the proposed woodland is on species rich grassland?	
RO	Asked if we have engaged with the Young Farmers?	
RO	Shared link to Young Farmers in Hampshire to send out invitations to T&T	LH/LF
LC	In chat – questioned if we engage with a farmer that already has a LandApp plan for CS/ SFI can they be assisted to use this as one of their layers? Arable reversion in stewardship would be highlighted as an opportunity near a watercourse on arable land. There are ongoing discussions with Defra regarding 'Premium Payments'	
AC-	In chat replied to LC- Weve tried to add an element of nudging with interceptors' woodland creations and watercourses.	
AP	In chat- Has sent information for consultation to Catchment Sensitive Farming	
AP	Asked if a farmer can look at neighbouring land not in his holding?	
DG	This can be done by adding to the farmers mapped area to remodel outside their ownership.	
JM	As put himself down to consult. Concerned how will he use this info?	
DG	Believes a farmer is only 1 step away from someone who can help them. Will be doing regular training and support sessions.	
RO	Asked if one of the 40 farmers drops out do we have people to infill the gap?	
LF	Haven't got to the 40 yet so unable to say yet.	
LC	Alot of info to take onboard, risk of over complicating is there a way we can direct people to someone who can help?	
DG	We will supply a list of contacts of who they can contact, local farmer or other. As an organisation we have been battling with this, fundamentally down to local advice, clusters, and organisations pivotal in helping farmers.	DG
LF	To DG-How does the list of actions interact with the maps, does it draw down from our actions or another place?	
DG	Some are related, look at statutory obligations when putting together a management plan on LandApp relevant. Report is first thing you read and see what you need to address translate this into a map. Not all actions are geospatially relevant some are farm level.	
LF	Asked DG if we were asking our farmers for the T&T to simply look at report, in the 2-hour session, go onto map not cross reference to our exhaustive list and say if the tool is working for him?	
DG	Want the report to assist the plan and create the management plan.	
LF	We need to explain this clearly when the farmer gets the report that this is just for background, we will be giving a demo about what we want them to T&T. We want to make sure the Board are happy with what we are T&T. This T&T is being done on the basis that the consultees are within one of the 6 main NCAs which is 90% of the county with a level of technical literacy. Pointless testing with hard copy.	
DG	Shouldn't say no to anyone although will be led by the Board. They just need to attend a 1-1 session and get feedback.	
SA	Do we need to set a vision?	
DG	People will generally do things for financial gain.	
SR	Do we have clear test evaluation criteria set out, why if they aren't they not taking this up? How are we monitoring moving forward. Have we empowered them, and have they taken advice, and have they done something with it?	
LF	We have the Defra questionnaire to circulate that will need to be filled in by the consultee which is the evaluation. We want to keep it as simple as possible. We are due to finish project in June and if Board has recommendations that we need to take on welcome thoughts from all.	All
IB	Is confident in accessibility for farmers in Hampshire and computers are used a lot now already.	

7.	Programme	
LF	Immediate program is to get the 40 farmers on board in the next 2 weeks. We will follow up on today's suggestions. Longer term looks like suggest date for May Board meeting isn't going to work. Will send out more date suggestions.	LF/LH LH
8.	AOB	
JM	MDT- reminded all to fill in Defra questionnaire. LH to resend. LH- to pick up all notes in the chat	LH/All LH
MDT	Thanked all for attending.	

ELM Convenor Partnership for Hampshire

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

Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes (approved)

Title	Hampshire ELM Convenor Partnership Advisory Board, for Defra Test and Trial		
Purpose	4th Meeting of Advisory Board	Date	01.05.2024
Location	Winchester Royal Hotel, Winchester, Hampshire	Time	11:00-16:30

Attendance and Distribution

Name		Position	Present	Distrib
Advisory Board Members				
James, Lord Malmesbury	JM	Chair	✓	✓
Margaret Paren	MP	Chair Hampshire Branch, CPRE	✓	✓
Dr Sean Ashworth	SA	Southern Water (SW)	✓	✓
Hannah Fluck	HF	National Trust (NT)	✓	✓
Isobel Budden	IB	National Farmers Union (NFU)	✓	✓
Lucy Charman	LC	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	✓	✓
Simon Kennedy	SK	Representing Portsmouth City Council	✓	✓
Susan Robbins	SR	Corporate Head of Economy & Community	✓	✓
Debbie Tann	DT	Chief Executive, Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust	Apologies	✓
John Durnell	JD	Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust (HloWWT)	✓	✓
Cllr Russell Oppenheimer	RO	Hampshire County Council (HCC)	Apologies	✓
Cllr Kirsty North	KN	Hampshire County Council (HCC)	Apologies	✓
Executive Officers of Advisory Board				
Kevin Austen	KA	Environment Agency	Apologies	✓
DJ Gent	DJG	Environment Agency	✓	✓
Allison Potts	AP	Team Leader Thames Solent Area, Natural England	✓	✓
Matthew Woodcock	MW	Partnerships Manager SE, Forestry Commission	✓	✓
Alison McQuaid	AM	Historic England	Apologies	✓
Merrick Denton Thompson	MDT	Project Lead	✓	✓
Lionel Fanshawe	LF	Project Director	✓	✓
Alison Galbraith	AG	Project support	✓	✓
Alice Cooper	AC	Project Landscape Architect	✓	✓
Lynda Hooper	LH	Project Administrator	✓	✓
Guests				
Dan Geerah	DG	Landapp	✓	✓
Duncan Royle	DR	eftec	✓	✓
Ece Ozdemiroglu	EO	eftec	✓	✓
Katie Medcalf	KM	Environment System	✓	✓
Nicky Court	NC	LNRS	✓	✓
Lynn Pye	LP	Defra T&T Officer	✓	✓
Dani Morgan	DM	Defra	Apologies	✓
Marc Sowik	MS	Defra	✓	✓
Olivia Burton	OB	Defra	Apologies	✓
Louise Tricklebank	LT	BNG	Apologies	
Graham Harvey	GH		✓	

Items

Actioned by

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies.

Introductions around the table and apologies noted as above.

MDT-Welcomed Graham Harvey to the meeting as an observer

2. Minutes of the last meeting

JM- Asked if all happy with the minutes from the previous meeting, no comment from around the table, minutes signed and passed to LH for filing.

LH

3. Overview of project progress and outcomes hoped for the meeting.

LF- Introduced the agenda for the meeting and what outcomes we were intending to explore.

Project team had consulted or visited all 5 of the protected landscapes, numerous farmers and attended all but one of the LNRS workshops in order to gather information. Also witnessed a consultee testing the app.

Test and Trial of the app had 40 individuals respond to the call out for consultation although only 20 went through the whole process. However, these provided a positive response.

The project has been presented to East Hants MP Damian Hinds, HCC leader Cllr Humby and to draft Final Report circulated to them, The Board and all those that completed the whole Test and Trial.

Advance warning given to the Board that as much feedback from everyone was required from all by 15 May so that the final report can be presented to Defra. Key issues to discuss at this meeting are to be NCA priorities, the prototype toolkit and the potential for a permanent Convenor.

All

4. What questions are we trying to answer and why is this combination of partners the right group to answer these?

EO- We were all here to agree on the information we will be pulling together and asked if these are the key questions that we need to be asking. We want landowners/farmers to be empowered, need all the information to be correct and the ecologically right to align to the current policies and specific actions.

- 1- Are they fundable, realistic, accessible.
- 2- Find the action that meets the criteria.

EO- Went through her slides (attached) regarding current land uses, benefit assessments. Private and public funding and dis-benefits.

- 3- What are the risks, priority opportunities for improvement. Finance potential through private and public sectors.

5. Overview of the four workstreams – how did we try to answer these questions?

DG- Gave an overview of the 4 workstreams that the project team had undertaken. Again, re-enforced that we need to empower the farmer / landowner, helping them to consider public or funding opportunities available to them. Explained how the farm boundaries had been used to filter the information needed by the farmer, ensuring that they only get information that is required.

Workstream 1 -Been led by terra firma which included the data base, statutory and advisory actions.

Workstream 2- Board and multi stakeholders

Workstream 3 – eftec and Environment Systems, feeding in data informing Board decisions and farm level decisions.

Workstream 4- Consolidate all the information to do a management plan.

Workstream 1

LF-terra firma were tasked with inputting data across all 10 National Character Areas (NCAs). An NCA is based on geology and subsequent character formed by centuries of physical and human influences, most noticeably farming. It is a useful basis with which to subdivide the county to a tangible scale.

Each of the NCA documents collated for the project has an introduction and priorities specific to that NCA created between eftec and terra firma, which we are asking the Board to agree.

There were in excess of 700 actions (brought down from over 1000 when duplication was discounted across terminology relevant to different NCAs) put into an action table which was then reduced using the app's targeting for the 6 largest NCAs that the toolkit was developed for. A typical farm plan would receive only what is relevant to its NCA, typically between 2 and 3 hundred actions.

The Remaining 4 NCAs' information can remain available but is too large to sit within the final report or its appendices. LF asked all to remember that this is a Test and Trial and hasn't been sense checked so this information should like that with the prototype app, be treated only as a start.

We originally identified 160 potential statutory obligations which having been passed by an expert 'critical friend', has been refined to 51 confirmed with a further 30 obligations subject to grants or unclear and should remain for discussion.

DJG – Interested in the 30. EA would be willing to help review against water legislation.

DJG/AC

DG- Said there should be thought into who will be responsible for holding the information moving forward and who has the responsibility of updating the database with changes?

All

MDT- Phase 1 was bringing local knowledge into the national policy, there was no joined up approach to land use and natural resources. Lots of advice was out of date and difficult to unravel statutory and advisory actions.

He said he was disappointed that there wasn't representation serving the Board by Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and he was unable to get them involved but thanked other members of the Board and other parties for getting involved with input and support.

MDT also said that accountability was also an issue and wanted to make sure that users understand this is worth investing in and contribution by the cities was as important as the countryside.

MDT reiterated and encouraged Board members to make recommendations to Defra.

All

Workstream 2

DR – See attached eftec/EnvSys presentation of comparing two NCA findings. All 6 will be circulated after the meeting. The Questions for the Board

How useful was the info in each NCA?
What's missing and what's surplus.

All

DR- Went through slides attached.

SK- Asked how much opportunity was there at this stage to increase the information we have on relevant markets, highlighted that local markets add great value.

DR- Happy to engage mid-May.

JD- Noted to omission of climate change resilience, if we are making long term commitments, we need to think about decisions moving forward. Huge potential to reduce.

MW- Raised the point on woodland carbon code, questioned the wooded areas that were blank, it is important as carbon sequestration needs to be compared like for like and asked for a reference to state this point. Questioned the value of woodland, multi-functional and ways to make money through traditional coppicing.

KM- Said that they hadn't put value in on carbon as assumed that woodlands were doing their best.

MW replied that woodlands weren't doing their best they can do.

DR- Highlighted that we shouldn't demonize the disbenefits, it was about making better choices and we must acknowledge the loss of organic soil, carbon and soil erosion. Cost of soil is worth billions across the country but difficult to break down the value for Hampshire alone.

AP- Mentioned that it had been a while since water quality had been accessed.

SA Replied that overall water quality was good in rivers. Explanation followed regarding groundwater condition that looks at chemical quality, and water quality looks at ecological quality and how nitrates bind to chalk and time lag for filtering leads to soil erosion risks.

SK- Said we are using the assumption on areas not been tested for many years. Water frame directive is a broad approach, and we need to be checking broadness and quality of the data in areas, dangerous to use outdated data. The river Test hasn't had a condition assessment. The effect on the marine environment downstream has not been considered.

DR- Replied that although some data used was outdated the experts still agreed that this is acceptable.

NC- Questioned why the Local Nature sites in the NCA and questioned why the SINC and Local Wildlife Sites data hadn't been included? Download link to EnvSys maps available until end of May.

NC to supply data to KM.

AP-Suggested a footnote outside the NCA about the disbenefits upstream.

HF-Wants to see the unknowns highlighted. Be explicit. If data is old, inaccurate but aligns with general thoughts as this affects prioritising. Use RAG rating for confidence.

NC

LC- Actions by landowners SFI are not being mapped or visible at the moment. May negate the opportunities already being done.

KM- Said that the maps had been done for the broader benefit but was not to say smaller local opportunities weren't available.

AP- Said that LNRS was more in-depth for priorities, more informed and democratic.

KM- Asked should we merge them both?

SK- Is concerned that we need 1 point of reference for us to go, concerned that this would be the third mapping that he's seen.

MW- Questioned if phosphates had been included in the mapping and said that some of the targets aren't visible especially in the New Forest. Modern way of making money to make profitable and deliverable.

KM- Asked if the woodland carbon data was available for EnvSys to use.

KM- Asked all to send anymore comments for the final report.

NC- Asked for the report in another format as with PDFs there was no option to be able to comment.

DR- Separate meeting to be held with NC to ensure co-ordination with LNRS.

KM- Is happy to set up individual or small group sessions to discuss any issues. All to reply if they require.

All

KM

DR/KM/NC

All

Workstream 3

MP- Asked Boundaries - how are they being tied up outside the NCA?

Strategic Land management use- what are the constraints of this scheme and define?

What is the role here for the Convenor?

Supply Chain- into the supermarket is very important for the farmers.

MDT- Replied, the recommendation if the NCA is largely in another county they should take control. Open space is uncertain politically, farming community allowing permissive access. Sensible to have an option in ELMs of permissive access at the farmers discretion.

Local government is involved via SR and SK, Defra driving the collaboration with local government.

SK- Said that the cities might object if the majority of the NCA is in the city in taking responsibility.

DJG- Would like to see an increase in farmer compliance increase in farm visits by the EA. Felt that 50% aren't compliant reasons are- 1- Clean and dirty water 2- Improvement to silage dump. 3- Soil analysis. Will take enforcement action if they aren't done.

JD- Said if we looked at the wider countryside you can see a huge decline, need to greater biodiversity, more designated sites and wildlife in nature.

MDT- Highlighted that in the NCA introduction it states 'All land'

JD - would like to see this in each NCA as an 'opportunity'.

AP - Concerned about potential conflicts in subsidies with protected landscapes. Will Landapp bring in both.

MDT- Said that we worried about duplication but as Protected Landscapes had to produce their own management plans they already have a Convenor in place, therefore logical that they are the Convenor as in place and taking on local people views.

SR- Said that understanding this is so vast and is concerned some might think that this is not for them.

MW- Asked that we use the words 'engage farmers' rather than 'convince' and said it is important that we use the right language.

Workstream 4

DG- Went through his work stream slides. Attached

MP- Would like to see the breakdown of who did the full Test and trial pilot, tenant, owners size etc. DG to provide information.

DG

NC - Asked if there was land with species, how would the landowner farmer know this.

DG- Said that more data is required from agencies for this information.

6. Next Steps for Hampshire and Beyond?

DG- Explained next steps for Hampshire.

*Educate landowners on the scheme.

*Upskilling and training

*Clarify Statutory requirements

*LNRS

*Data access

*Facilitate private funding

7. Other Board Member paper

SA- Explained the paper that Southern Water had submitted. Attached copy.

JD- Said that stacking was not dissimilar to EA payments systems.

LP- Lack of engagement by RPA needs to be in the final report to Defra. Defra are funding Test and trials at the moment looking into the stacking system.

SA- Said it would be great to have flexibility regarding stacking to test what does and doesn't work.

LP- Other test and trials have highlighted that farmers have the assets to sell but don't know where to go to get the funding.

MW- Not understanding the stacking system is stopping the farmers from progressing.

JD- Said that Defra need to decomplicated so that RPA can move forward.

LC- Water company schemes are more attractive than ELMS as quicker turnaround.

SK- Said that most visionary land management is already there, just need to get on and deliver.

AP- Felt uncomfortable setting out a land management vision, most land managers don't respond well being told how to manage, asking for ideas and funding would be better.

DJG- Asked what additional info was needed regarding funding?

SA- Are we allowed to do it and some assurance that it won't be stopped.

DJG- Felt that school of thought was Defra probably not best group to prescript this. Already high-level principle on .gov for payment stacking.

JD- Don't double fund actions if using public money. Should keep public and private funding separately and that private funding should be no business of government.

8. External Context

LNRS

NC- updated LNRS. Slides attached.

MDT- Felt that greatest biodiversity is microbial content of soil which will increase food production and nature recovery. There needs to be a foundation change in biological health and be more aware in evolving science, worry we are not paying enough attention to hidden and the unknown.

JD- Said that water in the landscape was very important, disappearance of dew ponds and ponds is important to insects and wildlife.

IB- Commented that planning requirements (need to provide BNG calculations and other information) can be a nightmare (stalling) introducing better nature items from her own experience on her family farm.

SK – Felt that joining up properly of all the schemes would have a better outcome rather than barriers in the way.

SK- Said that ELMS would only work if the bureaucracy is removed.

MW- Briefing for local planning for local nature scheme to improve understanding would be beneficial.

BNG

LF – Appraise the meeting of Louise Tricklebank's note and that very much work in progress.

SK- BNG is essential to the test and trial, key funding stream lost 50 million for farmers. BNG is a way to make this up. We need to make more schemes like the reed beds and ponds etc. important to understand that some of this is taken from BNG and direct to farmers.

JD – Said that regulation needs to be in place BNG = local authority de risking allowing for smaller business to come in.

AP Credits you get for putting BNG in the right place shouldn't be underrated, powerful drivers to get this right. Questions over the short-term nature.

LC -Said that there's a huge missing piece of the puzzle in BNG – over40 % of England.

SK- Farmers are confused over policy direction and are struggling to trust.

Defra

LP- Asked all to remember this test and trial was about how Board would improve the ELMS test and trial delivery. There are 5 test and trials now looking at different things and will bring all the best ideas together into one to write policy and take ideas forward.

MS- SFI, ELMS S LP- Asked all to remember this test and trial was about how Board would improve the ELMS test and trial delivery.

MS- SFI, ELMS Scheme running 5 test and trials, 3 exploring county level: Bucks, Somerset, and Hants, 2 looking at local structures: Peak District National Park and High Weald. Wanted to thank all for feedback sent to Defra.

They are working out the role that Defra has facilitating funding and what impact in local area. There are positive signs coming in from local farmers. Defra want to wait for all 5 test and trials to complete before sending out feedback and reporting on pros and cons of each T&T.

What next?

Final round of research in June followed by focus groups, facilitators comparing experiences this will include Board and farmers.

The report and analysis available to all one completed.

MDT- Said it is important that Defra give proper feedback as a lot of time and effort, some free of charge had gone into this.

LP-

Asked for a T&T point of view, where do we go?

9. Final Report, Governance etc

LF- Asked if the Board were prepared to put themselves forward to Defra for permanent Convenor? Protected Landscapes are happy to be involved and Hampshire County Council (HCC) are very supportive. Asked how far do we go with this?

LP- Proposal had been put forward for monitoring and evaluation but as a T&T. and asked if not Defra can you self-fund?

LF- Said that feedback suggested that farmers just want us to get on with this and rather than more trialling, are we able to get this rolled out. Also questioned how far we can go into this without governance and legal advice.

The team have suggested that a permanent Board will need a full-time technical officer, website, fully developed database and toolkit with which to operate. Costs have been provided for this and will be fine-tuned for next iteration of the report. The Board should consider these as Budget Costs rather than a commercial

proposition and are to aid the understanding of what a Convenor will require and allow a recommendation.

We will be looking at all members to support along with their organisations, HCC will offer venue for meetings and a home for data, but Defra input would be looked to for the technical officer, website and potential funding for the further development of the tools.

SR- This all started with a clear purpose for ELMS and farmers engagement, now become more complex with wider conversation, value gained is wider than T&T. Is there a role to reduce complexity?

MS- Asked if this group would have got together without the T&T?

LC- Although there are other groups more local knowledge here you don't get at other groups, really strong group to give insight and best practices so felt exceptional.

AP- Said it would be a shame if Board did stop meeting, understands that funding is required, asked if possible, funding was available for Defra could we cost up and approach County Councils for delivery alongside LNRS publication? LEP funding.

LC- Felt it was unfinished, wealth of valuable information and we've not identified end user.

JD- Felt it was testament to the team that it had been kept relevant and that we are all still here.

LP- Said that this information needed to go into the final report.

JM- If we didn't get feedback from Defra this whole project would be dead in the water. Actually, following through with this forum allows us to react better to policies and strategies at this level. There has been definite evolution, the cities would support going forward but there is no money for funding.

They are working out the role that Defra has facilitating funding and what impact in local area. There are positive signs coming in from local farmers. Defra want to wait for all 5 test and trials to complete before sending out feedback and reporting on pros and cons of each T&T.

LF Asked the Board, even if there was no funding, would they be prepared to give their time?

Show of hands showed a unanimous vote.

LF- **Asked for all to comment via email by 15 May.** With main points on report and appendices.

DR- Suggested a log to bring all the information together. (since provided and sent out by LF after meeting).

10. Project Facilitator Round up.

MDT- Thanked everyone and drew attention to Page 3 of the Executive Summary. A further meeting can be arranged if required.

- 1- Do you support the recommendations and is there any wording that we might have wrong?
- 2- Collaboration, any specific issues discussed over the last year that you'd like to recommend to Defra please send to us to include in the final report.

11. AOB and Closing comments.

None

Worked Well	Board	Monitoring	Heritage Industrial	Data	Guidance
By feeding in spatial data and what needs to happen	The Board recommends The Hampshire Convenor as a permanent fixture to include LNRS. The toolkit to be developed further.	Someone on the ground to monitor compliance and encourage ambition. Not lose sight of food production.	Space to include benefits of heritage assets in capital accounting (not quite there yet)	Clear pathway/road map/responsibilities for continuing joined up digital(spatial) data. Who is responsible? Do they have the resource.	Facilitation on where to sell assets
			Include historic environment within the NCA summaries (not just designated, SHINE, and historic landscape characters)		Removing blockers and stacking
Stacking	Communication	Messages to Defra	Finance	Engagement & Coms	Worked Well
Take examples from EA working with stacking.	How to promote public engagement in this scheme.	Defra accept that local delivery, encouraging collaboration is the only way forward.	Landapp users to be able to flag if they are open to collaboration to engage aggregation.	Engage buyers and test the use of workstreams & work with them.	Joining together to give farmers options
Reactive and proactive both used in stacking	Speak to farmers, advisers and consultants for their input.	Defra to consider to what extent a 'top up' payment to incentivise take up actions that are a priority in each NCA might be needed.	ELMS Convenor role to major on facility aggregation as key to enabling private finance.	Create or appoint a champion/ advocate to get high profile awareness.	Visionary piece, met nutrient load but through a scheme competition.
RPA need to feedback into stacking	Determine the end user and tailor	For Defra to ensure that land managers enter into an ELMS/CS/EWCO etc. scheme ensure they access the best available data on habitats and species from the local environment records centre. Just as developers have to do for BNG etc. to support planning applications.	Problem engagement with RPA	Utilise the opportunity mapping to signpost landowners to actions	Needs a proper land use strategy

Stacking	Communication	Messages to Defra	Finance	Engagement & Coms	Strategy & Planning
Bare minimum that top up on ELMS will be allowed, then do it	Need a clear route to concluding and then utilising all the work, don't take too long to review and build on momentum.	Defra family work closer together, provide options to landowners (before 'hard' applications are received)	Resolve/clarify stacking / interaction of public and private finance.	Recognise how LNRS can add further value to the project and add further clarity to opportunity presents by both.	Much more robust & localised values information
Cannot fund on public money		Members and Partners to engage in our (Defra) research in June	Auto ID of stackable and non-stackable options.	Interactive story map and narrative around the maps	Regional planning
Want a basic principle		Problems engaging with RPA	Flagging of commercial options when they arise.	Need to get the voice of the user into the design of the delivery	Clarity of statutory requirements vital for long term simplification and reform as well as compliance Defra to lead
What private is irrelevant		Help take our experience and help Defra fast track	Funding to sort out stacking	Engage Farmers and create champions in parallel to find and create case studies of examples	
		Staking from landscape recovery to seed next step to stacking		Raise awareness with general population about the importance of positive changes to land management.	
		Feedback good private schemes to Defra		Landapp to enable corporates/others to highlight geographies and themes they are interested to fund	
Adding Other features					
Think about water issues beyond nitrates, e.g. sediment, phosphates and pesticides					

Letter on LNRS concerns sent on behalf of the Board January 18th 2024:

The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

UK Government

Nobel House

17 Smith Square

London

SW1P 3JR

Dear Secretary of State,

Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Sustainable Food Production.

I am Chairman of the Advisory Board, part of the ELM Test and Trial Convenor for Hampshire, supporting your Department. We are piloting a new way of governing the management of land and natural resources to secure the delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan. Our approach is to focus on integrating national policy and local needs through a process of collaborating across the public, private and voluntary sectors. We are very grateful for the support we have received from your department, through the ELM Test and Trials team.

At the last meeting of the Board two issues emerged and the purpose of my letter is to seek your observations on these important matters. The first concerns the decision to separate the delivery strategy for nature recovery from food production. We now appreciate that both nature recovery and the sustainability of food production relies on restoring the microbial health of our soils. The primary legislation requiring County Councils to prepare Local Nature Recovery Strategies fails to make the strong link between sustainable food production, Nature Recovery and soil health.

Secondly, we are concerned that in the past centrally controlled funding and strategies for delivery have not been aligned. We appreciate that there are options under the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) system for improving soil health. However there appears to be no requirement to target investment through ELMs to secure the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. We accept that there is an expectation that ultimately there maybe funding emerging through Biodiversity Net Gain but that mechanism is still under examination because of potential implications for tax, agricultural relief, land values and other considerations.

We accept that there is 'a new duty on all public authorities to have regard to relevant local nature recovery strategies.' This last clause has been used before and it provides no certainty.

We make this point to avoid a repeat of what happened to protected landscapes where, through primary legislation, there is a statutory obligation for National Park and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Landscapes) administrations to produce Management Plans but no-one is statutorily obliged to do anything about delivering them. The development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies will take a considerable amount of time, expense and good will on behalf of numerous organisations and the general public. That process has now started without any certainty about delivery.

We raise these issues because we have been specifically tasked with exploring local delivery by your Department.

Yours sincerely,

The Earl of Malmesbury D.L.

Chairman of the Advisory Board for Hampshire

The ELM Convenor Test and Trial Programme.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow MP
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lionel@terrafirmaconsultancy.com

Our ref: PO2024/01863/LB

14 May 2024

Dear Earl of Malmesbury,

Thank you for your letter of 19 January to the Secretary of state about Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) and sustainable food production. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and I apologise for the delay in responding.

It is very encouraging to hear about the work you're doing with the Hampshire Environmental Land Management (ELM) Convenor Partnership to encourage collaboration and establish good governance across the county to test approaches to nature recovery and sustainable agriculture.

Integrating nature recovery with sustainable food production:

In our Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 and Government Food Strategy, we set the objective of delivering a sustainable and nature-positive food system that maintains the level of food we produce in England.

Our ELM schemes offer a range of payments for farmers and landowners to take action to support nature and the wider environment on their land, including to improve soil health.

We have committed to using central funding to encourage and enable action for nature and the wider environment that is ambitious, targeted, and effective. We are adding approximately 50 new actions to our ELM schemes to enable farmers and land managers to access a range of actions that cover everything we want them to do to achieve our targets. We are also introducing 21 new premium payments within the schemes to encourage farmers, landowners and land managers to deliver the highest value actions needed to achieve our outcomes for nature and the wider environment. Many of these premium payments, such as actions to encourage agroforestry and improve the condition of lowland peat; will help to improve the condition of our soils, a key requirement for both nature recovery and sustainable food production. We will keep these premium payments under review as we continue to improve and expand schemes over time, so we can adapt them to best achieve our target outcomes.

As part of the Spring Budget 2024, we also committed to extending the scope of Agricultural Property Relief from 6 April 2025 to land managed under an environmental agreement with, or on behalf of, the UK Government, Devolved Administrations, public bodies, local authorities, or approved responsible bodies.

This means that land used in ELM schemes will be eligible to be passed on free from inheritance tax, providing farmers and landowners with the confidence to implement long-term investment decisions and land use changes.

In addition, Agricultural Property Relief will no longer be restricted to tenancies of more than 8 years, thereby removing a barrier to tenant farmers and landowners collaborating to take positive action for nature.

□
In our Agricultural Transition plan, we also committed to exploring greater coordination between ELMs and LNRSs. The responsible authorities leading preparation of the strategies are currently working with farmers, landowners, and land managers across the country to agree local priorities and map the most important actions for nature in their areas. As LNRSs become available across England, we will continue to explore join-up between these funding initiatives and LNRSs.

Supporting LNRS delivery:

LNRSs are one of the Government's flagship nature recovery policies. Like you, I am keen that they have weight and meaning across a range of Government policies to better support nature recovery activities on the ground.

The Government is committed to funding the preparation of LNRSs across England. We are currently working with the responsible authorities appointed to lead their preparation and other public, private, and voluntary actors, including landowners and land managers, to ensure that the strategies are evidentially robust and collaboratively produced. Our ambition is to create a network of shared plans to prioritise and coordinate action for nature and the wider environment that everyone can help to deliver.

Biodiversity net gain, which is now mandatory for many developments, will be an important delivery mechanism for LNRSs in many places. Once in place, LNRSs will be used to target offsite habitat creation and improvement through an uplift in the biodiversity net gain metric.

We are also working with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to update guidance for planners, setting out how they need to 'take account' of LNRSs when preparing development plans.

We will continue to explore how we can align other funding sources with LNRSs to help ensure that central funds effectively meet local priorities for nature recovery, while also encouraging investment from the private sector through, for example, nature markets.

Thank you again for your letter and for your ongoing work with the Hampshire ELM Convenor Partnership to help develop our approach to managing the land to both deliver for nature and promote sustainable food production. □

REBECCA POW MP



Sample of quotes received from those reviewing the draft documents or attending Board meetings as guests;

'Thanks so much for inviting me to the meeting last week. I found it totally engaging (as I'd expected). That you had managed to bring together a group of people with such diverse ideas was commendable. What I liked about your approach is that something like it has worked before - in wartime. I hope you won't mind me saying that. The War Ags were very narrow in their membership. Your committee would be much more diverse and democratic. It seems to me if we could demonstrate that this model can bring about effective change in Hants, it could serve as a model for the country as a whole. I think the timing of this is exactly right. Look at the interest there is in both nature and farming at the moment. The success of Clarkson's programme, for example, is extraordinary. We are pushing at an open door here. I think a film, coupled with social media, might be the best way to build momentum behind this project. Securing the future of the Hampshire countryside - it'll be a very popular idea, and with the organisations involved it should get a lot of traction. Their combined 'reach' to the public must be enormous'.

- Graham John Harvey , film maker and former agriculture advisor to The Archers.

'Hi Lionel,

Thanks very much indeed for this. It's a fantastic piece of work – congratulations!

I have no suggested substantive improvements – I will look forward to hearing how it is progressed following the meeting.

Very best wishes,'

- Lord Banner K.C.

..'struggling in the wet.....cows should be out grazing!!...but they will turn the field to mud.

I did return the land app.....my comments mainly revolved around my poor IT skills.....but the scheme is something I am very positive about.'

- Peveril Bruce, farmer

'HCC is also helping farmers to take advantage of the new subsidy regime, the Environmental Land Management System (ELMs). HCC is playing a leading role in developing and testing an innovative National Partnership for ELMs delivery in Hampshire. Funded by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, this is a national pilot; we are very proud that Hampshire has been chosen for this project. Through the scheme we have developed a new land app which makes it easy for farmers to pick the interventions that get them the best funding deal whilst supporting nature recovery. Consultation is currently underway.'

- Cllr Russell Oppenheimer in the Hampshire Chronicle 9th April 2024

Appendix 6: Excerpts from publicity

FW: ELMS Convenor Trial for Hampshire



Dear XXX,

Over the last 12 months I have represented CLA members on the Advisory board of a Defra Test and Trial Group covering Hampshire. Following discussions with Tim Bamford our regional director in the southeast, we felt the trial might be of interest to you and believe that any feedback you have would be of real value to the trial. The pilot is testing an option for the newly emerging Environmental Land Management (ELM) delivery in a localised way that can be easily understood and requires testing in March by landowners and managers.

Attached is a letter outlining what is involved and in addition a sample report that you could expect to see from your own holding on completion of the trial. You will see this is a sample report for the Hampshire Downs National Character area – however all the National Character areas in Hampshire have been included in the trial.

If you have any questions regarding the trial, I would be delighted to hear from you, or if you would like to sign up – please read the invite attached and contact Lionel Fanshawe at Lionel@terrafirmaconsultancy.com.

Best regards

Lucy Charman
Rural Adviser
Country Land and Business Association (CLA)

t: 01264 358195 | m: 07980 311913
e: lucy.charman@cla.org.uk | w: www.cla.org.uk



South East Regional Office
Suite 3, Fosse House, East Anton Court, Icknield Way
Andover, Hampshire, SP10 5RG



CSF South East and Thames Team
February 2024

Environmental Land Management Tests and Trials

Opportunity for farmers and land managers in Hampshire

We are contacting you on behalf of the Hampshire Convenor Partnership, which is undertaking a Test and Trial for Environmental Land Management (ELM) with Defra funding.

Please read below for more details about the consultation, which will shape the development of an interactive tool designed to make ELM more accessible for land managers.

This pilot is testing an option for ELM delivery in a localised way that can be easily understood and led by farmers and land managers. The project is taking place in Hampshire between July 2023 and June 2024. This month, the team is looking for farmers/ land managers interested in hearing more about being involved in a short and simple trial of this work.

The team has developed an interactive tool that sets out statutory and advisory guidance, current baselines, priority targets, potential actions and related funding streams. This will provide a bespoke report using the boundaries defined by you as the consultee, showing obligations, areas of opportunity, potential actions and funding. Click on the link below to see a sample of the work in progress.

[See a bespoke report example here](#)

The project is working alongside the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation process that is also being conducted at County level and for which this model could prove a valuable vehicle for delivery.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Lionel Fanshawe (Director Hampshire ELMS Convenor) as soon as possible:

Lionel@terrafirmaconsultancy.com

The tool will take any boundary (e.g. a Parish Boundary) or any Farmer Field Parcels (from the RPA). Having an SBI number for land registered is a bonus (as it helps filter certain actions), but not a requirement.

The consultation is likely to require:

- Ability to join an online Zoom session explaining the project ~ 1 hour
- Land App will then email you a bespoke report and a map (which can be printed or viewed on Land App) to be reviewed ~ 2 hours
- Provide feedback to project team and DEFRA, 2 forms ~ 1 hour

Equipment required:

- Desktop or Computer required - to join Zoom and view the Data Layers via Land App.
- Either an SBI number (Farmer) or an area of interest (parish/golf course etc) ready to share with the project team.

Your help would be appreciated and will assist in finding a way to deliver ELMS simply and at a local level by learning through the testing and trialling.

[Email to register your interest](#)

Contact us

CSF offers free, confidential advice on sustainable farming practices which benefit soil, air and water.

CSF Advisers can also offer free specialist advice visits on a wide range of topics if they think this will support you to improve aspects of your farm business.

You can speak with a local CSF Adviser via e-mail, phone or in person. If you would like to request advice, please complete the support request form available using [this link](#) and send the form to our [mailbox](#).

[Email our mailbox](#)



Meeting with East Hampshire MP Damian Hinds



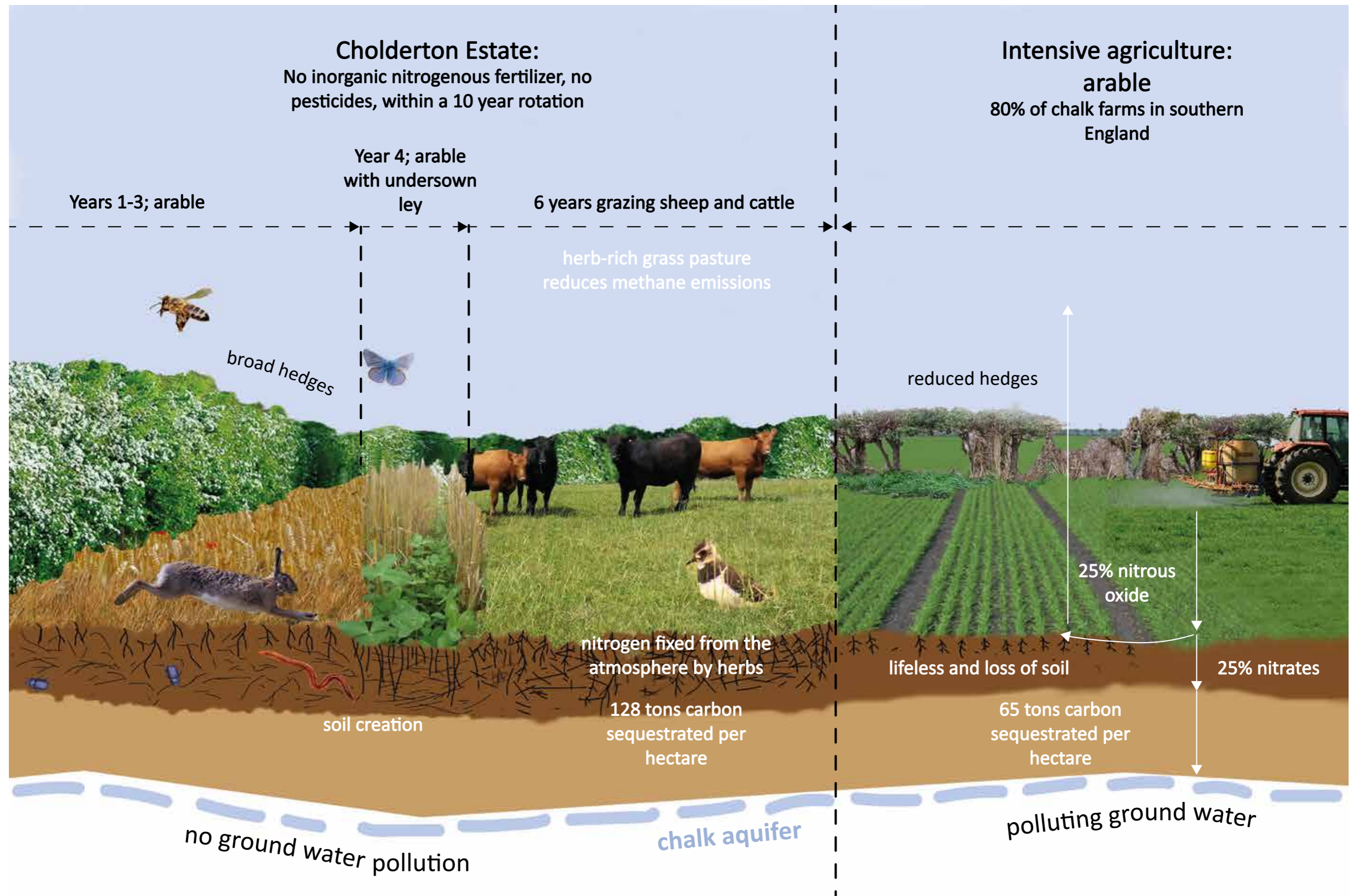
Meeting with Hampshire County Council leader Rod Humby

Appendix 7: Phase One website

<https://www.elmconvenorhants.co.uk/>



Appendix 8: Cholderton Estate poster produced by Merrick Denton-Thompson and terra firma for COP 26



Appendix 9: Images – Project Visits and Events





Natural England
83,602 followers
11h · 🌍

Curious to know more about England's landscapes? 🌿

We've just launched a new interactive website for Natural England's National Character Area profiles.

National Character Areas divide England into 159 distinct areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of:

- 🌿 landscape
- 🌍 biodiversity
- 🏔️ geodiversity
- 🏰 history
- 📊 cultural and economic activity

The updated profiles include interactive mapping and up-to-date statistics of each area to help people make decisions about the places that they live in and care for.

Read more and access the website: https://lnkd.in/e_8f4mGN

Appendix 10: Addressing Defra’s specific questions on lessons learned from this Test & Trial

Appendix 10

Addressing Defra’s specific questions on lessons learned from this Test and Trial

Quote from Defra:

The overall research question which will guide this T&T is as follows:

“Which elements of ELM delivery are most effectively undertaken with the involvement of local stakeholders, through a process of co-design; and what mechanisms work most effectively to balance Government’s national objectives and administrative requirements with locally-held knowledge, capabilities and responsibilities?”.

Put more simply, the question could be **“What role should a locally constituted ‘Advisory Board’ have in ELM delivery?”**

We have matched our proposal and methodology against the Defra T&T themes and policy questions. The relationship between the project Stages (Objectives) and the T&T Themes is shown below.

Stage in T&T	Defra T&T Themes	Spatial prioritisation	Collaboration	Advice & Guidance	Land Management Plans
A	Stakeholder Engagement and formation of Advisory Board	✓	✓		
B	Terms of Reference and Working Arrangements	✓	✓		
C	Draft Land Management Frameworks	✓	✓	✓	✓
D	Local Delivery (Collaboration) Strategy	✓	✓	✓	

The research questions that will determine the enquiry in this T&T are as follows. The numbering of questions follows that used in the ICF/ADAS guidance (Feb 2020):

To specifically answer these beyond the contents of the report and its supporting documents, the T&T Project Director offers the following;

A. Stakeholder engagement and formation of advisory board.

Two areas where trialled: spatial prioritisation and collaboration.

The formation of the board helpfully followed the phase 1 T&T where the constitution of the membership was found to work. The board has worked successfully together throughout the process to assist the team in building the data, reaching- out for the land holder consultations and in discussing the findings. At the final meeting they were unanimous in wanting to continue the Convener, seeing it as an important hub for future collaboration in the delivery of ELMS but also LNRS and other mixed funded schemes.

There was variation in contribution and attendance from members and in some cases a struggle to give time (namely the local authority members) but all parties gave meaningful contributions and their inputs and presence was much appreciated by the project team. The absence of the RPA was however, problematic.

As a model for collaboration, the county Convener was agreed to work well but should additionally have attendance of the RPA and a representative from the protected landscapes as executive officers.

We benefited from the simultaneous LNRS workstreams and having their lead join our meetings. All parties contributed in some way to the process and the final report indicating a wide range of inputs questioning that a more straightforward approach might be to have the whole County under a single Convenor regardless of the protected landscapes different statutory obligations and Management Plans e.g. assistance in providing their own organisations guidance and grants for the Land Management Frameworks (see Southern Water Papers); reaching out to landholders for the consultation trials; commenting on draft documents; discussion at Board meetings.

The Board members represented local interests varying from County to Regional level but the use of County scale and National Character Areas was not fundamentally questioned although there was a lot of talk around the fluidity and some cases, artificiality of boundaries. The only adverse comment came from an officer at one of the protected landscapes who felt NCAs only helpful at national scale. Local character types and areas are necessary at local level. This would however, have brought in vast complexities with further subdivision and multiplicity of actions which is what the projects sought to avoid.

There was General agreement that NCA based data should be provided by the County that washes over the largest parts of that area so as to avoid duplication. This would accord with the T&T’s approach in providing the full data for the six larger NCAs in Hampshire but not the 4 smaller ones whose larger parts lie in the adjacent County.

There was a difference of opinion among the Board as to whether the protected landscapes should be their own convener but this had been a decision from phase 1 and avoided any potential conflicts or hostility when approaching them for this project. It is another area where simplicity in approach has been found helpful.

Priorities for each NCA were produced by the project team from a combination of reviewing NCA stated priorities and evidence found with etec’s natural capital baseline across each. These were passed by the Board for comment as well as checked with the protected landscapes. Very little was altered as a result. The farmer consultations with the LandApp prototype tool found suggestions of priorities helpful as an initial guide, having already found helpful the sieving out of irrelevant data by virtue of presenting only the options relevant to the landholders NCA .

B. Terms of reference and working arrangements

Two areas were to be trialled: spatial prioritisation and collaboration.

Reviewing the terms of reference in the project brief, this was to be a local delivery commission to test using local priorities to set a strategic direction, broker private finance and wider funding opportunities, enable effective partnership working and accountability as well as support and enable the existing collaboration and advice models in the local area.

The land management framework and natural capital baseline workstreams defined the local priorities across the County according to the varying NCAs and provided advice both for the LandApp Toolkit that was trialled with land holders but also for the County Convener to consider alongside emerging LNRS data for strategic direction.

A business plan framework of opportunities for private finance and wider funding was produced for each NCA and could be further developed at finer grain for inclusion alongside actions in the LandApp toolkit. These can allow for emerging markets in the carbon trading sector and BNG but will require guidance from Defra on stacking.

Partnership working among the project team Board members and executive officers was excellent and a desire to continue the County Convener as a forum is unanimously supported. This utilised existing relationships, including those started with phase one of the project and it was made clear by the team to the LNRS project, existing farm clusters and advisors, the protected landscapes and individual land holders that the Convener was here to assist and support, not to hinder or replace them. Consequently, we never found a single comment unfavourable for the concept. The T&T is completing with consideration of options for taking it forward permanently.

The working arrangements for the project were successful with constitution of the Board (with a notable exception of the RPA being *unwilling* to attend), the communication between them, the executive officers and the team, as well as the number and nature of meetings held. Positive input and feedback was given throughout, as it was to Defra.

C. Draft Land Management Framework

All four areas were to be trialled: spatial prioritisation, collaboration, advice and guidance and land management plans.

This was an onerous task and would require input from Defra themselves (and all originators of regulations and funded actions), if to be developed for rollout. Also legal advice would be required to ensure statutory obligations are all caught and correctly interpreted.

What has been provided is a first stage summary of what NCA documents say themselves about their aspirations coupled with protected landscape management plans and research into all current and emerging Defra and other landscape management aspirations and incentives. These were the result of what the team could readily find with the support of Board and executive officer direction (both of course representing a wide range of landscape management interests).

These were reviewed by a very well qualified land agent ‘critical friend’ as well as the Board members, executive officers and representatives of all of the 5 County protected landscapes. This was a sufficient body of work to form the action schedules that were included in the prototype toolkit and inform the direction of the natural capital baseline priorities.

The resulting work runs to many hundreds of pages of actions and appendices which can be made available by terra firma on request. The summaries sit in document 2 that accompanies this report.

This workstream was self-evidently about spatial prioritisation, land management plans and providing advice and guidance but also involved essential collaboration in order to do so. The trialling of the LandApp prototype Toolkit was the ultimate result.

A detailed piece on **lessons learned with the land management framework workstream**, penned by the workstream lead Alice Cooper follows;

1. Scoping at the outset

Understanding the farmer and land agent’s typical concerns earlier on in the process could have identified other actions or areas to explore, rather than focusing on management plans, policies and feedback received from Convener members, and organisations who may not be the end-user.

Recommendations

- Arrange a small focus group of farmers, including tenant farmers to scope the areas of concern and understand where the gaps lie in funding / and knowledge for future farm diversification. SFI and CS known funding streams but new ideas i.e. range of agro-farming, niche markets and funding for conversion of listed buildings under fiPL might be less known.
- Meeting with land agents to understand the questions they face from farmers and what would help them to deliver ELM’s.
- Meet wine growers and niche artisan food producers typically involved in smaller landholdings where pressures are greater to sustain farming practice.

2. Establishing the Landscape priorities

Determine early the range of NCA priorities, and differences between NCA’s. Needed to complement the research into management plans and formulating actions. The timing of data collection and review is a critical part of the production.

Meeting hub members is a vital part of the process. Each organisation is pursuing their own priorities with some organisations well advanced in their vision. These were able to give a steer on formulating and writing actions (e.g. Forestry Commission, Wildlife Trust). Where information was lacking, the reliance on management plans, websites and other documents to extract wording slowed the process.

Attending webinars on SFI run by land agents added to team knowledge.

Attending webinars on how to apply for CS and SFI funding aided App Design and its USP.

Clarifying what constitutes ‘All Land’ and very wide-ranging ambition to improve soils.

Recommendations

- Commission the mapping and data collecting work by Eftec and Ensis earlier in the process.
- Obtaining consensus on the definition of ‘All land.’ Exclusions may be necessary. List of excluded ‘land type’ drawn up and added to appendices.

3. Creating actions for farmers

Few actions identified concerning viticulture – an area of interest to farmers in Hampshire and the South Downs National Park.

Case example :

Action: “a statutory obligation on farmers to replace infected ash trees and ash woodlands identified with and/or starting to show the signs of ash dieback with alternative species.”

As far as I am aware this is not actually a statutory obligation on the farmer; however, what I believe might be the case is that it may be a statutory obligation under the Woodland Tree Health Grant and therefore it is a condition on any recipient of that Tree Health Grant to replace infected ash trees.

Solution discussed:

The alternative approach would be to split this action into a further 3 actions e.g. 1. *Remove infected trees (Stat obligation)*, 2. *replace infected ash trees and ash woodlands identified with and/or starting to show the signs of ash dieback to comply with the terms of condition of felling notice and grant (Stat obligation?)* and 3. *replace infected ash trees and ash woodlands identified with and/or starting to show the signs of ash dieback with alternative species to avoid leaving bare land and loss of woodland (advisory)*.

Future considerations:

This would make the whole action list much longer and would increase the work needed to identify blended finance.

By taking the high-level approach applying a simple label – statutory or advisory might need reconsidering. A more nuanced list of labels might be needed to make this work better especially if the action is subject to grant conditions.

Recommendations

- The basic principle of the action above and funding available to undertake the intent is the key point. The splitting is less important.
- SFI and CS funded actions do not cover items a farmer could undertake to protect the landscape character at LCA level.
- Missed opportunity to deliver other public goods relating to actions that would improve people's health and wellbeing e.g. new green space and facilities linked to wider public rights of way across farmland and farms acting as visitor destination and educating on food, health and farming as a career.
- Limit the use of Acronyms.

4. Understanding statutory obligations

The initial read and collation of 50 items of legislation revealed the complexity of identifying who is statutorily responsible to undertake an action. The responsibility of the farmer was unclear particularly in water related management plans.

The approach taken identified a typical action that a farmer may wish to undertake e.g. construct a reed bed, This was traced back through the documents to identify the potential regulation or act from which it originates. Unable to find a clear link between the two in many instances.

Recommendations

- Obtain further specialist advice.
- Link actions to specific paragraphs in the regulations (onerous).

5. Document review

A wide variety and number of management plans required reading, some leading to blind alleys. Strategies were lengthy and hard to distinguish between responsibilities placed on organisations, government and land owners. These were numerous and included Southern Water and National Food Strategy. The environmental targets being worked towards varied between documents and substantial amounts of repetition found restating essentially the same core ambitions.

The first read of the documents informed the 'action schedule'. All items were extracted keeping the same wording. This inevitably led to duplication of an 'action' but necessary in the initial stages to keep track. The team took a decision not to rephrase in case needing to revisit and would be difficult to relocate. Later, we started to review and combine several actions in to one action where possible. In certain instances, this was not possible due to subtle differences.

After the consultation stage in LandApp the Statutory actions list and Advisory schedule were revised to remove the duplication as far as practicable.

The National Character Area portraits provided a good high-level overview of the issues and assisted with defining the landscape priorities. Research undertaken in the Landscape character assessment key characteristics and guidelines was started but soon became abortive. Most of the recommendations focused on visual enhancements to the landscape.

The Protected Landscape management plans were the clearest in setting out their priorities, listing specific actions and requirements.

The water related management plans focused on government targets and strategies to deliver their obligations and emphasising the need to work in partnership with farmers and property owners.

Excluded from the review:

- Private water supply companies
- Conservation Areas
- Local Plan policies
- Landscape Character Assessments

Recommendations

- Develop the actions list using the UK Forestry Standard provided a comprehensive method of allocating responsibilities to key actions. A useful guide and covered all areas from soils through to scheduled monuments.

6. Designing the LandApp

the early work focused on the 10 NCA's and compiling information using simple tables.

The splitting of the country into NCA areas works well, however it created repetition (x10) and very onerous on the team to compile the information and schedules. Creating in excel would have enabled this to be managed with more confidence and accuracy.

The advice and information supplied by the Convenor members and reading beyond the subject helped to formulate the vision for the App's content and function.

As the project progressed the need to capture other data and links became more important requiring a different approach. The use of Excel spreadsheets from the outset would have avoided double handling and duplication.

Working into single source live document on-line is good in principle but found difficult due to IT problems, with host system crashing and losing work.

Understanding the algorithm software and would have been an advantage. Establishing the parameters when an action applies proved difficult to find. Examples found with conflicting distances in reference documents.

7. Shortcomings: What the test & trial does not do

Include built-in features that aid people with dyslexia. Published evidence found early on in the process suggest many farmers suffer from dyslexia.

Indicate the blended finance for all advisory actions. This would encourage take up.

Does not cover mechanism to address national food strategy. The aspiration to set aside land to deliver LNRS has yet to be determined.

Address the broader issues: socioenvironmental health of the landscape. The expansion of high value grain/ plant crops driven by soil quality affecting percentage of land put over to animal / meat rearing production. Evidence shows producing certain foods (carbohydrates) is driving chronic diseases with excreted drugs (ecotoxicological) entering the waste water system (evidence at WWTW monitoring sites) and causing environmental harm¹.

Recommendations:

- Review digital media to make information accessible. Build in accessibility features with reference to case example: Archery GB website (<https://archerygb.org/>)
- Develop an easily and immediately updating mechanism to highlight new sources of funding to potential applicants in real-time.

8. The need for Legislation

Extensive areas of land given over to high value grain/ plant crops. Reducing nitrate and fertilisers spraying is a key objective for this county. Without statutory obligation placed on farmer (legislation come on to later) it is hard for the trial's actions to deliver soil health and reduce and remove pollution entering movement pathway to water courses and harbour.

Legislation protecting the health of the soils. Yet not enacted. A fundamental change needed to protect the health of the landscape and underpins the ecosystem service.

Alice Cooper CMLI The terrafirma consultancy 19.04.24

D. Local delivery

Three areas we're to be trialled: spatial prioritisation, collaboration and advice and guidance.

While the County Convener model itself is the prime vehicle of local collaboration and delivery to be trialled, the prototype toolkit was the focus of the project's consultation with the farmer/ land holder community. This was produced through collaboration and inputs from the different project team members which in turn, had been guided by the board and executive officers.

Starting with the NCA land management frameworks and their prioritisation of all known possible outcome led actions, the NCA natural carbon baseline, mapping and opportunities were developed and LandApp integrated this within the toolkit. The prototype tool allowed the land holder to choose the options they would be keen to undertake based on information that had been supplied that was only relevant to them clearly set out and could be mapped by them and ultimately given potential revenue streams.

Spatial prioritisation was therefore tested at both high and low level setting out NCA priorities across the County, then allowing a landholder to choose their own, based on both new and existing advice and guidance provided by the project. This involved collaboration among the Board, executive officers, the team and the consultees involved.

- **Lionel Fanshawe, Project Director Hampshire ELMS Convenor, May 21st 2024**

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0269749116306145>

Appendix 11: A Short Summary of the Project for Use in Publicity

Our landscape is not in good shape and farming is in crisis. The industry is crying out for speed and clarity in the delivery of the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes to assist in bringing nature recovery and climate change resilience while ensuring secure, sustainably produced food – the delivery of the Government's 25 year Environment Plan. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have sponsored this Test and Trial (T&T) to look at the potential effectiveness of a County level Convenor being the best model for doing so at appropriately local level. Following a first phase in 2020-1, Hampshire have again brought together a Convenor for a Phase 2, consisting of representatives of the public, private and voluntary sectors with key interests in land management.

Taking the National Character Areas (NCAs) as a preferred scale, this Phase 2 rolls out the first phase's approach, involving two NCAs, to all ten NCAs across the county, terra firma of the project team assembling all the statutory and advisory guidance that has been found to be available and apportioning them to each, arriving at a schedule of actions. A natural capital baseline with associated mapping was undertaken across the six largest NCAs by effec and Environment Systems that collectively make up 90% of the county. Collating these bodies of work, it was possible to suggest priorities for each NCA. A high level business plan framework was then prepared, exploring potential public and private funding streams that might assist these actions and encourage new markets for blended finance.

A prototype toolkit was developed for the project by LandApp which inputted all the NCA based actions and was introduced with the project team's baseline mapping and priorities. This was then trialled with a mix of two dozen farmers and land managers encompassing a wide range of land use and character types across the county. Following three online group demonstration sessions, each were encouraged to spend no longer than two hours testing it out for their own landholding for which they were provided an online map linking to actions and potential income streams. While undoubtedly there would be a lot of further development needed in order to roll out a finished product, the prototype proved a success and feedback suggests this could well be a successful platform for communication of ELM, particularly when in tandem with local advice. The fact that this is a technical solution and might exclude certain landholders has been discussed at length and the project team propose that this is a necessity going forward if one is to assemble so much information in one place, keep it updated and communicated without being overtaken with soon outdated paperwork.

The T&T benefitted from the coinciding Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultations which were not only running at the same time but also work at county level and are cognisant of the NCAs. Both teams see a county Convenor being a potential delivery model for LNRS as well as ELM, the former providing important evidence, priorities and targets. This could prove important 'joined up thinking' as the LNRS currently has no remit for delivery. The Convenor T&T Chairman wrote to the Secretary of State for the Environment on the topic as part of this project and received an encouraging response.

The project was presented individually to the Hampshire Local Nature Partnership, the Hampshire County Council leader and East Hants MP as well as publicised in local and county press and widely among the Parish Councils and farming community via NFU and CLA.

Wide consultation was undertaken both within the Convenor board members' organisations but also outside with the protected landscapes (two national parks and three AONB's) who make up 40% of the County. The decision was taken with Phase 1 to propose the protected landscapes remain outside the convenor with their own statutory obligations but consultation with Phase 2 has confirmed they are all supportive of a County convenor and co-operation and clear communication with it. Individual farmers, farm advisors, land managers have also universally expressed support for a County Convenor. It would constitute a vital local hub , providing a focus for existing organisations such as farm clusters, encourage new groups to establish and bring together often silo'd arms length bodies around the table to resolve issues locally and provide a conduit between the landholder and central government.

In order to set up a Convenor permanently, this report sets out some budget costings for a full time supporting technical officer, a website and the further work required for development of the toolkit. This would enable dissemination of information, assembling of new and latest information and monitoring, advice and feedback. The Convenor would also be tasked with raising public awareness of what public money is delivering. If the Board are all happy to be part of a permanent arrangement, a formal constitution would need to be agreed.

This report sets out the main process and findings of the project and the appendices include more detail of individual topics explored. In the team's view, the T&T has been an undoubted success with some exciting innovation and universal support for the fundamentals of the idea of the Convenor model. The Board are unanimous in their wish to see the County Convenor continue and it is hard to see a better potential mode of delivery and governance of ELM (and indeed LNRS) if county is seen as the most sensible level at which to administer locally.