



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Environmental Land Management

## Our vision for a future scheme

James LePage, Defra, December 2020



# I will cover

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- Context of Agricultural Transition
- Scheme Objectives and Designing Thinking
- Co-design through:  
    Test and Trials  
    National Pilot
- Supporting Land Managers
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies



# Agricultural Transition

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**Agricultural Transition Programme** published yesterday, outlines changes we'll be making.

Between **2021 and 2027**, we will **gradually reduce and then stop untargeted Direct Payments**.

We will invest that money to support agriculture in different ways. We will pay farmers to improve the environment, improve animal health and welfare, and reduce carbon emissions.

By 2028, we want to see:

- **a renewed agricultural sector**, producing healthy food, where farms can be profitable and economically sustainable without subsidy.
- farming and the countryside contributing significantly to **environmental goals** including addressing climate change

# Environmental Land Management Scheme focus: Public Money for Public Goods



Clean and plentiful water



Clean air



Protection from and mitigation of environmental hazards



Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change

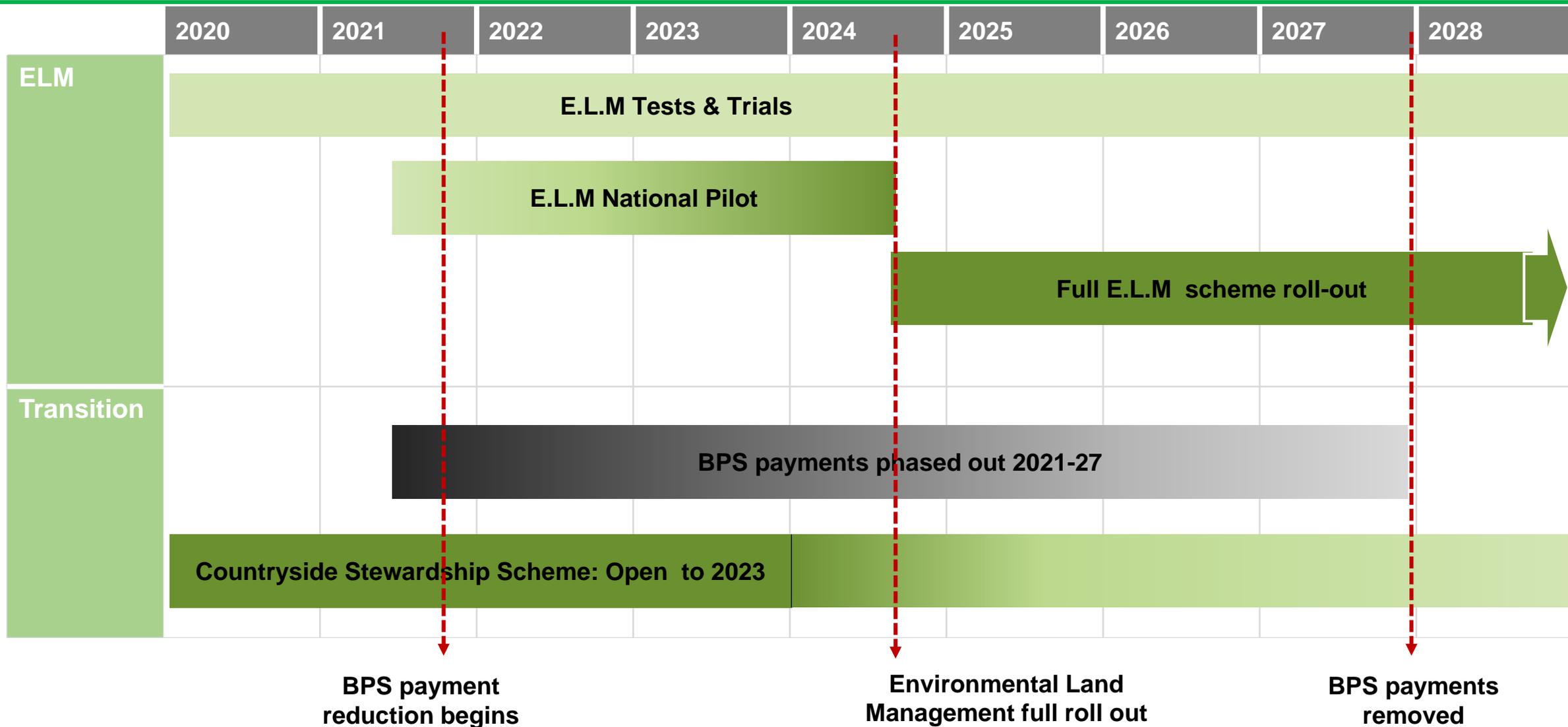


Thriving plants and wildlife



Beauty, heritage and engagement

# Timeline to the full Environmental Land Management scheme



# Environmental Land Management Scheme - Strategic Objectives

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To secure a range of **positive environmental benefits**, **prioritising** between environmental outcomes where necessary



To help tackle some of the **environmental challenges** associated with agriculture, focusing on how to address these in the **shorter term**



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In doing the above, the scheme will provide an opportunity for farmers to derive an **additional income stream** as **Direct Payments are phased out**

# Scheme Components

## Component 1 Sustainable Farming Incentive

Simple actions that achieve environmental outcomes

To aid choice, payments will be grouped around environmental assets on farmed land

### Who could be eligible?

All farmers

## Component 2 Local Nature Recovery

Locally targeted environmental action

Right actions in the right place.

Encouragement for collaboration

### Who could be eligible?

All land managers

## Component 3 Landscape Recovery

Landscape and ecosystem recovery through long-term, land use change projects

### Who could be eligible?

All land managers

Design to be simpler, less prescriptive, more trusting, more flexible

# Scheme Components

## Component 1 Sustainable Farming Incentive

### What could we pay for?

- cropland management
- grassland management
- livestock management
- tree and woodland management
- boundary and hedgerow management
- soil management; nutrient management
- integrated pest management
- efficient water use
- wildlife and biodiversity
- the protection of heritage assets

## Component 2 Local Nature Recovery

### What could we pay for?

- creating, managing and restoring habitats
- connecting isolated habitats to form networks
- natural flood management
- species management
- rights of way
- navigation and recreation infrastructure
- education infrastructure, events and services
- geodiversity and heritage asset management

## Component 3 Landscape Recovery

### What could we pay for?

- large scale forest and woodland creation
- restoration and improvement
- ecosystem restoration
- peatland restoration
- creation and restoration of coastal habitats such as wetlands and salt marsh

# Environmental Land Management Tests and Trials Programme



# Tests and Trials

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We are working across England to develop and collaboratively design the scheme with a wide range of stakeholders, farmers and land managers.

We developed **6 priorities** for tests and trials. These are:

-  Land Management Plan
-  Role of advice and guidance
-  Payments
-  Spatial prioritisation
-  Collaboration
-  Innovative delivery solutions

- We currently have 71 tests and trials in delivery, of which 8 have concluded.
- 43 tests and trials have been providing findings on the role of and need for trusted, local advisers
- We publish quarterly thematic reports.

# National Pilot



# National Pilot - Purpose

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It aims to learn and innovate prior to full rollout and build confidence in delivery

The pilot will test three main things:

- 1 How best to construct different types of agreements at different scales
- 2 How to target scheme incentives to deliver specific outcomes in specific areas
- 3 Underlying scheme mechanics

Components Phase in through the Pilot, starting with a pilot SFI in early 2021 with other components in 2022

# National Pilot Delivery Partners

## Working together as one team to deliver the Pilot

- The Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Natural England
- Rural Payments Agency



# Information and Support

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From early 2021

- Environmental Land Management Policy Discussion Document Response
- Online events and supporting material

National Pilot Support:

- **Guidance on GOV.UK** describes everything needed to apply and manage an agreement, including a suite of Technical Guidance Notes on how best to deliver outcomes and what success looks like
- **Learning sessions** for advisers (private sector, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and Defra Group) and also for participating land managers. Online at first, build up through feedback from the pilot
- **Field Team** to support learning from participants that will help feedback into later improvements

Also

- **Contact Centre** for general, non-technical enquiries
- Any additional advice needs sought at land manager's discretion

# E.L.M. and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)

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- LNRSs: a tool to drive more coordinated, practical and focussed action to help nature and establish the Nature Recovery Network. They will be evidence-based, **locally-led** and **collaboratively produced**, creating a strategic picture of nature recovery **priorities at a local level**.
- E.L.M. and LNRS policy teams have been working closely together to understand how LNRSs could be used to help **target what E.L.M. pays for**.
- To understand this process on the ground, we are providing additional E.L.M specific support to the LNRS pilots\* the form of **E.L.M. Local Conveners**; an individual in at least some of the pilot areas, with overarching support at a national level.
- The E.L.M. Local Convener will be responsible for **testing the process of engagement**, including local access forums, farmer groups and existing Test and Trial participants.

\* Cornwall, Buckinghamshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Northumberland, this financial year

# Local Convener

## Convener role?

1. To **provide local leadership** and human interface between Defra group and local stakeholders and partners, including land managers, to **build their trust in Defra** and provide an opportunity to **feedback to Defra** group on scheme improvements.
2. To **lead the local engagement** process in their area to **agree local priorities** and identify opportunities for developing **new collaborative groups** or **landscape scale projects**.
3. To promote and **help collaborative groups form** and **find facilitators**.

# Recap

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The changes set out in the Agriculture Bill will be made gradually over 7 years. We want to give you enough time to adapt and prepare.

Direct Payments will be phased out in England from January 2021 until 2027, along with other changes outlined in the ATP

Applications for the simplified Countryside Stewardship scheme remain open. This gives a viable, long-term source of income and is a good way to start to prepare for the new scheme

ELM National Pilot 2021-23. Expands and builds in the 3 scheme components, with a focus on continued co-design and learning ahead of 2024

*An evolution, not a revolution*

