

Land Managers Forum

Update paper 2 - ELM Test

What is the Peak District ELM Test?

Following the success of the first Environmental Land Management (ELM) Test 2019-2021, in which farmers and land managers from 96 holdings across the Peak District were involved in helping to answer questions on local prioritisation, planning and recording, and support and advice, Defra have commissioned the Peak District National Park Authority to run a further Test. On behalf of the English National Park Authorities, we will be exploring the role National Park Authorities might have in integrated delivery of ELM, farming policy and wider rural development. The Test will run initially from 1 September 2023 until 31 August 2024.

The objectives

1. Development/ adaptation of the National Park Management Plan, and integration with other policies, strategies and plans, including Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
2. Explore how we can use local priorities, and assess the needs of farmers, land owners and managers in delivering those priorities.
3. Explore National Park Authority roles in bringing in and integrating private, green finance so that it is accessible and practical for farmers and land managers.
4. Effective partnership working with other Defra bodies, e.g. Natural England.
5. Develop an Adviser network and information sharing platform, with support for advice and collaboration.

What will we do?

- A series of workshops for farmers, land managers and owners, to explore how we can bring together national and local policies, strategies and plans into a clear ask, and how that information can be best used and communicated. As with the first Test, participants can be paid for their time.
- A series of workshops for Advisers, to develop an Adviser network, which should reduce cold-calling and help build the single, local, trusted point of contact base.
- Take the learnings from the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme
- Explore how we can work better together, under the umbrella of the National Park Management Plan.