

Land Managers Forum

Update paper 1 - National strategies & schemes

30 by 30

UK Government has pledged its commitment to one of the key targets in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's new global biodiversity framework:

'At least **30% globally of land areas** and of sea areas... are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures...'

25 Year Environment Plan

The 25 Year Environment Plan aims to achieve a growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and wildlife by (for land and freshwaters):

- restoring **75% of protected sites** to favourable condition,
- creating or restoring **500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat** outside the protected sites network,
- taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species,
- increasing woodland in England in line with the aspiration of **12% cover by 2060**, by planting **180,000 hectares by 2042**.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

A new system of spatial strategies for nature to plan, map and help drive more coordinated, practical, focussed action and investment in nature recovery, and the building blocks for the national Nature Recovery Network. Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be county-based, leading to the Peak District being covered by six Strategies.

England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024 & England Peat Action Plan

Trees Action Plan: At least **12% woodland cover in England by 2050**

Peat Action Plan: Fund at least **35,000 hectares of peatland restoration by 2025**, and phase out managed burning whilst reducing the risk of wildfire.

Net Zero

- 75% of farmers in England will be engaged in **low carbon practices** by 2030, rising to 85% by 2035.
- **Treble woodland creation rates**, reflecting England's contribution to the UK's target of increasing planting rates to 30,000 ha per year and maintaining it at least at this level from 2025 onwards.
- Restore at least **35,000 hectares of peatlands in England by 2025**, and approximately **280,000 hectares of peat in England by 2050**.

Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes

There has been recent uncertainty around Defra's review of the proposals for the three ELM schemes. This has been clarified to an extent by the Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey's announcements at the [CLA conference on 1 December 2022](#).

A summary of the revised approach is:

Sustainable Farming Incentive: The aim remains to get as many farmers as possible signed up, with the core focus around improving soil health.

Local Nature Recovery: Countryside Stewardship (CS) will evolve rather than building a new scheme from scratch. The name for this new scheme has not been decided yet. The revised approach is expected to enable the delivery of more benefits to more farmers quicker:

- Get us more smoothly and quickly towards our targets for food production, productivity and the environment
- Provide more clarity and certainty for farmers
- Avoid the complexity of having two overlapping schemes in operation at the same time

The evolution of CS will include:

- Additional actions covering a wider range of outcomes
- Improving the service to make it more accessible, fair and workable for farmers

Action and spending will be targeted to:

- Encourage the right things being done in the right places
- Local join-up to deliver bigger and better results
- Possibly an element of payment by results

Landscape Recovery: The aim remains for large scale landscape recovery, with 22 pilot projects begun. Likely to involve private sector funding going forward.

Defra will publish more information about what actions will be paid for shortly. The new approach is due for full rollout by the end of 2024.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

The [Farming in Protected Landscapes](#) programme provides funding to all farmers and land managers within a National Park or AONB in England who are planning projects that:

- Support nature recovery
- Mitigate climate change
- Provide opportunities for people to discover nature
- Protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape

The programme will run until March 2024.

Restoring peatlands

The [Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme](#) provides money to restore peatlands in the uplands and lowlands of England. It's a competitive grant scheme that will run until 2025.

Other schemes

Farming Investment Fund (FIF): Provides funding for equipment, technology and infrastructure that improved farm productivity and benefits the environment.

For pig, beef or dairy farmers whose farming systems produce slurry, a [Slurry Infrastructure Grant](#) will be available from autumn 2022 for between £25,000 and £250,000 to help:

- Build new slurry stores
- Replace or expand existing slurry stores

Stores will provide six months of storage.

[Other grants](#) within FIF are currently closed to new applicants.

Research and Innovation: Grants for innovation, research and development are available through the [Farming Innovation Programme](#).

Animal Health & Welfare: The [Animal Health & Welfare Pathway](#) provides money to help improve the health and welfare of animals.

Improving the Health of Trees Affected by Disease: You can apply for money to improve tree health through the [Tree Health Pilot Scheme](#), if you manage certain trees or woodlands affected by specific pests and diseases in some regions of England.

Leaving farming: The [Lump Sum Exit Scheme](#) is for farmers in England who receive BPS and wish to leave farming. Once a lump sum payment is received, you will not be eligible for any further BPS payments or delinked payments. You will also not be eligible to enter into new agreements under the following schemes unless you repay the lump sum:

- [Sustainable Farming Incentive](#)
- [Some options under Countryside Stewardship](#)
- Some options under Local Nature Recovery

If reading this update paper online, you can click any of the text in blue to read more (opens a web page).

