

Defra Environmental Land Management Scheme

Tests and trials

National Park Authorities test: Summary

What are Defra's Environmental Land Management scheme tests and trials?

Defra is developing its vision for agricultural policy post Brexit that will help to deliver the Government's ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it. Basic Payment Scheme will be phased out by 2027, with the Sustainable Farming Incentive, Countryside Stewardship [plus] and Landscape Recovery together forming a new system of public money for public goods - the 'Environmental Land Management schemes' (ELMs). Tests and trials are an opportunity for various stakeholders, including farmers, land managers and owners to co-design the new scheme.

Why are we doing a test in the Peak District?

Following the successful Peak District test 2019-2021, Defra have commissioned the Peak District National Park Authority, on behalf of all English National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority to carry out a further ELM test. The Peak District is an upland National Park, but with a mix of upland and lowland farming characteristics. Due to its position in the country, there is also a complex geographical boundary split, which we call the 'Peak District effect' - six counties, nine constituent and surrounding Local Authorities, three main National Character Areas and four regions. Other similar tests are being conducted around the country, including in a National Landscape.

What are we testing?

The test is exploring the hypothesis that:

"In National Parks, National Park Authorities are best placed to act as **'local convenor and local delivery lead'** for integrated delivery of Environmental Land Management schemes, farming policy and wider rural development."

1. **National Park Management Plans (NPMPs)** - explore the development or adaptation of NPMPs so they set out our role(s), including interaction with Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
2. **Local priorities and strategic direction** - how do we bring together local and national plans, strategies, policies and regulation in a clear ask of farmers, land managers and owners.
3. **Natural capital private finance** - the pros and cons of potential role(s) in making private finance accessible and understandable in a Protected Landscape context.
4. **Arms Length Bodies** - effective partnership working and accountability with other Defra bodies.
5. **Advice** - how to support and enable advice and collaboration models, including an Adviser network.

We will do this through a series of workshops with Advisers, and a series of workshops with farmers, land managers and owners. We will work closely with other Protected Landscapes, others in the Defra family, Local Authorities, organisations and businesses to ensure the recommended role(s) are fit for purpose and complement existing roles and responsibilities.