

Appendix 2: Morridge Hill Country Landscape Recovery Project – Progress Update

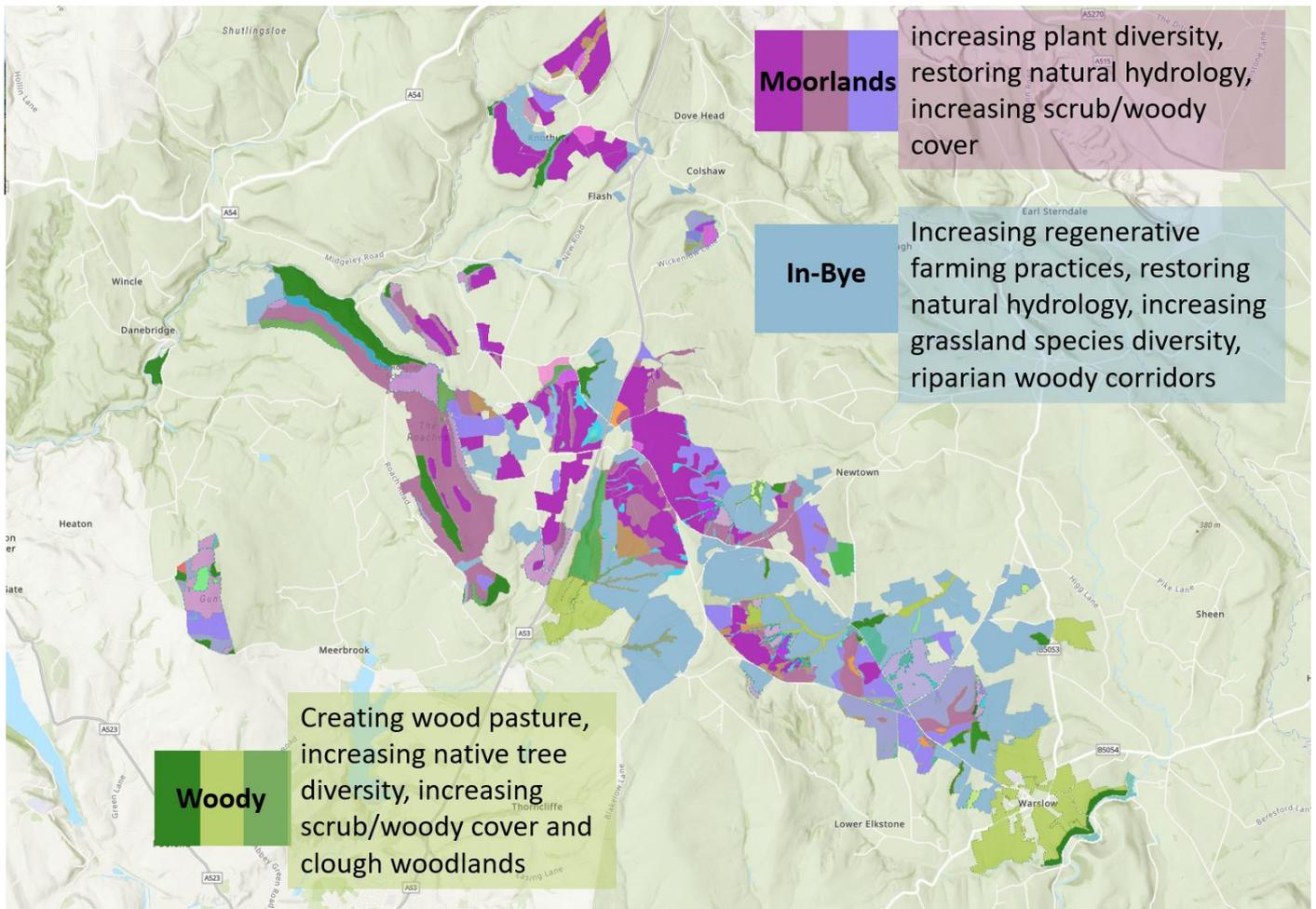


Landscape Recovery Pilot-Phase

Three projects have entered into implementation from Summer 2025 the latest being [Evenlode](#). DEFRA expect to announce another “bundle” of projects entering implementation over the coming months.

Morridge Hill Country Ambitions

The “gold-standard” land management plan below outlines the ambitions for the project area and will continue to be refined with farmers and land managers in our latest round of meetings to forecast the potential financial income for different land management options.



Farmer and Land Manager Engagement

Over half of our 25 farmers and land managers have fed back on potential delivery model and payment mechanisms. There is a good appetite for a proposed tiered payment system, and a model which allows them to become an integral part of the project for example becoming members or shareholders depending on the delivery vehicle chosen. Land management options meetings start on 25th March to allow a farmer/land manager approved version of the land management plan to be submitted in May.





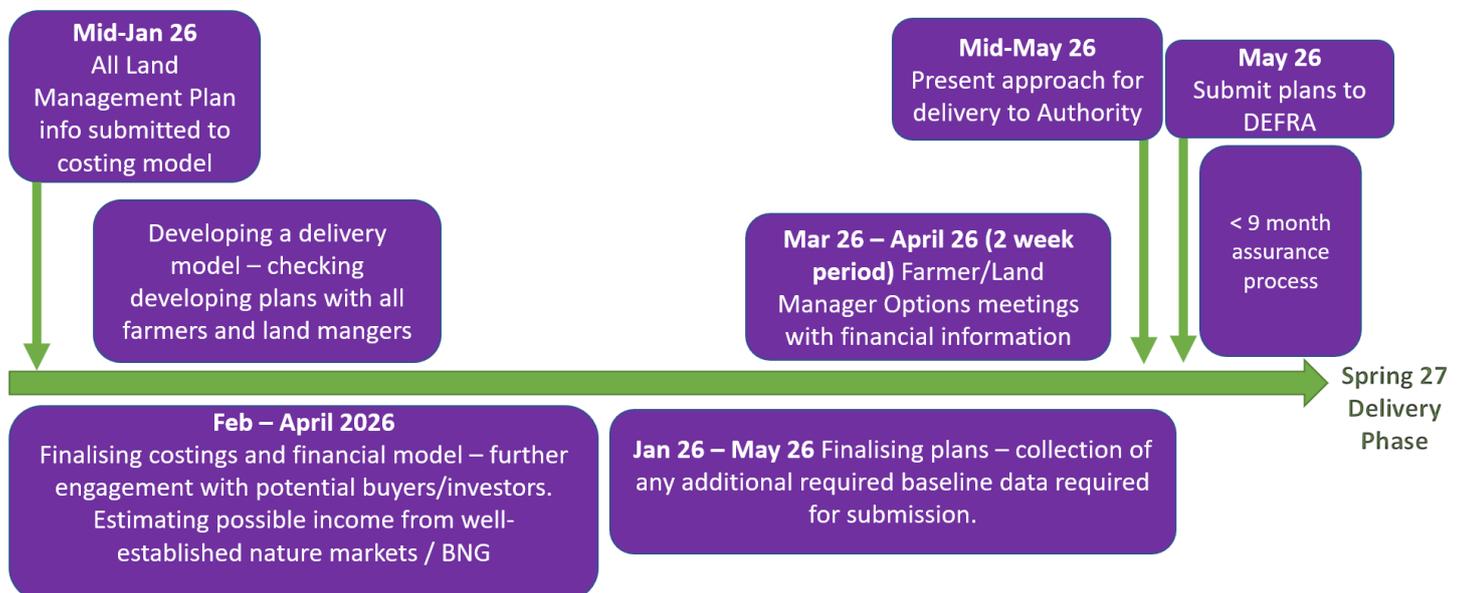
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Project Timeline

The project has had a 4-month extension, and is due to submit plans to DEFRA at the end of May. Due to large numbers of projects going into the next-phase (assurance) there will likely be a scheduling period which could add on 2-3 months to the gap between development and implementation for a successful project.

DEFRA will fund core project staff during the scheduling period (to be agreed prior to it) and the additional 3-month assurance period as projects were asked to budget for only 3 initially.

Negotiation phase follows assurance and if/when a deal is reached the project can progress into implementation



Attracting Blended Finance

Each LR project is targeted to attract some funding from private sources, although a specific proportion has not been specified. Calculations for current well-established nature markets (Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Code) give limited potential income through low numbers of units generated. BNG units can be generated and potential demand is being assessed.

Engagement has taken place with organisations operating in and around the project area and it is very likely that we will have letters of intent from some of these organisations, including one of the key beneficiaries of the proposed activity, the water companies.

The project is working closely with National Parks Partnership, and the 4 other LR projects led by National Parks to explore opportunities to aggregate some of our outcomes and access funding for those at a national level.

