

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
**Report:** Making Space for Nature  
**Written by:** Rob Fairbanks

---

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To inform Members of the work on the Test and Trail of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.

### **2. Future Farming and the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Schemes**

Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) is a new programme working partners, landowners and farmers to help deliver Defra's Future Farming ambitions that were outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan.

In 2024, Defra plans to launch the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). It will be piloted from 2021 and the existing Direct Payments regime will be phased out. This new approach is not a subsidy. Those who are awarded ELM agreements will be paid public money in return for providing environmental benefits, including:

- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Enhanced landscapes and access
- Mitigation and adaptation measures (inc flooding)
- Clean air, water and reduce pollution

### **3. Farming for the Nation.**

The Surrey Hills Making Space for Nature project is part of the Defra Tests and Trials work known as '**Farming for the Nation**' taking place within twelve AONBs.

The AONBs will be testing new ways for Defra to incentivise environmentally friendly approaches to farming. The projects vary across the different AONBs according to landscape type, but all:

- incorporate an approach which encourages collaboration between the farmers and land managers involved;
- baseline natural capital and ecosystems services;

- incorporate nature-friendly farming approaches into farm business plans, land management plans and AONB Management Plans; and
- report on the impact of new approaches.

The 12 AONBs involved are Blackdown Hills AONB, Cornwall AONB, Cranbourne Chase AONB, Dorset AONB, East Devon AONB, Forest of Bowland AONB, Kent Downs AONB, Nidderdale AONB, North Pennines AONB, Quantock Hills AONB, **Surrey Hills AONB**, and Tamar Valley AONB.

The tests and trials in each case are designed to demonstrate methods of working – not delivering the nature friendly farming work itself.

#### **4. Making Space for Nature in the Surrey Hills**

***Making Space for Nature*** is the project title for the Surrey Hills Test and Trial. The aim of the project is to understand what Nature Recovery and enhanced access mean for a Designated Landscape and how this can be delivered through Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS).

The first stage of the ***Making Space for Nature*** project is to collate and map priority habitats and species; and to understand where the countryside access pressures and opportunities are. Underpinning the whole scheme is the principle of good soil and water health.

The data insights will be used to work with farmers and landowners, principally through three land management Clusters in the Surrey Hills (Greensands, Greenscapes and North Downs), to identify environmental (habitat and access) improvements across the landscape, and to co-design how ELMS can deliver this through advice and payments.

The programme involves sharing and testing these insights with a wider audience including at the Surrey Hills Symposium with Surrey University in November, and with other Test and Trails that are going on nationally. These will inform Defra's national roll-out that is currently programmed for June 2021.

#### **5. Project Management, Financial Monitoring and Reporting**

Lantern has been commissioned by the AONB Unit to project manage with support from Sussex Woodland and Geofarm. The AONB will report and claim quarterly payments through the NAAONBs. The Steering Group will oversee the delivery of the programme:

- Hugh Broom, NFU – Chair, representing landowners and farmers, North Downs Cluster
- Bill Biddell – CLA, estates, Greensands Cluster
- Rob Fairbanks, AONB – Project Sponsor
- Denise Furlonger AONB – Financial Control and reporting
- Amy Hammond, Lantern – Project Manager, responsible for delivering workshops, reporting and engaging expert advisers
- Shaun Page, Geo Farm and North Downs Cluster

Petra Billing, Sussex Woodlands, Greenscapes and West Surrey Greensands  
 Kitty Rose, O.S. – Big Data, analysis and mapping services  
 Andy Wright, National Trust – Land Management and Wildlife Specialist  
 Professor Richard Murphy, Surrey University (UniS) – Earth Observation and  
 Symposium  
 Mike Waite - SWT

## 6. Outline Timetable – Making Space for Nature

Stage	Aim	Obj Ref	Activity	Steering Group Lead	When
1.	<b>Big Data</b> To collate and map baseline data on land cover, biodiversity opportunity areas (BOAs), priority species and access across the Surrey Hills	1	Land cover and BOA mapping  Clusters to identify Priority Species	O.S./ SBRC  Clusters /Lantern	Jan  Jan/ Feb
2.	<b>Making Space for Nature.</b> To co-design and map with farmers and landowners environmental measures, including priority habitats, species and access	1,2	Workshops with landowners and farmers  Mapping Nature Recovery Networks; key species and habitats; access opportunities	Lantern/ UniS  Lantern / OS/ UniS	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
3.	<b>Making Space for People</b> – to identify opportunities to enhance access, health and wellbeing	3,4,5	Workshop with landowners, farmers and countryside access, health and education organisations	OS/ Lantern / UniS	14th May 2020
4.	<b>Making Funds for Nature</b> - A strategic natural capital investment framework	6	Workshop with partners on financing including ELMS, Biodiversity Net Gain, Carbon Credits, Conservation Covenants	Lantern/ UniS/ CFS/ AONB	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2020
5.	<b>Sharing</b> To share and test findings locally, regionally and nationally	6	Surrey Hills Symposium and Surrey University – Marian Spain, Max Lu, Alistair Driver etc.  Workshop with Defra and NAONB colleagues	AONB team / UniS  Lantern and AONB	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov  Jan 2021  March 21

			Final report	Lantern	
--	--	--	--------------	---------	--