

Organisation	Title	Summary	Location	Regions	How it relates to soil
Sustainable Food Trust	Harmonisation of standards	At present, most farmers and land managers participate in multiple and overlapping sustainability assessment schemes, in order to satisfy many different stakeholders. This proposal will develop and test a harmonised farm-level framework of indicators and metrics to measure continuous improvement at farm level. This could form part of an annual sustainability audit which all farmers would need to complete in order to be eligible to receiving public money. This framework would be used to for measuring, valuing and communicating on-farm sustainability and the delivery of public goods. This proposal also will explore opportunities for new relationships with farm assurance schemes.	25 individual farm tests across England	Nationwide	The SFT will be looking at common language and metrics for soil. Their key soil metrics are soil organic matter, structure and infiltration rate and biodiversity (earthworms).
National Trust	Proposal for a 'Payments for Outcomes' Trial	The test will produce a manual of outcome-based measures, for a payments for outcomes scheme. The focus here on parcel scale and trying to understand how measures can all work together on one areas to deliver a wide range of public benefits- following that it will expand to wider scale. These measures are for upland priority habitats, pollinator health and soil health. It will review and refine these measures considering lessons learned to date and those of the RBAPS trial and other relevant projects. It will draw on the current work to develop natural flood management (NFM) measures other outcome measures in the Yorkshire Dales National Park including for public access and the public benefits arising from historic (including archaeological) and landscape features.	The Yorkshire Dales	Yorkshire & The Humber	Current projects are exploring new ways of paying for farming that benefits that will benefit the environment, with a particular focus on soil and pollinators.
The Organic Research Centre	A knowledge exchange partnership to communicate farming best practice and facilitate	ORC is contributing towards facilitating the delivery of the test, whilst offering essential skills for its delivery that includes further development of the PG tool to meet project requirements. Current progress highlights:  So far, the two landscape areas have been selected and include (1) The Exe Valley in Devon, and (2) The Clun in Shropshire. Local advisors have been in contact with farmers, from each landscape area, to invite them to attend one of six introductory meetings aimed at informing and identify those interested in participating about the Test & Trial.	The Exe Valley in Devon and the Clun in Shropshire	Not Specified	Soil management will be one of the areas the 'Public Good Tool' will identify if there is a potential for farmers to improve it (part of a 'sustainability assessment').
South Downs National Park (A)	South Downs Farm Clusters	Using South Downs based farm clusters to test key building blocks of ELMS through workshops, to provide answers to key policy questions including: i. What should land management plans include and how should they be involved in scheme delivery? ii. How should objectives be prioritised, delivered and at what cost? iii. What advice is required to develop and implement schemes? iv. What is the role of farm clusters in scheme design and delivery?	South Downs National Park	South East	Improving soil quality' is one of the key local priorities "which could be suitable for targeting" so potential projects could involve soil testing (eg. for organic matter).

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Environment Agency (EA)	Developing markets in environmental Outcomes	<p>The purpose of this project is to build our understanding of whether, and under which circumstances, a market-based approach can provide good value for money delivering environmental outcomes with public funding.</p> <p>The EA will do this through an online auction tool, NatureBid that the Environment Agency (EA) has funded and developed thus far. They will run a series of auctions that will involve looking for funding interventions for soils, water quality, Natural Flood Management and tree planting.</p>	Somerset; Kent & Cheshire; Dartmoor National Park; Tamar Catchment, Devon [TBC Northamptonshire; West Rother Catchment, South Downs & Greater Manchester Combined Authority]	Multiple Regions	A series of auctions will be looking at funding interventions for soils (along with water quality, natural flood management and tree planting).
Federation of Cumbria Commoners and Partners	Development of a Commons Proofing Tool	<p>The Foundation for common Land (FCL) and Federation for Cumbria Commoners (FCC) intend to form a partnership with other tests and trials operating on common land, commons associations, land managers who operate on commons and other parties with commoning rights. This partnership will ensure the full breadth of commons in terms of location (rural vs urban, upland/lowland and geographic), size and complexity of governance are represented. The partnership will then select four 'test' commons. For the test commons geographic information, other records and historic management data will be collated and all the parties with an interest in a scheme on the common will be brought together to discuss and agree the condition of the common and the public goods that could be delivered. This will be facilitated by the T&amp;T. Through the facilitated discussion the groups will co design three products; a 'health check' – a tool to facilitate agreement on the condition of the common, a Land Management Plan for the common, and a replicable 'delivery model' that sets out the process for producing the LMP and health check with agreement from all.</p> <p>The partnership will then select four further 'trial' commons. These commons will trial the use of the prototype health check and delivery model to agree LMPs of their own, refining the products as they go. The selection of the four test and four trial commons will ensure that the full diversity of commons is represented.</p> <p>Finally, a set of three regional workshops will further refine the health check and the delivery model.</p>	Based in Cumbria and collaborating across commons countryside including Dartmoor, Exmoor, Cumbria, New Forest	Nationwide	They aim to restore and protect "200,000ha of England's peat soils located on upland commons". This will be done through agreed management plans and restoring vegetation cover to contribute to the 25YEP objective of mitigating and adapting to climate change.
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and Partners	Integrated Local Delivery Framework	The trial aims to explore a mechanism for delivering national objectives at local level through the use of advisers, in a process of co-design with farmers, building on the Upper Thames Catchment Partnership. The trial will focus on 3 main elements: developing an effective natural capital surveying methodology; and assessing the role and cost benefit of a local adviser.	Upper Thames Catchment, Gloucestershire	South West	Farmers should submit a verified natural capital map of their land, ideally, through the Land App they developed so that Tier 1 payments can focus on soil, water, woodland, farm wildlife and infrastructure. This will also help facilitate appropriate soil carbon sequestration. UKHab management codes could incentivise regenerative farming, where healthy soil can sequester carbon.

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CLA	Incentivising sustainable farming and forestry practices that deliver public benefits	<p>This proposal will test a range of approaches for incentivising sustainable farming and forestry practices, particularly those delivering improved soil health, water quality and flow, carbon sequestration and biodiversity. The test involves a series of structured farmer focus groups across farm types, system, leadership structure, scale and location to elicit views on how infield management changes could be effectively encouraged under ELM e.g. sustainability tools, management plans, farm pesticide and fertiliser quotas. Specific objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review UK and international literature on interventions that might drive sustainable farming/forestry practise to inform workshop design</li> <li>2. Run a series of farmer and land manager workshops to develop understanding of: Current drivers and metrics for sustainable farming and forestry Views on adopting more environmental practices and identify barriers Views on ways of incentivising change beyond the regulatory baseline and under ELM</li> <li>3. Make recommendations on how incentives for sustainable farming and forestry could be incorporated within ELM.</li> </ol>	England-wide, Location of workshops TBC	Nationwide	How to incentivise soil health was one of the focus areas of the workshops that sought to collect the views of 120 land managers throughout the country.
Cotswolds Conservation Board, Cotswolds AONB	Researching and piloting the need for local payment rates and options to achieve outcomes in the Cotswolds	<p>Through a series of questionnaires, workshops and follow-up interviews, the Cotswolds AONB will work with a range of farmers, land managers, advisers and agencies to discuss and identify new and innovative approaches to deliver national and local priority outcomes in the Cotswolds. It will build on the existing AONB Management Plan and National Character Area (NCA) profile to identify how local priorities and the 25YEP outcomes could be achieved through a future ELM scheme. The 3 key objective are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify new and innovative mechanisms for delivery of public goods and how they could be measured</li> <li>2. Identify local payment rates and advice and guidance provision (both business and land management advice)</li> <li>3. Test the inclusion of an assessment of business needs within the Land Management Plan to optimise ELM delivery e.g. infrastructure, equipment, training and diversification opportunities.</li> </ol>	The Cotswolds AONB	South West	Soil degradation' is listed as an 'Opportunity for improvement' which agri-environment and rural development grants will seek to deliver locally, informed by local evidence. They highlight that there is a 'business case' for improving thin Cotswold brash soils.
National Trust	Developing a farmer led Nature Recovery Network	<p>The proposal will evaluate what design elements need to be built into ELM to enable and incentivise land managers to collaboratively plan, develop and deliver a Nature Recovery Network (NRN). The proposal will do this by facilitating a group of farmer landowners to design and test a methodology for the setting up and delivery of a NRN along the north Cornwall coast. An independent facilitator would work with the group of farmers to understand what they would want the NRN in this area to look like and what public goods it might deliver, and then to agree a plan of what specific interventions are required where, and how these might be delivered.</p>	Bude to Newquay	South West	Soil fertility is part of their vision for the Britain 2040 'recovering landscape'. Soil is placed alongside water and air as needing improvement.

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South Downs National Park (B)	South Downs Land App	<p>South Downs NPA are working with 'The Land App' which is a GIS mapping system developed for Farmers, to collate maps and data about their holding in one, user friendly place. The proposal will work with farmers from the South Downs farm clusters and use the Land App and the data it holds to evaluate and plan the delivery of public goods at a landscape (cluster or part cluster) scale. Key objectives include:</p> <p>Identifying/obtaining relevant maps and datasets for uploading into Land App</p> <p>Testing the Land App and the local data with farmer groups to assess and plan delivery of public goods across their holdings and farm cluster</p> <p>Produce public goods delivery plans across holding and landscape scale.</p>	South Downs National Park	South East	Soil quality is referred to as potentially being part of a list of priorities farmers might select to improve whilst working with a facilitator and specialist advice. This would involve measurements, monitoring and targets.
Peak District National Park	Using the White Peak National Character Area (NCA) for testing and trials ideas	<p>Working with farmers and organisations in the White Peak National Character Area (NCA) to test how the NCA framework could be used as an approach within the new ELM system – including facilitating change in relationships between Defra and land managers; prioritising public goods delivery, and; facilitating behaviour change and collaboration. The test will focus on gathering information about mechanisms that land managers will use to plan and record public goods delivery and exploring whether there is a role for local public goods prioritisation based on NCAs. There are two phases to this test:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Test how the NCA framework, budget ready reckoner and carbon ready reckoner can help to raise awareness and facilitate behaviour change towards public goods delivery. Develop a co-designed land management plan that farmers and land managers might use to plan and record which public goods they could deliver.</li> <li>2. Use the learning from Test 1 to run further tests of the approach and ready reckoners in the context of other NCAs – Dark Peak, SW Peak and/or Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent.</li> </ol>	Peak District National Park – White Peak NCA, Dark Peak/SW Peak and/or Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent NCA	North West	Soil features in the 'Carbon and Climate change' section and 'Clean Water' section of their summary. One of the anticipated outcomes is producing a simple tool introducing farmers to context of carbon release, sequestration and storage.



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NAAONBs	Farming for the Nation: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) as test beds for a new Environmental Land Management System	<p>NAAONB to provide a central hub that provides support and oversight to locally devised trials and tests within each local AONB with aim of delivering AONB mg plans. Farming for the Nation will deliver a programme of projects involving 12 AONB partnerships that will test new ideas and trial new approaches in the delivery of a future environmental land management system designed to fit local conditions while reflecting national priorities. Within the protected sites of its participant AONBs across England, this trial will address six co-dependent strategic objectives across several independent tests by considering the processes involved and practical requirements for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Devising AONB management plans as strategic spatial frameworks</li> <li>2. Developing integrated land management plans</li> <li>3. Devising indicators for success</li> <li>4. Monitoring, verification and payment triggers</li> <li>5. Testing guidance</li> <li>6. Evaluating collaboration</li> </ol> <p>Each AONB test has defined objectives that will provide evidence against each of these strategic objectives, alongside specific outputs related to their test focus. The NAAONB will be testing the efficacy of collaborative working across and between protected landscapes as the tests are underway.</p>	Blackdown Hills, East Devon, Kent Downs, Surrey Hills, Cornwall, Cranborne Chase, Tamar Valley, Dorset, Quantock Hills, Forest of Bowland, Nidderdale, North Pennines	Multiple Regions	Soils degradation and the need for improvement is mentioned in most of the projects, which is framed as being achievable by developing the right incentives. Their role in storing and sequestering carbon is also referred to.
Broads National Park	Proposal/idea for the Broads	<p>The Broads Authority will work with the NFU, Natural England, FWAG groups, and farmers and land managers within the Broads National Park and Broadland river valleys to test the following 3 issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What should the land management interventions and monitoring and verification be to deliver 'basic, better and best' public goods for grazing marshes and fens/reedbeds and what are the costs for managing these habitats? In order to report on the process and findings; applicable to other landscape types with specific management needs</li> <li>2) What coordinated advice will be required to develop and implement schemes? Is there a role for a local management board and how would that operate?</li> <li>3) How can working across multiple holdings / landscape scale projects be incentivised to maximise delivery of public goods?</li> </ol> <p>These questions will be tested through workshops and one to one interviews, and testing of the principles on real land holdings.</p>	The Norfolk Broads and Broadland Rivers Catchment in Norfolk and NE. Suffolk	East of England	Testing and monitoring soil types are referred to during one of the workshops looking at a catchment.

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Natural England	Catchment Sensitive Farming	Natural England will be working iteratively with a range of farmers and local advisers to develop and trial the formation of a land management plan. It will consider the processes involved and practical requirements for the development of individual plans. Working with a diverse network there will be a strong focus of engaging hard-to-reach farmers. Plans will be developed using existing CSF farm plans and built on to incorporate environmental objectives. Whilst testing the value of an adviser this proposal will focus on identifying the skills and knowledge necessary to develop farm holding specific land management plans which will identify natural capital assets and priorities for both the advisor and farmer. This will be done using a task and finish group to develop a skillset and test throughout the land management plan development to assess adviser requirements.	The Rivers Mease, Humber, Wye & Till; East Suffolk Rivers	Multiple Regions	Soil is not referred to directly however soil management is usually an important aspect to CSF.
RSPB	Developing and testing self-assessment of environmental land management scheme options	This proposal aims to determine whether the data generated through farmer self-assessment is of sufficient quality to complement the scientific monitoring of a plan based environmental land management scheme and support the verification of results-based payments. In addition, the trial will seek to determine farmer attitudes towards self-assessment, its influence on the farmers' motivation and engagement with appropriate land management, and its potential role in a payment by results approach. The aim will be to build upon the work already undertaken by Natural England through the Results Based Agri-environment Scheme Pilot. The project will first develop a set of self-assessment metrics that assess the essential elements of management for wildlife in two landscapes (Cambridgeshire and the Broads), prepared in collaboration with farmers to ensure they are practicable; then evaluate the effectiveness and accuracy of farmer self-assessment by training farmers (12 in each landscape) to carry out self-assessments of the metrics on their own farms and using advisers to carry out shadow assessments; and finally, they will undertake a farmer attitude survey, determining farmers' understanding of the link between management and wildlife outcomes and their feedback on the usefulness, feasibility and time commitment of the self-assessment trial monitoring.	Cambridgeshire arable farms and the Broads	East Midland	Soil is referred to briefly as an issue of uncertainty which arises in their model (eg. soil management, and flood risk management) which aren't addressed explicitly, given the inherent difficulty associated with modelling this.

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Natural England & Yorkshire Dales/Norfolk	Payment by Results	The Payment by Results (PbR) trial is delivered by Natural England and tests an approach that rewards farmers on the basis of the environmental outcomes they deliver, rather than the means of achieving it. Instead of paying a fixed price in return for undertaking prescribed management actions, it pays a variable amount depending on the quality of environmental outcomes achieved. The trial focuses on whether the PbR approach can improve outcome efficiency and lead to a positive behavioural change in land managers. It lengthens and refines the existing trial to obtain more accurate findings and will evaluate whether long term costs of delivery can be reduced. It also introduces the option to test the utilisation of Remote Sensing as a verification method. It compares and contrasts the effectiveness of the PbR approach in 2 different areas, one grassland and the other arable. Two grassland options are tested in the Yorkshire Dales; two arable options are tested in East Anglia.	Yorkshire Dales National Park	Yorkshire & The Humber	Soil is not a focus point but features throughout their results to explain variations in land performances.
National Trust	Whole Farm Plans - Proposal to 'test' the process of plan development and implementation	The NT Stepping Stones project will work with small clusters of farmers (c.5 farmers per cluster) to prepare whole farms plans that integrate environmental management/delivery of public goods alongside the core farm business. Participants will be involved in co-designing a Sustainable Land Management framework and associated templates, as well as advising on the accessibility of baseline information. The approach will also test the use of farmer clusters to promote collaboration in sharing their land planning approaches and identifying catchment and landscape scale environmental outcomes. Interviews with participants before and after the test will assess the impact of the approach on farmer attitudes, decision-making and behaviours.	Shropshire hills	West Midland	The project was created in response to degrading soils, poor weather & challenging market conditions.
Brown and Co	Develop partnerships between agriculture and polluter industries to realise, promote and attribute a monetary value to land management practices promoting carbon capture and storage through a polluter pays principal	Through face to face interactions with 200+ farmers Brown & Co will assess the barriers, incentives, advice & guidance required to enable the integration of on farm carbon offsetting and sequestration within ELMs. A questionnaire will be developed based upon a series of on farm management options for CO2 offsetting and sequestration for the face to face farmer interviews which will take place across a large geographical area encompassing a wide cross section of farming types. Brown & Co will work with the University of East Anglia who will support them with the analysis of this work and to provide a detailed report covering all aspects of the test.	York to Oxford	North East to South East	They make no direct reference to soil carbon sequestration however the project seeks to explore on-farm carbon capture and offset opportunities.