



## Lowland Commons Landscape Recovery ELM Test and Trial

Between Spring 2022 and Summer 2023 Foundation for Common Land is working with The New Forest and The Malvern Hills, two lowland commons in England, to test and trial:

### “How can we deliver multiple outcomes at landscape scale on commons?”

The test and trial will consist of 3 phases, we will be working with a minimum of 375 land managers and a range of stakeholders including statutory bodies and local interest groups. This Test and Trial is looking at Landscape Scale delivery. The Landscape Recovery scheme is one of 3 new environmental land management schemes (ELM) It will complement the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), which will support action at farm level to make farming more sustainable, and Local Nature Recovery (LNR), which will support action at local level to make space for nature alongside food production. Landscape Recovery represents a new approach to supporting long-term, significant habitat restoration and land use change of the sort that will be essential to achieve the Government’s environmental ambitions.

**Phase 1** focuses on how to **engage and incentivise** land managers to take part in landscape recovery. It also focuses on how to enable **collaboration** between land managers in landscape recovery and determine appropriate **payment mechanisms**.

**Phase 2** will focus on the **practicalities and legalities** of how to construct **agreements** on lowland commons. This will assist in answering Defra’s policy question of “How to construct agreements for different ownership structures”.

**Phase 3** will focus on how to construct **long term agreements of 30+ years**. It will be important to ensure that future agreements on commons are **enforceable** and **responsive** to change in the natural environment and changes in the parties to the scheme.

### A Commons Toolkit

This underpins our whole approach. It’s a ‘how to guide’ with straightforward advice for anyone who’ll be tasked with drawing up an ELM agreement for a common. Building on work from our previous test and trial we will develop additional related resources for the Commons Toolkit that support engaging and incentivising land managers; including how to construct agreements and select payment mechanisms.

Throughout this test and trial we will be engaging with all stakeholders through an array of focus groups, meetings, workshops and webinars. We will be working with relevant experts and advisors. We report our key learnings, findings and evidence to Defra via interim reports in order to help actively develop the design of future Landscape Recovery schemes.