

How do you reward farmers and land managers for delivery of public benefits?

A workshop to help co-design a scheme for Dartmoor that could be tested as part of Defra's work on a new Environmental Land Management Scheme

15 February 2019, Parke, Bovey Tracey

Background

How to pay for the delivery of public benefits/environmental management/ecosystem services has been a central question in the development of agri-environment schemes both within and beyond the UK.

As part of its vision for agriculture post Brexit the UK Government has stated it will ensure that public money is spent on public goods, such as restoring peat bog, providing better access to our countryside, protecting dry stone walls and other iconic aspects of our heritage. This principle is enshrined in the Agriculture Bill and the guiding principles for the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) System.

Dartmoor National Park Authority submitted a proposal to Defra to conduct a test or trial of the new ELM system. In December 2018, Defra notified the Authority that they would like to take forward the proposal. The Tests and Trials team (in Defra) are working with Dartmoor (and other proposals) to develop clear objectives that demonstrate how their test or trial could co-design elements of the new system. This will include; setting out what the test or trial could deliver, the timeframe, the support required from Defra and identifying opportunities for proposals to collaborate. The purpose of this exercise is to make sure that there is a coherent package of tests and trials that provide timely evidence to shape the design of the new system. This may mean that the scope of some proposals may change and others may be encouraged to collaborate.

The purpose of this workshop is to:

- assess the practicality of different processes designed to reward the delivery of public goods on land that can deliver environmental outcomes, including common land; and



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- discuss how a potential Dartmoor ‘test and trial’ might help to co-design the new ELM system with farmers and other land managers that will deliver these environmental outcomes

The workshop and associated discussions will involve farmers with considerable experience in delivering agri-environment agreements including those involved in Dartmoor Farming Futures¹, to ascertain their view on the suitability of the various options. Potential processes will include those that are developing within results based and outcome focused schemes from Ireland ² and the UK.

The workshop will be held on Friday 15th February 2019 and will be hosted by the Dartmoor National Park Authority and the HNV-LINK project³ at the National Park Offices at Parke, Bovey Tracey.

The workshop is part of the High Nature Value Farming Link Project funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme. Dartmoor is the UK’s Learning Area; selected for its reputation for innovation linked to ‘High Nature Value Farming’ systems.



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Programme

- 10.00 – 10.15 Welcome and introduction
- 10.15 – 10.30 Dartmoor Test and Trial proposal
- 10.30 – 12.30 How might we value and pay for public benefits, Professor Bret Day, Exeter University (20 mins)
- Keep it simple: Ireland's approach to payment by results, Dr James Moran, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (20 mins)
- What can we learn from past and current experience of operating and paying for agri-environment schemes? Professor Janet Dwyer, CCRU (20 mins)
- The view from the farm, Tracy May (20 mins)
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch provided
- 13.30 – 15.00 Facilitated, roundtable discussion focused on developing proposals for the Dartmoor trial focusing on how you pay for public benefits in ways that engage the farming/land management community, demonstrate value for money and reward delivery
- 15.00 – 15.30 Tea
- 15.30 Summary and next steps
- 16.00 Close



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Notes and further reading:

1. Dartmoor Farming Futures: A farmer led approach to agri-environment that included a design stage (completed in 2012) and a trial currently underway (in its 6th year). It is an innovative approach (non-prescriptive) that encourages farmers to improve all the public benefits relevant to their land by agreeing a set of outcomes and then enabling and empowering the farmer to decide how best to deliver the outcomes. <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/farming/farming-futures>

2. Ireland's experiences on results based schemes, including scoring vegetation change and initiatives aimed at making agri-environment schemes more attractive and relevant to farmers including Farm Plans (short, simple, visual, transparent). Principal contributor Dr James Moran BSc PhD, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/James_Moran2

3. HNV-Link Project, funded by the Horizon2020 Programme, has been running since April 2016. It seeks to identify and promote innovation within High Nature Value Farming systems within a network of 13 partners and 10 "Learning Areas"(LAs) across Europe. These LAs are engaged in a peer learning process that consists of sharing and developing ideas, innovations, and best practices to support HNV farmers. Dartmoor is the UK's LA.

HNV farmlands provide multiple public goods and services: biodiversity, cultural landscapes, quality food, fire control, climate change mitigation, and rural employment. Policymakers must urgently realise that our collective environmental, social and even economic objectives cannot be fulfilled without supporting and adequately rewarding HNV farmers. <http://www.hnmlink.eu>



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