

# WHITE PEAK LANDSCAPE RECOVERY INFORMATION SHEET



## 1. Draft Vision for the Landscape

Dales which thrive with wildlife, spilling out onto the plateau and linking our best wildlife habitats

## 2. Ambition for the Development Stage Project (Expected to start March 2024)

Development of funding streams to allow White Peak farmers to produce food in the future in ways that deliver a shared vision whilst delivering benefits for water quality, enhanced carbon storage and maintaining viable farm businesses.

We have up to 2 years to develop the programme which is expected to blend together private finance and bespoke Defra funded grant schemes to deliver benefits for farmers and nature over the next 20 years or more.

## 3. What will farmers be signing up to?

Engaging with Landscape Recovery for the 2-year Development phase to explore and inform mechanisms which will deliver the Vision while maintaining economically viable businesses. Farmer involvement will allow solutions to be developed which fit each farm as far as is possible.

If, after the Development Phase, farmers are not confident that the project can deliver for their business, they do not have to enter the implementation stage.

**Signed landowner consent forms are needed by 14<sup>th</sup> September at the latest**

## 4. Geographical extent:

At this stage we are not excluding any part of the White Peak but cannot define the boundary of the application until we know which farmers are interested. The project area must include the SSSI dales and linking land.

If we progress with a part-White Peak project we would hope to make future applications to the Landscape Recovery programme if there is sufficient interest

## 5. To be successful, the Landscape Recovery project must:

- Deliver landscape change, however big or small.
- Achieve the best possible management of the dale-side woodlands and grasslands and high-quality nature sites on the plateau
- Create high quality sites for nature immediately adjacent to the dale-tops probably through some form of no or low-input grassland or agro-forestry including wood-pasture, with benefits for animal health and shelter

# WHITE PEAK LANDSCAPE RECOVERY INFORMATION SHEET



- Create linkages and stepping stones across the plateau through nature-friendly farming including low input herbal leys, grass/arable rotations and the management of field margins
- Encourage a structurally richer landscape through tree planting along field boundaries, in field corners and as in-field trees.
- Maintain sustainable farm businesses through appropriate financial support and incentives.

## **6. In the development phase we need to:**

- a. Get legal and land agency advice on managing dales across holding boundaries, blending of public & private finance and how 20-year agreements will work
- b. Design the ambition for the dale-tops and appropriate payment rates here and for existing high-quality sites
- c. Continue to develop our ideas for nature friendly farming on the plateau including payments to support low input farming
- d. Identify funding opportunities from green finance providers
- e. Look at the options for monitoring success including the involvement of trained volunteers through Citizen Science projects and the development of demonstration sites
- f. Assess the likely carbon and water quality benefits of our proposals
- g. Develop agreements that give farmers security of payment whilst enabling flexibility.

## **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

Farmers should carry on their engagement with Environmental and Countryside Stewardship and the Sustainable Farming Incentive whilst the Development Stage is being applied for or underway

Farmers will only be paid once for any activity.

There are no specified options – it is up to us, jointly, to develop these, and the payment rates

Sharing landownership information is necessary so that planning at a landscape scale can be successful

Farmers will be paid for their time in the development of the scheme

For more information or joining details please contact [farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk) 01619 816200