



Natural England Agenda 2017

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- NE is Government's Statutory Advisor on the Natural Environment.
- A key purpose of NE is that of 'conserving and enhancing the landscape', including parklands.

This 'includes, but goes wider than, conserving the natural beauty of the landscape. It could, for example, cover conserving field boundaries (such as hedgerows and dry stone walls), and monuments, buildings and sub-surface archaeological features which contribute to the landscape' (paragraph 63 of the Explanatory notes to the NERC Act).

Cultural, historic dimension of England's landscape is acknowledged by the Act and the supporting guidance, and is included within the definition of the term 'natural environment'.

- Simple versions of the schemes are available to a wide variety of farmers, with an enhanced version of the scheme open to owners of our most environmentally valuable sites
- Our schemes include a number of measures specifically targeted to Historic Environment
- Our previous scheme was called Environmental Stewardship
- Our current scheme is called Countryside Stewardship, which is split into Higher Tier and Mid Tier schemes.

CAP represents £3.3 billion investment over the 7yr RDP

Axis 2 of CAP provides funding to improve the rural environment, NE is tasked by Defra to deliver much of the Axis 2 budget via agri-environment agreements

These are schemes that contribute towards the increased costs involved in farming in an environmentally friendly way



- Countryside Stewardship currently includes a wide range of land management options, and capital grants, that help owners manage their parkland e.g:
 - Creation, Restoration or Maintenance of Wood Pasture and Parkland options
 - Grassland management options
 - Creation of deadwood habitat options
 - Supplements for grazing by traditional breeds
 - Capital grants for tree planting, tree guards, tree surgery including specialist veteran tree surgery
 - Capital grants for the preparation of Parkland Management Plans

- From 2018, Mid Tier applicants can apply for an enhanced range of options including 'Maintenance of Wood Pasture and Parkland'.
- Option can only be used in Mid Tier with permission from NE.
- HEFER consultation window to open much earlier – 15th January (subject to Defra approval).
- HEFER consultations now requirement of all CS applications, including woodland-only.
- Local Area Teams are 'pipelining' upcoming Higher Tier priorities at least 1-2 years in advance

From 2018, Mid Tier applicants can apply for an enhanced range of options including 'Maintenance of Wood Pasture and Parkland', which had previously only been available to Higher Tier applicants.

Guidance for NE advisers is being finalised around when we would give permission in order to prevent potentially inappropriate use of this option.

The HE experts are encouraging all teams to consider their pipelines of expiring Classic schemes WELL in advance – at least 2, if not 3 years in advance. This should give ample opportunity for teams to identify priority parklands well in advance and address any management planning needs early enough to properly integrate the findings into any CS agreement. We have a range of 'professional advice' options – PA1 Implementation Plans, PA2 Feasibility Studies (parkland plans) and PA3 Woodland Plans, all of which have a role to play within the broader topic of good parkland management.



- Conservation 21 is the name of Natural England's current corporate strategy
- It sets out how Natural England will work to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the ecosystem services they provide
- Sets out three guiding principles:
 - create resilient landscapes and seas
 - put people at the heart of the environment
 - grow natural capital
- Parkland landscapes and habitats have a huge amount to offer us in pursuit of these goals.



Working at the much broader, landscape scale to deliver more meaningful and resilient environmental benefits – moving away from a ‘site by site’ focus where appropriate.

An ecosystems approach – involving people, understanding how landscapes and seas work, and the goods and services they provide, in an integrated way - is vital.

Resilient to climate change, pests and diseases, inappropriate alterations, invasive species, benign neglect, agricultural intensification, etc ...



Conservation 21 seeks to drive a fundamental change in mind-set, to make a healthy natural environment a central part of health, wealth and prosperity.

A small example - helping to manage public access within parklands, to maximise not only the environmental benefits provided by these habitats but also the public enjoyment gleaned from these landscapes.

One of the tools we will use is the concept of 'shared plans for places', which is where parkland management plans – or other forms of conservation management plan – come in.

Conservation 21 – Putting People at the Heart



Before



After

Conservation 21 – Putting People at the Heart



Worked in close partnership with Chatsworth Estates and HLF to dovetail grant funding streams for maximum effect – all internal interpretation boards funded via separate HLF grant.



The concept of natural capital is a powerful new tool that can help us all understand what we get from the natural world. It offers the potential to make environmental planning central to local and national decision-making: Local strategic plans can reflect investment in enhancing the natural capital of a place; investment that compromises natural capital may need to deliver suitable compensation, whilst investment that enhances it could benefit from different forms of incentive.

A small example – the value of this tree to society is by no means limited to its potential for firewood! Its landscape and historical values, alongside its habitat values are easy to underestimate, which is where taking a Natural Capital approach will hopefully help us to make our case in future.

View of 'Capability' Brown's West Park Extension at Chatsworth, Derbyshire.



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