

A wide-angle photograph of a rural landscape in autumn. The foreground is a green field with some fallen leaves. In the middle ground, there is a line of trees with yellow and orange foliage. The background shows more trees and a blue sky with wispy clouds.

# Natural England Agenda 2018

- 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 and other designed landscapes.

# Strategic Direction: NE



- 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.



## Conservation 21

Natural England's Conservation Strategy  
for the 21st Century



# Strategic Direction: Defra



- 25 Year Plan: sets out Defra's goals for improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we found it. It details how we in government will work with communities and businesses to do this.
- "Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our natural scenery and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage."



## A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment





- Glover Review of protected landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) being undertaken for Defra
  - Call for evidence now open.
  - Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- Natural Capital work progressing
  - Natural Capital, Ecosystem Services and the Historic Environment Seminar.
  - 9 Case Studies developed.
  - ‘Next Steps’ yet to agree, but plenty for parks to feed into.

- ELM (Environmental Land Management) scheme is the working title for a post-Brexit scheme
- Currently two principles emerging:
  - Public money in exchange for delivering public goods and services
  - Open to broader range of land managers, not just farmers
- Parks, parkland landscapes and habitats have a huge amount to offer us in pursuit of these goals.
- Don't miss the opportunity to feed into consultations – once in a generation chance!

- 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

- Mid Tier applicants have been able to apply for an enhanced range of options including 'Maintenance of Wood Pasture and Parkland' (used only with permission from NE).
- HEFER consultation window opened early to help manage partners' workloads.
- 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



- 'Ownership' of CS transferred from NE to Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- Transition handover period until Jan'19.
- Defra has approved in principle 4 year extensions to HLS agreements due to expire in 2019, subject to criteria being met
- NE advisers are inputting into this process before approaching individual agreement holders

# Countryside Stewardship Update: Y+H



- Update from Margaret Nieke on local casework highlights

# People at the Heart of the Environment: Managing the impact of large scale events on parkland





# RESILIENT LANDSCAPES: Parkland Lakes on Point of Loss??





# Parkland and Natural Flood Management?

NATURAL  
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*Restoration of vistas at Lyme Park, Peak District.*



[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

