

Ensuring ELM is effective on commons

Test and Trial final report

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Joanna Swiers

Test and Trial Facilitator



This report is submitted to Defra as part of the ELM Test and Trial programme

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1. SUMMARY

This is our fifth and final report presenting findings from the DEFRA ELM Test and Trial (T and T) for Commons, with the overarching aim of ***Co-designing and developing a delivery model for ELM on Commons.***

This report summarises the evidence that we've collated to answer the questions posed by our T and T, shares our findings in relation to the development of a 'delivery model' for Commons and makes some conclusions and recommendations for future policy development.

1.1 Policy questions

The questions set out in our project contract are set out below

DEFRA Policy question	T and T specific aspect to be addressed
<p>Land management plans and design approaches</p> <p>What mechanism will scheme participants use to plan and record which public goods they will deliver?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will we require a combination of approaches depending on the public good or type of participant? •How will we monitor and verify that scheme participants are delivering the public goods they have signed up to deliver? 	<p>-How will the land management plan work for those that manage common land?</p> <p>-How should existing "favourable" features, already delivering public benefits be rewarded/ supported compared to those areas that need significant restoration (and cost of restoration)?</p> <p>-How can we derive further public benefit from existing habitats and environmental features?</p> <p>-Should enhanced outcomes from existing features derive enhanced payments?</p> <p>-How should enhancements be measured, and payments calculated?</p>
<p>Policy question: Potential participants</p> <p>Who will participate in the ELM scheme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Who are the target participants? •What are the range of possible participants? 	<p>-How should ELMS be developed to support commoners and commons?</p> <p>-Does ELMS need special measures or dispensations to properly include and support commons?</p>
<p>Policy question: National objectives and local priorities</p> <p>Is there a role for local prioritisation of public goods?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How do local priorities work within a national framework for the delivery of public goods? •How do we encourage and incentivise collaboration for the delivery of public goods? 	<p>-How do we value the added value (cultural value included) of collaboration? What incentive is required?</p>

We have chosen to tackle the answering of these policy questions and meet the objectives for our Test and Trial through the development of a 'Commons delivery model': a concise, replicable prototype focused on the steps required to prepare for ELM. This includes the development of a Commons Management Plan, through the use of practical guidance contained in an online Commons 'toolkit'.

As the T and T has progressed we have added in responses to relevant ‘Phase 2’ policy questions. Including:

<p>Land Management Plans What are the important components to include in an LMP? In what way, if at all, have land manager attitudes, behaviours or practices changed as a result of preparing LMPs? What types of information, knowledge or skills have been applied to develop an LMP? What tools and mechanisms are used to produce LMPs (e.g., data format, stakeholders involved)?</p> <p>Collaboration What types of collaborative activities are most effective for engaging land managers? In what ways, if at all, have collaborative activities fostered change in attitudes, behaviours, and practices?</p> <p>Advice and guidance How, if at all, has advice and guidance been provided and by whom? In what ways has advice, facilitation and/or guidance supported T&Ts to achieve their objectives? In what contexts, for whom and in what circumstances?</p>
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1.2 Methodology

Our T and T has been built on six case study Commons around England. The table below provides an overview.

	Location	Size (Ha)	Ownership	Primary land use
Common 1	Cumbria	2021	National Trust	Sheep
Common 2	Devon - Dartmoor	1118	Duchy of Cornwall / MoD	Cattle, sheep, ponies
Common 3	Gloucestershire	354	National Trust	Cattle, sheep, horses, recreation
Common 4	Yorkshire	1724	Private landowner	Sheep, sporting
Common 5	Devon - Exmoor	1380	Private landowner	Sheep, cattle, ponies
Common 6	New Forest	29000	Crown land	Ponies, cattle, recreation

We have employed a local facilitator on short contract in each of these areas, to lead engagement activities and complete research to develop, test and trial the commons delivery model.

Our T and T team is made up of these local facilitators, a lead coordinating facilitator, advisers from the Foundation for Common Land and Federation of Cumbria Commoners and an Assistant Facilitator proving project support. The total number of days contracted for the project team equates to less than one the hours of one Full Time Equivalent employee.

The T and T has been split into two phases – Phase 1 worked with four commons (1-4 in the table above) and focused on jointly designing and initially testing a delivery model including

a draft Commons Toolkit with advice and guidance and a Management Plan. Phase two trialled and refined the model working with two more commons as well as consulting with a wider range of stakeholders to look at specific sections of the delivery model.

The methodology in our original project proposal was designed to reflect the collaborative nature of commons management and focused on participatory engagement - semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions.

Covid 19 led to these methods being adapted to fit with changing restrictions. More 'one to one' interviews, online workshops, and discussions were included. For the first 12 months of the T and T, a small number of in person group discussions took place but were limited. Since July 2021 we have undertaken more participatory engagement. Our original intention of focusing on primarily in person, collaborative sessions with our stakeholders has not been fully achieved, but we have been pleased with our additional 'reach' and engagement levels through online events and workshops.

A mix of semi- structured interviews and focus groups has enabled us to work collaboratively with approximately 270 stakeholders.

This participatory engagement has been supported by regular updates and workshops online. This has included delivering four webinars to report on progress and invite feedback from a wide audience, involving over 1200 occurrences of people attending or viewing them after the event.

1.3 Results

Our findings since the project got underway in July 2020 have been building a picture of the important issues for engaging Commons in ELM. We've also been developing and testing tools and guidance that can be used to support commons to be 'ELM ready' through our delivery model.

In summary, in relation to the Policy questions, results have highlighted the following points

Policy Questions (summarised)	
Land Management Plans / design approaches	
How will scheme participants plan and record what public goods to deliver?	Draw on available data, use a checklist to identify main public goods and commission help to fill any gaps in information. Map public goods selecting a mapping tool that's accessible and usable for the common with the expertise available
What's important to include in a Land Management plan?	Governance arrangements, public goods overview, priorities, 'Where are we now? Where do we want to get to?' Management actions to get there
What information and skills are needed to develop a Land Management Plan?	Local knowledge and expertise are the starting point for developing the Land Management Plan, complemented by good facilitation and specific 'expert' advice where needed.
Participants	
Who will participate in ELM?	A broad range of stakeholders have interests in/ influences on commons. Commoners, their associations and landowners are core to participation
How should ELM be developed to support commons?	Commons have a wide range of characteristics, and solutions are needed that are accessible and relevant to each one's own situation.

Collaboration	
What types of collaboration are most effective?	Face-to-face participatory engagement promotes debate and discussion and helps stakeholders to reach consensus. Online webinars etc have helped to reach a wider audience and highlight key issues
Advice and Guidance	
How has advice and guidance been provided, and by whom?	A mix of online 'do it yourself' and expert guidance has been tested. It's likely that at least some 'expert' guidance will be required in areas such as habitat condition assessment
In what way has advice, guidance and facilitation supported the T and T to achieve its objectives?	Facilitation has underpinned our T and T and has highlighted the importance of independent facilitation and people skills to support collaboration and inclusion of key stakeholders on the common – to both set up and then deliver a scheme

1.4 Conclusions

Our conclusions for this T&T are for ELM generally and apply to all schemes – we didn't try to separate into the three different schemes that have been developing throughout the period of the T and T and consider the principles / tools that we've developed and tested would be useful across all three.

Commons Require Upfront investment to be ELM ready - from data collection on environmental assets to up to date information on property rights and development of governance mechanisms –a range of a few thousand pounds to tens of thousands. Whatever the situation of the common this will be needed and is significant. We've set out a number of 'cost scenarios' on page 45 of this report.

Facilitation is Essential for Multi-Partite Agreements such as Commons – it is likely to be needed for the majority of commons looking towards new schemes. Based on their discussions through the T and T our facilitators observed that only a small number of highly experienced Association secretaries/ chairs would be confident / willing to lead an application themselves. Our recent workshops have corroborated this conclusion. Facilitation has underpinned the processes we've tested for helping a common to prepare for ELM. We've concluded that it should be key, not just at the start of the process but for delivery of the agreement too.

Public Goods Outcomes will improve with Advice and Guidance – we've tested a mix of online / do it yourself guidance and commissioning specialist advice to fill gaps. Feedback has suggested that needs will vary from common to common and be dependent on skills and experience, but commons are likely to need a mix of both, which will require funding. (£2.50 – 3.50 / ha for a vegetation survey for example) All the commons that we worked on highlighted categories of public goods that they would like to understand better. Page 14 discusses advice and guidance related to identifying and assessing public goods and page 24 introduces the online Commons Toolkit that we've developed.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

2.1 Commons in England

In March 2020 the Foundation for Common Land (FCL) and Federation of Cumbria Commoners were awarded a contract with DEFRA to undertake a T and T focused on designing and developing a delivery model for ELM on commons.

About 3% of the land area of England is common land (almost 400,000 hectares). Of this, 88% carries one or more national statutory designations — National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or scheduled ancient monument.

Commons provide a multitude of public benefits as well as being a key grazing resource for around 4000 farming businesses who exercise their rights of common. They are also important in serving a range of interests for their owners. This may include water companies, conservation charities, grouse moors and private estates.

2.2 Commons stakeholders

The nature of commons means that a range of stakeholders interests and influences are played out when making plans and decisions about the management of the common.

For example, the stakeholder analysis completed on our case study common in the Cotswolds identified 30+ organisations and individuals with an interest in / influence on a relatively small common (see page 12). On larger commons the number of graziers alone can be well above this. (The New Forest, for example has over 700 rights holders).

The issue of supporting stakeholders to work and plan together for the common has been highlighted in our engagement work. 81% of the respondents to a short survey in March 2022 identified 'getting agreement across all parties' as one of the biggest challenges to managing commons (see page 20 for more information). Stakeholders have diverse interests, power and influence in the management of the common. It is important to clarify those who have the power or ability to advance or block the delivery of ELM on commons and they must be fully engaged with. While there are others who may be interested but have little direct involvement in ongoing delivery.

2.3 Test and Trial logistics

The T and T has been split into two phases – Phase 1 (to June 2021) focused on jointly designing and initially testing the delivery model. Phase two trialled and refined this model. The project design has been adapted to fit with Covid restrictions and rules, with a much higher use of on online engagement tools than was originally envisaged.

The delivery model encompasses a commons toolkit (including baseline data gathering, mapping public goods, and developing commons management plans) and 'commons proofed' recommendations for ELM to ensure effective delivery on commons. Our focus has been on ensuring that the T and T is well informed by local experience and reflects the range and complexity of issues that the management of commons entails.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview

The Commons T and T has worked with Commoners, Landowners and others who have an interest in / influence on the management of commons. It has drawn on the experience of a range of commons to jointly develop a proposed delivery model for ELM.

Development of the delivery model has been an iterative process that we've expanded and updated as the T and T has progressed. The table below summarises its contents.

Delivery model components – February 2022

'Getting started'

- Facilitator recruitment
- Compiling secondary data
- Completing a stakeholder analysis for the Common
- Reviewing the Common governance structure / management

Understanding public goods

- Identifying public goods on your Common
- Mapping public goods
- Assessing condition of public goods

Preparing a Common Management Plan

- Completing a common management plan
- Looking ahead – how do we want the common to look in 10 years' time?

Web based portal with tools/ guidance accessible and downloadable

3.2 Methods used

Our T and T team is made up of locally contracted facilitators for each T & T common and a T and T coordinating facilitator overseeing day to day project management, supported by advisers from the Foundation for Common Land and Federation of Cumbria Commoners, and an assistant facilitator. This model has proved effective and, we think good value for money. The time allocated to the team in total adds up to less than one FTE member of staff.

We have undertaken qualitative research focusing on semi structured interviews and focus group discussions, with guidance on the principles to adopt for each, including the importance of building rapport, active listening and adopting the principle of 'no wrong answer'.

Local Facilitators each completed a reporting template as well as submitting examples of tools that they had tried and tested on 'their' common.

The T and T has been split into two phases. Phase 1 focused on jointly designing and developing a delivery model including a Commons Toolkit and Management Plan. Phase two has been trialling and refining the delivery model. The tools and guidance that we've developed are available online: [Common Land Toolkit — Foundation for Common Land](#)

A summary of our engagement methods and reach is provided below.

Summary of engagement methods and reach

Phase 1: 1-1 Semi-structured interviews with Commoners, owners and association chairs / secretaries
Reach: 35

Phase 1: Training sessions on mapping tools with facilitators commoners, land agents and commons secretaries
Reach: 25

Phase 1 and 2 Focus group discussions with active and inactive commoners
Reach: 80

Phase 1 and 2 Online discussions with statutory bodies, protected landscape organisations and 3rd sector organisations
Reach: 15

Phase 1 and 2 Regular discussions with RPA staff to discuss accessing Commons maps and data and testing methods for mapping
Reach: 15



Phase 1 and 2: Test and Trial update webinars with chat facility questions and polls
Reach: 659 attendees and 622 youtube views after events

Phase 2: Two in person workshops with Commoners, agents and owners to review 'delivery model' tools and discuss issues for entering schemes
Reach: 90

Phase 2: Two small discussion groups with NE, National Park staff, local facilitators and ecologist to discuss survey methods and mapping
Reach: 10

3.3 Data collection

Selecting commons and facilitators

At the proposal stage of the T and T we had identified the geographical areas to focus on based on established relationships. Once the T and T got underway, we worked with local contacts in the areas to select a specific common. We used a standard set of criteria to ensure we involved a range of characteristics, including size, ownership, governance, land type and designations. (see Appendix for full list)

In each area we advertised through our networks and contacts for a local facilitator to work on a short contract.

Data collection

The table below summarises the data that we collected in order to answer our policy questions.

Policy Questions (summarised)	What data have we gathered on this and how have we gathered it?
Land Management Plans / design approaches	
How will scheme participants plan and record what public goods to deliver?	-6 Case studies -selected commons identifying and mapping public goods on their common through facilitators -Feedback on toolkit components -Webinar questions
What's important to include in a Land Management plan?	-6 Case studies – selected commons highlighting priority Land Management Plan content and completing draft template -Feedback on proposed Land Management Plan template through discussions and facilitators webinar
What information and skills are need to develop a Land Management Plan?	-Case studies – feedback on stakeholder involvement and examples of completed checklists, public goods maps and photo's
Participants	
Who will participate in ELM?	-Completion of stakeholder analysis for case study commons -Data with overview of webinar attendees
How should ELM be developed to support commons?	-Feedback on proposed common delivery model and toolkit -Polls on challenges for commons entering schemes -Webinar questions
Collaboration	
What types of collaboration are most effective?	-Facilitators feedback -Webinar attendance data -Workshop notes and feedback
Advice and Guidance	
How has advice and guidance been provided, and by whom?	-Workshop feedback on commons toolkit -Habitat condition surveys for three case study commons -Feedback on QGIS training
In what way has advice, guidance and facilitation supported the T and T to achieve its objectives?	-Feedback on commons toolkit -Webinar and workshop attendance stats

Our data collection was deliberately qualitative in nature and followed an iterative process. In order to address the policy questions, it focused on:

- Gaining an understanding of the issues and challenges associated with managing Environmental schemes on commons.
- Working with a range of commons displaying a mix of characteristics
- Introducing the concepts associated with ELM (particularly ‘public goods’) and gathering feedback on the principles, language and objectives associated with ELM
- Gathering feedback on the development and testing of tools and guidance to support commons in preparing for ELM

The facilitators took notes as a record of engagement sessions and where possible presented findings back during group sessions, providing summaries of these in progress reports.

The webinars that we held provided a rich source of feedback on a range of topics through questions and chat functions. A full list of these questions collated into categories is available in the Appendix

3.4 Limitations

We recognise that the work we’ve completed has been with a small sample of commons and we took the approach to ‘work with the willing’, meaning our findings are not necessarily representative of all commons in England. At the same time, we aimed to include a good mix of upland and lowland commons, SSSI and non SSSI commons, those with high public access and less visited and with different types of landowners and agricultural use.

The T and T has confirmed a wide and complex range of issues in existence of commons, with an extensive mix of opinions and diversity of stakeholders to draw on. We’ve done our best to ensure that this is reflected in our findings but recognise that the nuances and sensitivities of often complex relationships may not be fully represented.

Our T and T didn’t attempt to work with commons that are not currently functioning or haven’t been in an Environmental scheme in the past. When we initiated the T and T in July 2020 Covid restrictions made it time consuming to establish relationships, particularly with the barriers to face to face conversations. It may have been possible to include some more ‘hard to reach’ groups if this hadn’t been the case.

One of our biggest challenges has been maintaining the momentum of our T and T and associated engagement - keeping people interested, not ‘running out of steam’ and keeping the pace to complete the project within the agreed timescale. This has meant that our two phases were not as clearly defined as we originally anticipated as we regularly changed our plans to adapt to new restrictions and rules.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Progress and learning against T and T themes and questions

The results set out here are structured around the T and T policy questions that we've aimed to address. The tools, guidance and templates that we've tested as part of our delivery model are all accessible in our online toolkit. [Common Land Toolkit — Foundation for Common Land](#)

4.2 Potential participants

Who are the target participants?

What are the range of possible participants?

The nature of commons means that a range of stakeholders interests and influences are played out when making plans and decisions about the management of the common. We provided a checklist with a range of potential participants as a prompt for commons to complete a stakeholder analysis. See Appendix 2

Facilitators on our T and T commons used this with Commoners (through the Chair / secretary of their Association if there was one) and recorded the possible participants to involve in developing a scheme – see example below (page 12) from the Cotswolds.

Completion of this exercise confirmed that the commoners, owner and / or their agent are at the heart of this involvement. Depending on the nature of the common, it's characteristics, uses and designations a wide range of possible participants may also have some involvement.

How should ELMS be developed to support commoners and commons?

Does ELMS need special measures or dispensations to properly include and support commons?

These two questions underpin our whole T and T. Schemes on commons are inherently different to single applicants in terms of property ownership – rights are both split among several parties and bundled by type – a right of common is inherently different to the rights of owners. The starting point for developing ELM on commons therefore needs to start with understanding the roles and rights of different stakeholders and involving them in development of the scheme. This is the approach we've taken through the T and T.

It also makes working out payments to individuals complex. Issues around ensuring fair distribution of payments will be considered in more detail in FCL's next Test and Trial.

ELM does need special measures to support commons to ensure collaboration and fairness as well as recognising the work involved in the ongoing governance and administration of commons.

The particular special measures commons require in order to maximise public goods delivery and value for money are:

1. Binding Dispute Resolution Procedures
 - a. Membership of the Group including new members
 - b. Distribution of Funds and Delivery of Outcomes
 - c. Breaches during the Agreement
2. A Mandated Governance Framework covering:
 - a. Officers / Administrator
 - b. Management of funds
 - c. Administration

d. Decision Making

3. Recognition of the Challenge of Delivering Multiple Public Goods Concurrently

4. Additional Funding required to establish and manage these large scale Multi-Partite Agreements

Completed stakeholder checklist example - Cotswolds

Who has an interest / influence?	Details / contact	How will they be involved in developing an ELM agreement?
Active graziers	6 active graziers identified	Discussion on active grazing
Inactive graziers	Boots plc	Not involved - an inactive partner
Landowner/s	National Trust Manager	Discussion on contingency planning
Landowners agent / representative	National trust manager, surveyor and site ranger	Discussion on contingency planning and management funding for the commons
Commoners Association/ Council	Two Commons association secretaries and two chairs	Discussion, key partners of the commoners
Natural England	NE representative	Habitat restoration and creation supported by NE
Environment Agency	Local EA manager	Water quality areas – ie farming rules for water
Historic England	Two officers from HE	Areas that need restoration or action to preserve
Wildlife Trust	WT staff - Land adjoining the common	Species on the common that should be targeted , not already covered by local ecologist
British Trust for Ornithology	BTO contact	Bird records for the commons using BBS reports to inform of rarities and management options
Stroud District Council	District council rep	Discussion about funding work on the commons, rights to graze and funding to maintain public goods features.
Stroud Valleys project	Project contact	Raises funds and carries out surveys for the commons as well as organizing volunteers to scrub management and grazing.
AONB – Cotswolds Conservation Board	AONB manager	Preserving the landscape character
Recreational users	Minchinhampton Golfers – Giffords Circus- Kite flyers	
Parish Councils	Parish Council members	Strategic planning and additional funding
Local Nature Partnership	LNP rep	Funding opportunities
National Trust Advisory group	Commons advisory committee and Parish Council / Local community reps	¼ ly meetings to help drive funding for the commons
Stroud Nature Forum	Nature festival organiser	Run the nature festival
Ecologist	Consultant ecologist	Key ecologist helping with the grazing plan and restoration of Large Blue and Duke of Burgundy
Rep from the ‘Scrubbers’ Organised by NT	NT contact for volunteer group	Discussion, meetings and scrub management details

Involvement in our T and T

With the focus of our T and T being on a relatively smaller number of selected commons were keen to complement our engagement with a wider audience – to share our findings and issues as we progressed and gather feedback.

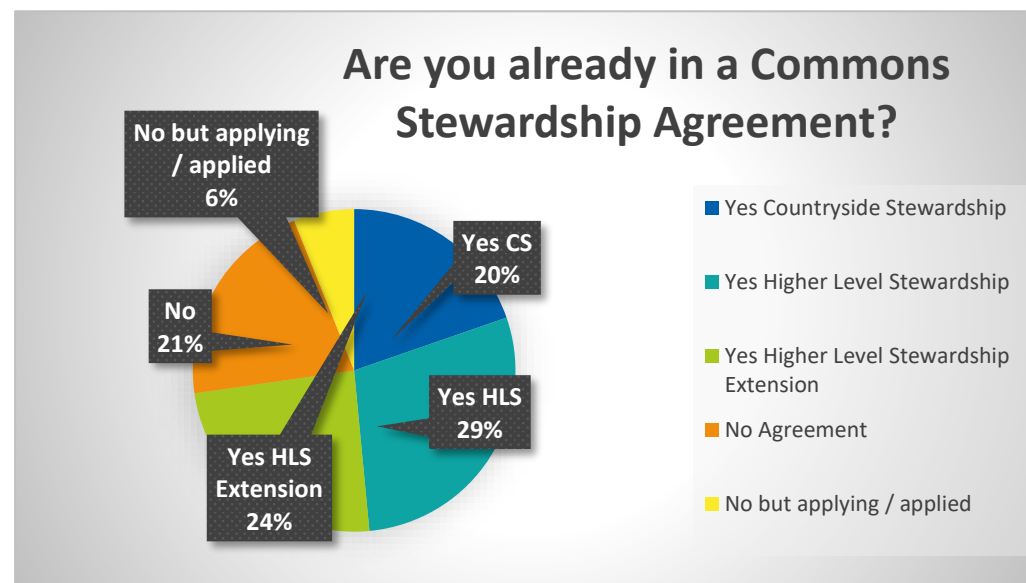
We extended an open invitation to our four ‘public’ webinars. Polls completed at these events revealed the following overall breakdown of participants. (Chart 1 below)

At our webinar in September we asked participants to indicate whether there Common was currently in a scheme, with the results shown below. (Chart 2) Over three quarters of the respondents indicated that they were, suggesting that we were reaching an audience already pretty familiar with the process of applying for and being involved in an environmental scheme.

Chart 1 – overview of webinar attendees (554 responses)



Chart 2 – % of respondents involved in stewardship agreements (65 responses)



4.3 Land Management Plans and design approaches

What mechanism will scheme participants use to plan and record which public goods they will deliver?

On each common the local facilitator started out by collating the information already available related to the common. Their local knowledge and contacts were key to sourcing data. They all observed that a wide range of data sets tend to be available relating to certain (mainly habitats and wildlife) public goods on commons. Much of this data is collected in different formats and over different land areas. This varies between commons and doesn't follow a set pattern. Data is not necessarily accessible to commoners/ landowners.

North York Moors available data (from North York Moors local facilitator notes)

- Natural England Maps:
 - Map showing heft areas, foddering sites and management units
 - Land within the burning rotation
 - Land outside the burning rotation
- The FEP map for the common when it entered HLS -
- Phase 1 habitat mapping using NVC data
- National Park Authority moorland wader survey
- County Biodiversity Records - Bioblitz data on amphibians
- SHINE data on archaeological surveys
- Yorkshire Peat Partnership - Peat survey maps
- Yorkshire Peat Partnership historic environment survey and palaeoenvironmental assessment by Solstice Heritage
- SSI and priority habitat maps
- National Park Authority Historic Environment Record

“People very helpful regarding sharing their information. Difficulty is having the information in so many different places and formats”
(Dartmoor local facilitator)

We tested out a ‘public goods checklist’ (see Appendix) to kick off the process of identifying and recording public goods. Most of the commons that we worked with had heard the term ‘public goods’ but weren't familiar with what the detail of different categories of public goods or how they applied on their common. The majority of Commoners who used the guidance note affirmed that it gave them better understanding of public goods on their common. Some tweaks were suggested to take into account local variations.

Following on from this, each common had a go at mapping the public goods on their common – we looked at a range of mapping options.

Will we require a combination of approaches depending on the public good or type of participant?

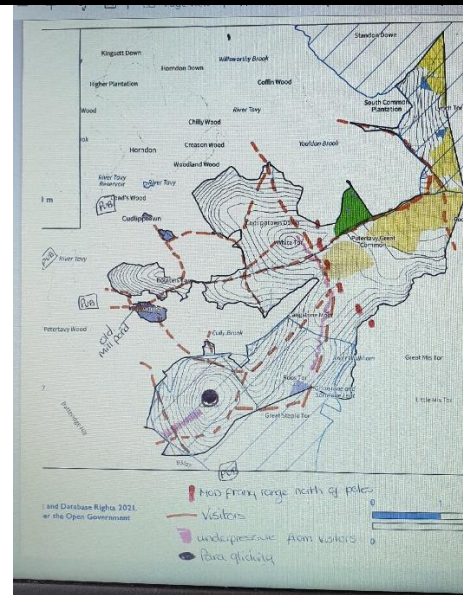
We identified public goods maps as an important component of our Commons delivery model at the outset of the T and T and took an iterative approach to working through different options for mapping.

Initial support was provided by Ordnance Survey preparing hard copy maps showing the common boundary and priority habitats. These proved useful for our group discussions in Phase 1 and were developed by three of the Commons. (The 4th Common in Phase 1 already had very detailed maps). Below is an example from our case study Common on Dartmoor. Maps were completed with notes to accompany each one - highlighting different public goods and potential for delivery.

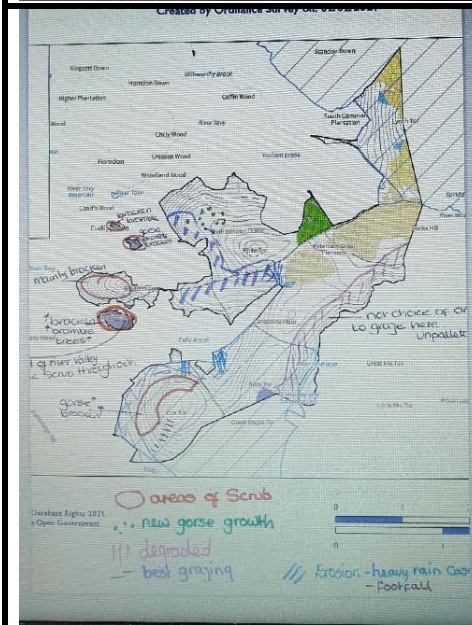
Mapping public goods – using OS maps and annotating / recording notes



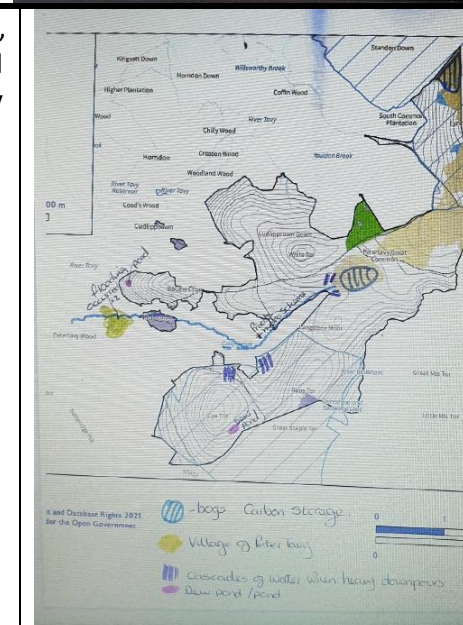
Grazing map showing hefts. Areas of over /undergrazing discussed by Commoners and issues with ponies encroaching from other commons. Constant movement of stock, especially in relation to MoD firing range.



Landscape and Visitors Common valued for cycling, running, walking. Paragliding, birdwatching, swimming wildlife, history, mindfulness and used for farming / commoning, increasing number of events, Ten Tors, and MoD (regular use for training) Fantastic views, vast history and archaeological remains. Commons related events and traditions include 'beat the bounds' every 7 years. Heritage of Commoning.



Vegetation Areas of scrub: - bracken, bramble, gorse increased in area and density over last 20 years, (especially last 7 or 8) Boultor's Tor dominated by bracken – problem with ticks. No areas of tree planting only natural regeneration. Large areas of mollinia grass, unpalatable for grazing and high fire risk.



Water and carbon Two areas identified with potential for carbon storage. Colly brook in Dartmoor Natural Flood Management scheme. 2 episodes of flooding further down catchment in 30 years

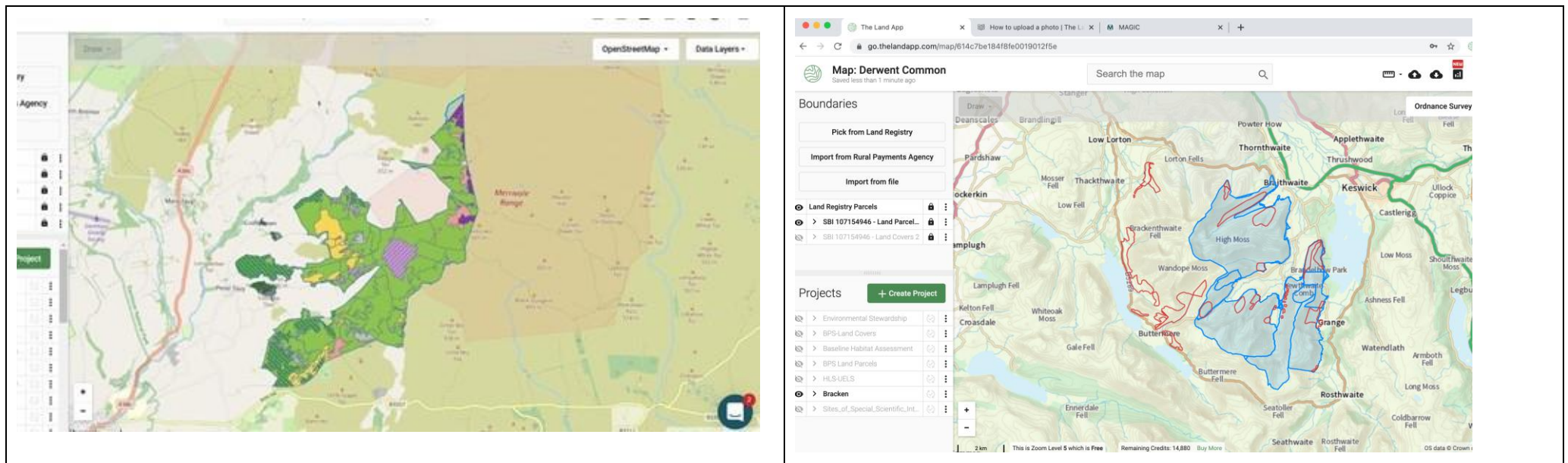
Transferring the information from hard copy maps into a digital format was our next challenge. Following discussions with facilitators and other stakeholders we decided to try LandApp because it's free to use and easy to share information with several users, as well as being web based so no need to download specific software etc.

We have worked closely with the RPA to explore opportunities for enabling the extraction of land parcel data to assist commons associations to develop base line maps, build up layers of existing data sets and add in new primary data.

The RPA imported a range of data layers into Land App for three of our Phase 1 ommons along with three further commons, in particular they focused on the field parcels and land covers which are currently not available for commons either on the RPA's land viewer or via Defra's Public Shared Database.

We have trialled a more automatic process of using the download via SBI feature on the Land App with several commons and are delighted with the results. This also enabled us to produce reports from within the Land App at a nominal cost. The Dartmoor example below shows the layer that we added from a commissioned habitat survey. Next to that is an example of RPA Land parcels downloaded into LandApp

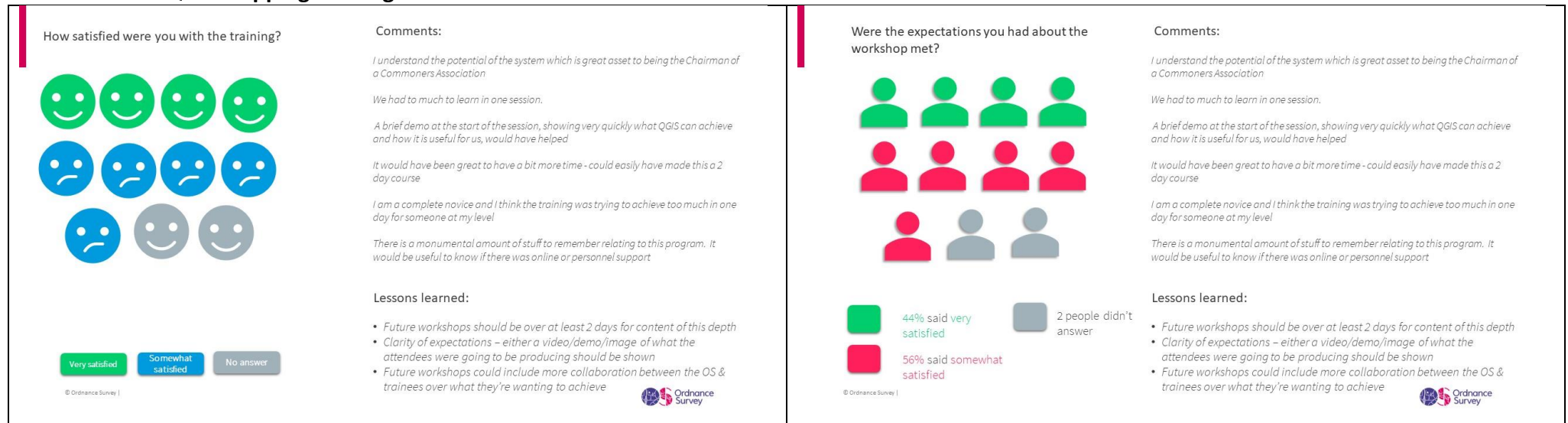
1. Land App layer showing Habitat Condition assessment on Dartmoor 2. RPA Land Parcels: Download by clicking "Import from Rural Payments Agency"



QGIS

We also tried QGIS and held two training sessions hosted by Ordnance Survey with mixed reviews. One of these took place in Dartmoor and the other in Cumbria – each consisting of a one day. For a home laptop participants commented that the system was often quite slow once all data layers downloaded although good from the point of view of being free to access. Comments were also made that while QGIS has enhanced functionality this makes it more complicated to use the Land App. We had 14 attendees and 11 responded to our feedback form. See below for examples of feedback:

Feedback from QGIS mapping training



“H&H Land agents undertook an ecological baseline survey of the common. Commoners have been very positive about the process. Several of the commoners suggested that more information and opportunities to learn about identifying birds, plant, habitats in greater detail and how to record them would be useful”

As part of the process of identifying public goods our commons highlighted areas where they wanted to gain a better understanding of the condition of public goods. Habitat condition, potential for carbon sequestration and water quality were all highlighted, with habitat condition being identified on three of the 4 Phase 1 Commons. We commissioned three surveys to look at this with reports and maps produced for each one. (See example report and map in Appendix). The ecologist we worked with shared his feedback with each Common,

How will we monitor and verify that scheme participants are delivering the public goods they have signed up to deliver?

In our discussions on the contents of a Land Management Plan we considered monitoring arrangements (see below) We proposed an annual review on progress with key stakeholders involved. Overall feedback on this approach was positive.

Within the Land Management Plan policy questions, some more specific aspects of Land Management Plan design were posed.

How will the land management plan work for those that manage common land?

We discussed the land management plan's role as a 'working document' for the common that should be reviewed and updated regularly. There was agreement that this should be used as a tool for discussion with key stakeholders. Alongside this some Commoners expressed frustration that the delivery of current HLS agreements on their commons had not been reviewed or discussed regularly, particularly with Natural England.

How should existing "favourable" features, already delivering public benefits be rewarded/ supported compared to those areas that need significant restoration (and cost of restoration)?

In Phase 2 of the T and T we had discussions to guide ideas around Management Plan contents under the headings 'Keep, Improve, Stop and Start) There was consensus across the four workshops that we held that payments for maintaining current good quality were as important as 'improvements'. This issue was also raised through our webinar questions. For example:

Are you only seeking public money for new / improved public goods or are you looking to access funding which would recognise a site with existing excellence? (webinar question June 2021)

How can we derive further public benefit from existing habitats and environmental features?

The format that we've proposed for the Commons Management Plan provides space to detail management actions that contribute benefits / improvements to more than one type of public good, therefore ensuring they are fully valued.

Should enhanced outcomes from existing features derive enhanced payments?

We didn't address this point in detail but would consider regular monitoring as the key to identifying 'enhanced outcomes'.

How should enhancements be measured, and payments calculated?

The detail of calculating payments was not covered in our discussions, though we did get some feedback on issues related to monitoring and evidence.

'A payment for maintaining permanent grassland, re: good soil condition and carbon storage, should be paid for under ELM, not just expect farmers to achieve low input grassland targets etc. How 'good' soils and grassland is evidenced will be interesting'

4.4 National objectives and local priorities

Is there a role for local prioritisation of public goods?

•How do local priorities work within a national framework for the delivery of public goods?

For Commons that are located in a Protected Landscape National Park Management Plans / AONB Management Plans will provide some framework for prioritising public goods. There should also be a role for commons to contribute to the delivery of Local Nature Recovery strategies if the outcomes support the continuation of sustainable commoning. Commoners and farmers should be included in the development of LNRS and their local experience taken into account.

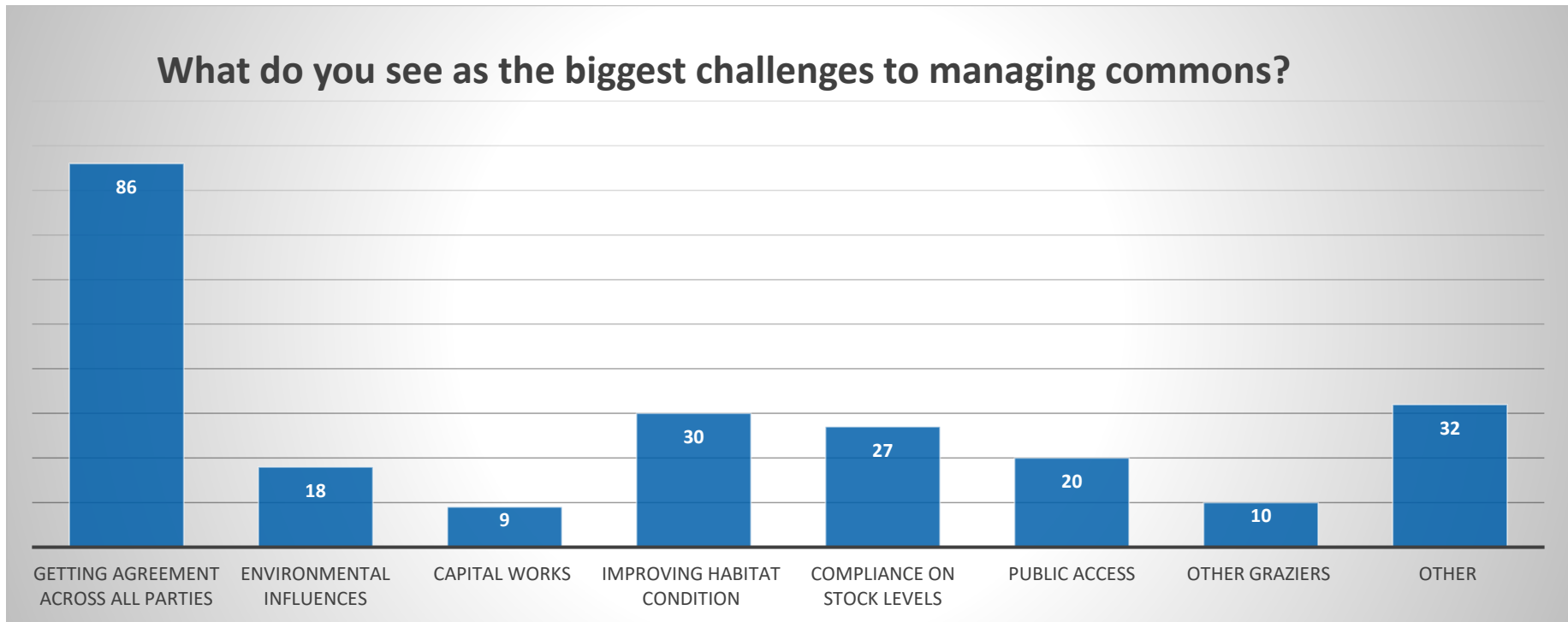
What about Commons / other large areas of moorland that are SSSI/SPA/SAC designation but don't happen to lie within a NP or AONB e.g. South Pennines? Apparently some old 'cracks' to fall through 😊

Will the T and T help commoners develop a coordinated approach to mapping and valuing public goods / natural capital on their commons, so it's not apples and oranges from one part of the country to the other?

Outside of protected landscapes, points were highlighted that commons outside National Park or AONB designations maybe 'overlooked'. There was also recognition, that we need to find a way to ensure that public goods are valued in a similar way on a National scale.

How do we encourage and incentivise collaboration for the delivery of public goods?

Working collaboratively is at the heart of successful land management on Commons – as well as being the most challenging aspect. When we asked webinar attendees what the biggest challenges are to managing commons, ‘getting agreement’ from all parties’ was identified by 86% of the respondents: (Source: mailchimp survey question to webinar attendees March 2022. 100 responses)



The processes and tools that we’ve developed in our Commons toolkit recognise this. They recommend independent facilitation, work to ensure Commons Associations and governance are in order and development of a Common Management Plan that is clear on who is going to be delivering what.

**How do we value the added value (cultural value included) of collaboration?
What incentive is required?**

On all our case study commons collaboration and the cultural of Commoning have been identified as valuable. With it's heritage, traditions and land management practices, commoning was recorded as an important public good.

On all our case study commons collaboration and the cultural value of Commoning have been identified as valuable. Commoners view commoning with its heritage of centuries old, traditions and land management practices, as an important public good.

For example, in the Dartmoor draft Common Management Plan the following description was included:

Cultural Heritage - Farmers have been grazing livestock on Dartmoor for over 800 years. Common rights were legally determined in 1217 by the Charter of the Forest. At least 6 of the farming families, who are still actively grazing the Common, have been farming at Peter Tavy for 150 to 350+ years using their common rights as an integral part of their farming enterprise. Twist Farm is entered in the Domesday book as having a venville right to pasture cattle and sheep on the moor. A culture that, it can be argued, created and preserved the historic environment and landscape through its distinct management techniques, skills, and practices.

Recognising the traditions of commoning and related land management practices in Management Plans is one way of valuing this collaboration. Support to ensure good Governance and facilitation should also provide the incentive to ensure this is properly valued. This could include

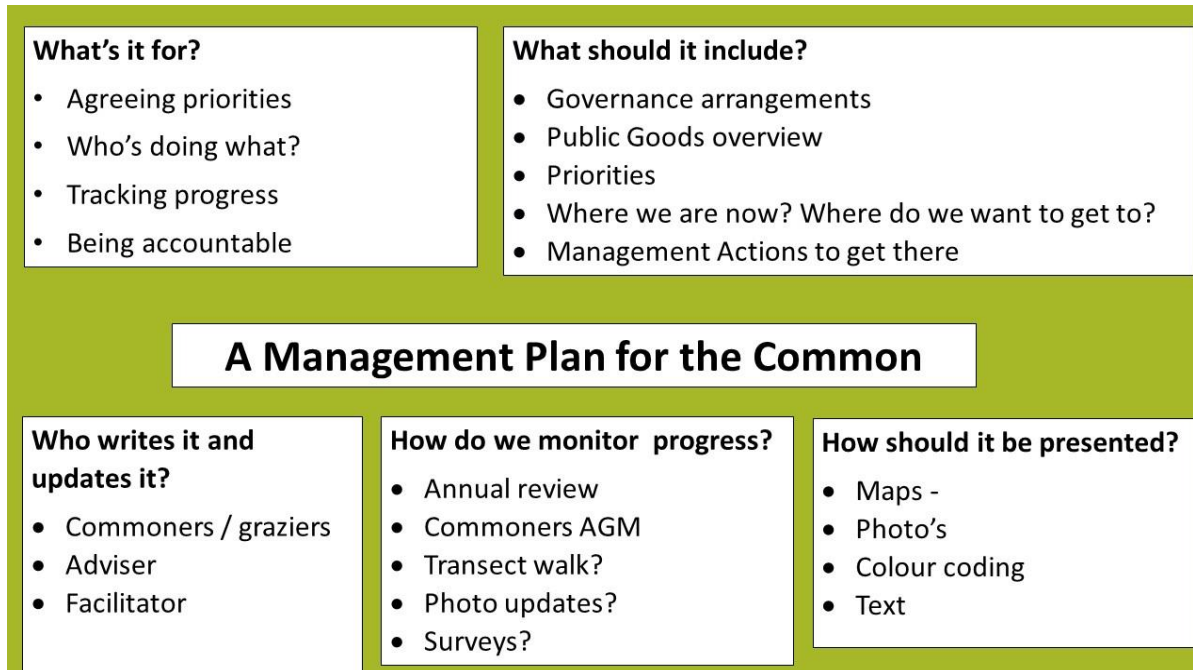
- Mandatory Rules
- Best Practice Guidance
- Training
- Monitoring
- Funding for Facilitation

In our 'wrap up' workshops in early 2022 we asked attendees about Governance – most said that they had an Association, but approximately half stated that they were not functioning well or had issues related to collaboration.

4.5 Land Management Plans

What are the important components to include in an LMP?

We discussed the following overview in a webinar focusing on Land Management Plans with our Phase 1 Commons in June 2021, with a general consensus that this would be a good starting point for drafting a Common Management Plan



Through discussion with the case study commons and workshop sessions providing participant feedback we then pinned down more detail and agreed the content should include

Narrative

- Overview of Governance arrangements
- Priorities for the Commons
- Description of public goods
- Where are we now? Where do we want to get to?
- Management actions

Maps

- Vegetation surveys
- Cultural heritage including hefting plans
- Public usage and areas of high use
- Soil surveys including peat depth and condition
- Historic environment

In what way, if at all, have land manager attitudes, behaviours or practices changed as a result of preparing LMPs?

T and T engagement has revealed Commoners and owners of commons beginning to recognise the importance of having good quality data to enable them to make informed choices regarding ELM schemes. As their understanding and interest in public goods developed, they have also identified gaps in knowledge and data related to public goods. This has included:

- Carbon potential of soils
- Water quality
- Natural Flood Management
- Habitat condition

“We need better data regarding the sequestration of carbon on grassland” (webinar participant September 2021)

In terms of attitudes, workshop discussions highlighted concerns about the amount of work required to prepare a Land Management Plan, whether it would be ‘worth it’, and the potential costs associated with it.

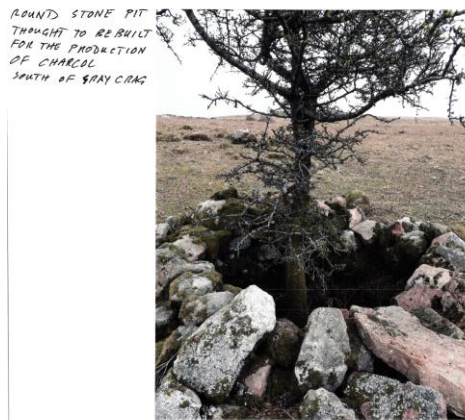
“The question I’d have – is doing all this work beforehand actually going to be worth it? (Common Association secretary, Sedbergh 1st March)

“My worry is that this will just end up being an exercise where we have to pay a load of consultants” (Commoner, Helmsley 10th February)

What types of information, knowledge or skills have been applied to develop an LMP?

Commoners contributed their local knowledge and experience of the land, it’s current management and heritage. They took photo’s, annotated maps and identified sources of information: surveys, reports and details of previous agreements. Their knowledge of current and previous land management techniques, history and heritage of the common tended to be detailed and comprehensive. In the Lake District, for example the chair of the Common Association took and submitted detailed photo’s of heritage features on the common (see below).

We noted that land agents and agency staff were more comfortable with the provided technical concepts of priority habitats, water management and archaeological data.



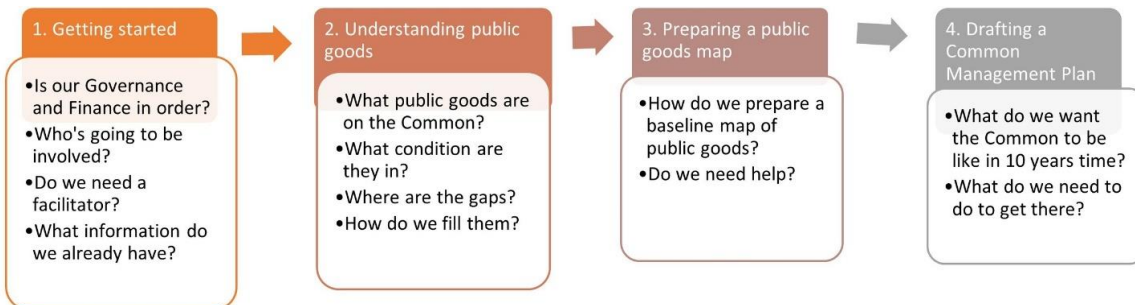
SHELTER APPARENTLY BUILT TO KEEP WATCH FOR THE MIND DOG
OF ENNERDALE! SITUATED NEAR LONG CRAG.
EXAMPLE]



What tools and mechanisms are used to produce LMPs (e.g., data format, stakeholders involved)?

The templates and guidance in our Commons toolkit set out a step by step process to producing a Land Management Plan. With a series of preparatory steps to complete first. From a stakeholder perspective our main focus was working with Commoners to develop the Plan. The T and T local facilitators played a pivotal role in supporting the process We also commissioned some help with habitat surveys and mapping training. We recognise that, as decisions are being made about specific management actions in the Plan discussion with (at a minimum) the land owner and Natural England would need to take place. This should be addressed in our next T and T.

Steps towards completing a Common Management Plan (see online toolkit for more detail)



Each common would need to decide on the tools appropriate to them for mapping public goods and the narrative to accompany these maps recorded in a simple table that could be reviewed and updated as needed. Example from Dartmoor in the Appendix

4.6 Collaboration

What types of collaborative activities are most effective for engaging land managers?

In what ways, if at all, have collaborative activities fostered change in attitudes, behaviours, and practices?

Our experience through our T and T engagement activities highlighted Face to face meetings on site with small numbers of Commoners / graziers as highly effective. 'Walkovers' on areas of the common looking at issues 'on the ground' also generated substantial discussions.

Working with local facilitators providing trusted relationships to build on through the T and T helped to instigate engagement activities efficiently, especially when we were unable to travel and meet in person. Covid required us to adapt methods for collaboration to use online technology much more and this became more normal as it was being widely used.

To accompany this, we also tried sending out a link to the online toolkit and inviting written people from a group of people who'd expressed an interest. This didn't generate much information and we concluded, facilitated discussions were more productive and engaging.

4.7 Advice and Guidance

How, if at all, has advice and guidance been provided and by whom?

This wasn't a core focus of our T and T initially but has become an integral part of it through:

- advice and guidance provided to commoners through the support of local facilitators, '
- Commissioned 'experts' provided A&G to commoners on issues such as habitat surveys, mapping techniques and legal advice (Land Estate Agent, Legal Adviser)
- Co- development of and online toolkit with a wide range of 'do it yourself' guidance including downloadable checklists, templates, and advisory documents to help commons prepare for ELM

In what ways has advice, facilitation and/or guidance supported T&Ts to achieve their objectives? In what contexts, for whom and in what circumstances?

Facilitation has underpinned our whole Test & Trial. The project facilitator provides the overview, sharing learning and updates across the project, and local facilitators with relevant knowledge and trusted reputations were key to individual commons engagement.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Our conclusions for this T&T are for ELM generally and apply to all schemes – due to the tight work plan and resources it was not appropriate to adapt our activities with emerging policy developments. Having completed our work we have reviewed the evidence collected in the light of Defra’s ELM proposals and consider the principles and tools that we’ve developed and tested would be useful across all three ELM schemes.

1. Commons require upfront investment to prepare for an ELM Agreement.

This investment is required for a range of inputs and costs from a few thousand to tens of thousands of pounds. On the commons that we’ve worked with in the T and T we estimated costs of between £3,000 and £20,000. (see Appendix for example scenarios) This could be much higher if a common hasn’t been in a scheme in recent years and / or doesn’t have a functioning Governance structure or much available data. The upfront investment is required to:

- Undertake and/or build on previous assessment of the extent and condition of public goods, including wildlife and habitats, Water Features, Public Access, Carbon Storage / Peatland and Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Collect, collate and clearly present good quality data on public goods as a baseline for the agreement. The practicalities of this need to be understood and consensus reached on who’s going to be responsible for data collection
- Identify capital works and management actions to enhance and maintain public goods, e.g., peat restoration, tree planting, fencing
- Identify all those with a legal interest in the Common - Landowner, Active and inactive Graziers and agree on a shared understanding of their rights (i.e create a live register)
- Review Governance structure, the group’s constitution and financial mechanisms
- Create a shared vision for the future of their common

Whatever the situation of the common this will be needed and is significant to ensure that ELM monies will be well spent.

Following on from this investment, the costs associated with ongoing management of the agreement and ensuring it is being governed and administered well to deliver at scale should be built in.

2. Independent facilitation is essential for Multi-Partite Agreements such as Commons

a. Setting up the Agreement

Independent Facilitation we have concluded should be a requirement for all commons with more than two parties, i.e., the vast majority of commons. The reason is that each commoner and owner has their own legal and commercial interests and is therefore conflicted in facilitating an agreement. Also, there are often unequal balances of powers between parties and no one party should be able to hold the other parties to ransom and prevent a scheme proceeding.

Based on our experience through the T and T only a small number of highly experienced Association secretaries/ chairs would be confident to lead an application themselves. Facilitation includes

- the development and implementation of a Governance framework, responsibilities, roles, rules, and procedures.
- agreement on how the obligations under the ELM agreement will be delivered both:
 - agreement on how the funds will be distributed, accounted for, and audited
 - agreement on how breaches in obligations will be remedied and or penalised.

b. During the Life of the Agreement

The delivery of public goods is dependent on actions during the life of the agreement; setting up the agreement while it can take 6-18 months is the end of the beginning. Too often substantial effort is put into signing up and not enough on delivery. This too often means delivery of public goods is less than could be with more effective ongoing management.

Therefore as during the setting up stage the various parties benefiting from the agreement have their own interests and therefore ongoing independent administration is recommended to ensure optimal use of public funds to deliver the purposes of the agreement.

To ensure the stated outcomes are delivered active collective management is required including; ongoing monitoring and evaluation of outcomes, compliance monitoring, changes in membership and obligations, management of capital works and distribution of funds and stocking requirements. This costs money and therefore a commons supplement as in UX1 and SP10 is required though what is eligible for expenditure should be clarified – draft guidance has previously been developed by Natural England and the Foundation for Common Land.

3. Public Goods Outcomes will improve with Advice and guidance –

We've tested a mix of online / do it yourself guidance and commissioning specialist advice to fill gaps in knowledge and expertise. Our experience has highlighted that requirements will vary from common to common, depending on local skills and experience but it's likely that a mix of both will be needed.

Commoners' local knowledge of wildlife, current and previous land management techniques, history and heritage of the common tended to be detailed and comprehensive. But the concept of 'public goods' was still brand new for the majority of the Commoners we worked with.

What was clear from our T and T is that commoners and the owners of common land in most cases do not understand the full breadth and extent of public goods on their common. They often were keen to know more but require expert advice. Some examples where they identified gaps in their knowledge included carbon sequestration and soils, water quality, natural flood management and habitat condition.

Our work on mapping was another area where a need for advice and guidance was identified. In some cases Commoners were willing to 'have a go' with mapping software to record public goods, in others they were less so. Whichever the case training and advice on mapping is likely to be required.

If people are not able to identify, assess and map their assets, then they cannot secure or improve the condition of these assets. None of us know what we don't know and the best way this gap can be secured to help reverse the erosion of public goods is via on the ground bespoke advice.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Criteria for selection Commons

Criteria		
Management		Number of rights holders
Boards of conservators		Large (>25)
Local Authority,		Medium (10-25)
'Ancient' management systems		Small (<10)
Voluntary Commoners Association		Common Rights
Federation of Commoners Association		Sheep
Commons Council		Cattle
Designations		Ponies
SSSI		Other actively used rights
National Park		Non-Active rights holders
AONB		Other interests active on the Common
Other (E.g. European designations)		Recreation
Land Type		Minerals
Upland		Sporting
Lowland		MOD/Defence
Forest		Catchment Management
Coast		Other
Urban Fringe		Current Schemes
Land Ownership		Not in an active scheme
Private landowners		Basic Payment Scheme
National trust		Higher Level Scheme
Local Authority		Countryside Stewardship
Utility Company		Other grant funded projects (e.g. HLF)
Number of owners		
Scale		
Large (>1000ha)		
Medium (100 – 999 ha)		
Small (<100 ha)		

Appendix 2 Collation of webinar questions

Questions / issues raised through webinars

Current schemes and ELM

1. **If a common is already in a CS scheme etc will there be any huge bureaucratic cost to move to a similar scheme in ELM**
2. So did HLS/UELS overvalue commons and payment rates were too high (or was it ahead of its time) or is CS and SFI looking for something on the cheap and using a something for little or nothing approach?
3. Am I right in thinking that the rate of the Euro will not impact on the conversion rate for BPS value - at what rate is it fixed - this year?
4. Having to pay for the capital work upfront and then claim the money back can be difficult to finance for commoners. Will this process change with ELMS?
5. It would seem that very few people have received their HLS, CS payments, is there any news on why and have any people on here been paid
6. Low-input grassland option under CS is very difficult to achieve in the New Forest and thus is off putting for many. When you only have a few acres and need to cut silage or need the fields for grazing livestock at certain times, you cannot meet the low-input prescriptions.
7. Not sure if I've missed something but, if the ELM Schemes choices will, in time, be:
 - a. - SFI
 - b. - Local Nature Recovery
 - c. - Farming in Protected Landscapes
 - d. BUT I'm a Common outside of a NP or AONB then will my only route for funding really 'just' be SFI?
8. What about Commons/other large areas of moorland that are SSSI/SPA/SAC-designated but don't happen to lie within a NP or AONB e.g. South Pennines? Apparently same old 'cracks' for us to fall through :-)
9. There should be equal focus within the SFI for Landscape maintenance and Nature Maintenance, rather than the focus on Recovery, rewarding current good practice.

Governance, rights and Commons Associations

10. The owners of the commons sometimes are reluctant to sign the internal agreement and we are concerned about the ownership of the carbon and therefore further reluctance possibly to sign up do you have any views on this at all?
11. Is there any flexibility with grants such as facilitation fund that could be available to support the Chair of the Association and facilitation activities of the association as its a challenging job?
12. If the internal agreement specifies Doing what you need to have a mechanism to vary this without having to prepare a new deed every time
13. Julia made the case to maintain transparency when developing an agreement. Is there any planning for public transparency once agreements are in place? Will agreements and their monitoring be readily available, (perhaps in one place for commons agreements). High transparency seems vital to the effective governance of "public money for public goods" on commons
14. What will prevent commons owners holding graziers hostage over the signing of an agreement?
15. Agree with Viv, the **biggest issue with commons is the fair distribution of the money, the current schemes have caused lots of anger and friends become enemies. Some form of pro forma re division of funds must be part of the new schemes if they are going to work especially at the landscape model.**
16. I hear rumours that the facilitation fund will be opened again. Is this something a commons association could consider?
17. **Is the health and "vigour" of an Association - how well it appears to function/govern - likely to be taken into account when assessing an application, as it is with grants from organisations such as the National Lottery?**

18. Many commons don't have an association and, thanks to gentrification, no local people interested in commoning. will the landowners still be able to participate?
19. You touched on governance, but is there an enforcement requirement
20. Again on the landscape model we need to ensure that government agencies can't be the lead agreement holder on these as it would be a massive conflict of interest and a very expensive option
21. But is that a novel approach or just best practice for what we do now? I wonder if we need a novel approach - take the liability away from the association and push onto the individual?
22. Have you considered there is a role for a local management board that is empowered to enforce and to ensure that one group or individual does not have a stronger influence than anyone else?
23. Where NE own Common Rights, will they benefit from public money for public goods or should NE be excluded from any participation agreement?
24. Do sporting rights generally include deer? The usual reference is to the Game Acts, which don't include deer.
25. How does this work on common land with no registered rights (or no active commoners?). Does landowner get everything (including local authorities)
26. Have Defra got a plan to try to make sure that 'ownerless' commons aren't left as white spaces on the map? Some incentives for local PC or similar to take on the management?
27. Will stints be relevant in the application for ELMS? ie. if the stint owner and grazier are different parties who would be allocated the payment, would this be at the discretion of the commons association? All those with rights to graze should be included whether through stints or a tenancy or owners surplus is eligible too
28. Is there any work to put together a draft legal agreement or internal deed that would cover all commons.
29. Will Conservation Covenants hinder graziers rights to enter into Commons agreements?
30. How could Local Nature Recovery Strategies developed by Councils work with Associations?

Public Goods

31. **How do you balance competing 'public good' benefits in the pursuit of delivering the outcomes** - i.e. increased access/recreation v's maintaining habitat to promote wildlife in conjunction with maintain the cultural/economic use of sheep grazing etc.?
32. How will the effectiveness of the scheme be monitored, ensuring the desired public goods are delivered and how a change in management could have complications for existing wildlife and ecosystems?
33. **Are you only seeking public money for new/improved public goods, or are you looking to access funding which would recognise a site with existing excellence?**
34. you mention a social baseline - I agree, we are the living cultural heritage, but I have seen it written NE are not interested in anything other than the environment - that is a fundamental, maybe a paradigm shift in current thinking.
35. **Will the T & T help commoners develop a coordinated approach to mapping & valuing public goods/natural capital on their commons, so it's not apples & oranges from one part of the country to the other?**
36. Did you see me on Countryfile last Sunday evening talking about the threats to Fell Pony breeding herds. I am very concerned that the " Beauty, Heritage and Engagement" will not be funded on an equal footing as public good " Thriving Plants and Wildlife "
37. what if the public have wrecked the common - how can I improve the situation and why should I be expected to?
38. The question of increasing woodland cover on commons is incredibly complex and is not easily managed. If we are serious about increasing cover on upland commons then this needs to be considered
39. Access should be broader than educational access, good access points and more of them, information, higher rights (s16 CROW Act 2000) etc
40. **How do you allocate a payment for results for archaeology/heritage?**
41. If there is payment for the archaeology then the payments follow that, usually capital works. In some cases there are payments for grazing to keep the SAM clear of scrub. That may be linked to certain flocks of sheep

Carbon storage, peat and soils

42. **What insight is there on the treatment of public goods on registered common land when looking at the soils and the sale of carbon credits versus an ELM scheme or do you see these as mutually convenient - and how do you identify payment to the respective interests?**
43. Could commons ELM agreements become sidelined or dependant on owners carbon credit ambitions if the approach implied in Ireland is used by DEFRA where paid activities that enhance carbon would negate the value of carbon credits as it may be considered dual funding?
44. Do you think there will be opportunities for Peatland restoration organisations to bank roll and deliver large scale restoration projects (as per HLS)? Or will it have to go through the commoners vendor number as per CS?
45. Is the T & T considering surveys of peat depths & 'state of peat' to ID restoration requirements as part of the baseline mapping (in other words what would have been included in PA2s as a pre-requisite for CS HT)?
46. **We need better data regarding the sequestration of carbon on grazed grassland.**

Livestock and grazing

47. commoners/graziers will want hefts and sheep numbers etc to be the same so how will that fit in?!
48. Thoughts on commoners who do not own livestock ?
49. I was very pleased to see that the input of Ponies was mentioned
50. In the livestock scheme will there be a recognition to Native breeds?
51. Natural England I hear are now including the wildlife units for commons agreements so some commons potentially have no stock at all allowed as the deer take up all the units, The worth of the semi-wild herds of Fell ponies as been dangerously overlooked and undervalued as they are unquie in there grazing shaping the upland environment.
52. Perhaps the proportion of a holding's livestock which is classed as native could be an indicator for the level at which it comes in?
53. Often less grazing required as active management so will non graziers look to increasing their share of claims of future schemes

Common Management Plan

54. Commons management plan sounds amazing! The idea of a working tool is so useful, I wonder if some of the fantastic tech used so far could be utilised further to make the CMPlans truly 'living' documents which farmers can collaborate in and update as and when they need- it can be hard to remember and collate all progress made during a year :)
55. **I really like the simplicity of this approach where are we, where to we want to go and how do we get there ...**
56. Within the management plan, there should be consideration towards both the habitat - baseline surveys, peat depths, etc as well as bird surveys, etc.

Surveys, monitoring and mapping

57. Does the tool kit include info about how to carry out a ecological survey? It seems to me that one will be required (baseline) in order to show over the ELMs period a ecological net gain
58. **Who will be able to do the baseline plan for commons? Is it up to the Association to employ whoever they like or are there restrictions? When will it have to be done?**
59. Is baseline ecological assessment of all sites practical, or would it be better to focus on a set of indicator species for different habitat types
60. **Are we clear what features we are mapping plus what system DEFRA will use for monitoring**
61. Quantifying environmental change from interventions is not trivial (due to extreme spatial variability, natural year-to-year variations, slow trends in soil or vegetation change). What happens if your tools are not sophisticated enough to show change above natural variability? Does future funding for your area stop? Does government diminish funding for the whole programme? Are these risks real?
62. Surveys yearly; every 5 years or just as the end of the scheme?

63. My fear is that to have a comprehensive understanding of what any one holding or common has requires assessment over a year or at least 2 (over the seasons) so really we need to start doing something now 😞
- 64. Regards the habitat surveys much of this data surely exists already of the land in question is a SSSI, so this could effectively be copied and pasted to save time.**
65. Are you thinking of assessing wildlife apart from habitats e.g. birds, invertebrates or fungi?
- 66. We don't need to overcomplicate this we have so much data we know in broad brush terms the answers and that is all that is needed**
67. So for the assessment of the common, how does the overriding condition of SSSI fit as it would/could trump any vision and any suggestion of what can and would be done. In an ideal world, the vision would supercede the SSSI as the SSSI assessment is flawed/
- 68. On mapping I am not clear how this will be updated. RPA are using satellite imaging but this will not show many of the features relevant to the mapping proposed by this group. Our RPA maps only break the landscape down to woodland, scrub and grassland and even then there are still many ambiguities.**
69. Just had a PA2 survey on 53ha moor for peat depth & vegetation £7100 + historic walk over = £134+/ha,
70. Who, other than Natural England, can undertake habitat surveys?
71. How much of the Ecological survey can the commoners themselves do?
- 72. Commons associations are key to delivering any agreement and I do consider that all survey work is better if it can be undertaken by the commoners, it keeps the money in the association, but more importantly it means the common takes ownership of the scheme and understands what is there and what needs to be done. So keep the survey requirements simple.....**
73. How do we make individual commoners accountable in internal agreements without penalising all the commoners who have met their obligations
74. At present, in my experience, RPA data on commons only covers a small part of the common land which makes mapping on LandApp protracted. I understand that this will be improved. Do we have a timescale for this improvement?
75. I previously asked that our moor is "shared grazing" only, on an annual grazing licence, can we join in ?!

Set up, monitoring and costs

76. Will for example Natural England be able to cope with many commons requesting continuing: information in a short period? Many old reports that will provide useful comparisons will have been buried and will require digging out and digitisation.
77. It would be good to have a 'go to' list of experts who can be called in/contracted to provide training sessions on subjects to help farmers plan for ELM such as farm business advice.
78. Costs of facilitation not sufficient per day rate its a skilled job and also expenses for example insurance, cost of SOS approvals for capital works
79. Costs per hour and day are interesting. What is relevant is how much time of each will be needed.
80. Where does the money come from in the first place in order to pay for all these professionals?
- 81. It would be interesting to collate actual data from those commons that entered HLS many years ago and compare to your proposals as many schemes down here are Dartmoor cost in excess of your proposals and that was 10 plus years ago**
82. It seems as if the scenario where people are at loggerheads will have more costs. Is there a way to create an incentive for them to sort out their differences more promptly?
83. Accepting that you are addressing the important issue of set-up costs, do you propose making any comments about further costs over 10 years to monitor the success, or otherwise, of the scheme, i.e. is it working in terms of public goods production?
84. Was the cost of the time for commoners and owners to participate excluded from consideration on the assumption their time will be remunerated through their participation in ELM?

Payments and distribution

85. How are the payments disbursed via the association?
- 86. How will actions be linked to payments eg we receive grants based on land use but the main activities would be scrub management and restrictive grazing**

87. Surely there needs to be independent external assessment of progress? Self-assessment when in receipt of public money won't do.
88. The payments by results trials in the Yorkshire Dales was based on self-assessment by farmers with some spot checking by YD staff. The evaluation showed that farmers were, in general, were accurate and honest in their assessment.
89. Cautious about the extent to which private investment on commons and in other cases of complex land ownership/ tenure should be encouraged. Is there potential vulnerability where corporations may eventually decide to cut out the farmer, buy up the land and do the offsets themselves?
- 90. A payment for maintaining permanent grassland, re good soil condition and carbon storage, should be paid for under ELM, not just expect farmers to achieve low-input grassland targets etc. How 'good' soils and grassland is evidenced will be interesting.**
91. Can money legally be held back from one scheme and carried into another?
92. How are HLS recipients registered with the RPA with their SBI number? It used to be a CReg10, but that is no longer valid, how is it done now?
93. I've had to fully justify the need for SP10 in a CS HT application this year, giving a detailed quote of activities and costs for 10-yrs ... effectively I've had to fight to have the/ha payment for this option included over the whole ha for the whole term of any resulting Agt - incredible!

Location specific questions

94. How do you see this scheme working in the New Forest which is already heavily managed by FE and the NT? Commoners are currently not allowed to so much as remove a tree, let alone do any management operations? On National Trust Commons only NT approved signs can be used, not even a consistent approach throughout the NF.
95. Will Lake District Commoners accept the temporary enclosure fencing of selected valley bottoms to protect natural regeneration and planting of appropriate native trees from grazing livestock

Other issues

- 96. National vs. Local** With such uniqueness across the communing landscape how do you develop a National scheme which delivers locally? For example the New Forest is a single common and not split into to distinct commons as other areas are...will not his skew thinking?
- 97. Landlords.** Just as Defra is offering farmers terms to retire from land, could Govt offer terms to 'retire' landlords that own commons, so they can be enfolded in community land trusts, as per Scotland?
- 98. Working with NE** The big problem is, NE have done so much damage now that it is putting people off any new schemes - there is a need for damage limitation immediately.
- 99. ELM and other funding opportunities.** Some thoughts - we need to continue to work on how other funding opportunities can align with ELM. There is much interest in private investment, biodiversity net gain, carbon trading etc. lots of opportunities
100. Will there be flexibility on the ground within projects? For example- After a huge moor fire, we now need a lot of cows out there to prevent the situation becoming worse than prior to fire 🔥

Appendix 3. Stakeholder checklist

Checklist - People and engagement

Before embarking on a plan to put together an ELM application a useful first step is to work out who has an interest in the process and who needs to be involved. Doing this at the start should help to ensure things run smoothly and avoid any misunderstandings further down the line.

The checklist here is to prompt to your thinking. It isn't exhaustive so do add anything else that you think is important.

Who has an interest in / influence on the Common?	Details / contact	How will they be involved in developing an ELM agreement?
Owners and rights holders		
Active graziers		
Inactive graziers		
Landowner/s		
Landowners agent / representative		
Commoners Association/ Council		
Agencies		
Natural England		
Forestry Commission		
Environment Agency		
Historic England		
NGO's		
Wildlife Trust		
British Trust for Ornithology		
National Trust		
Protected Landscape bodies		
National Park Authority		
AONB		
Recreational users		
Parish Councils		
Local Nature Partnership		

Appendix 4 public goods checklist

A Guide for Commoners to mapping public goods on your Common

DEFRA ELM Test and Trial

The first thing that our Test and Trial is looking at is how to draw together a map of your Common to fully value it – this includes farming (and traditional sporting activities?) but adds in all the other benefits (for a wide range of people) that the Common offers too.

These are the ‘Public goods’ found on the Common. Things like providing a place for wildlife to thrive, a destination for visitors and local communities to enjoy, a store for carbon and clean water, and a home for important heritage.

This ties in with what we know from DEFRA about the new ELM scheme. The aim of ELM is to pay Commoners and owners for delivering public goods. These are set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan under the following headings.

- Clean and plentiful water
- Clean Air
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Reduction in and protection from environmental hazards
- Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change
- Beauty, heritage and engagement with the environment

We’ve adapted this list a bit to focus in on your Common.

Mapping the Public Goods on your Common

Enclosed is a printed map of the Common from Ordnance Survey. It shows the boundary of the Common as well as the habitat types, rights of way and SSSI.

Please can you use the map as a prompt to jot down your ideas focusing on two main questions:

- **What and where are the public goods on the Common?**
- **What condition do you think are they in?**

Feel free to draw, write, point out, add comments or photo’s – whatever works for you.

Here’s a checklist/prompts to get you started – there might be other things that are not on the list, which you’d like to add – please do as this process is to learn and better understand commons and what needs to be included.

Vegetation

- Are there areas of scrub, bracken and gorse? have they got bigger or smaller?
- Is there any woodland? Areas of tree planting/ natural regeneration? How’s it developing??
- Where’s the best grazing, where are the harder areas to graze and get sheep to heft out onto?
- Are there any areas of erosion/peat degradation?
- Are there areas where the habitat/vegetation is degraded?

Grazing

- Where are the hefts? Who do they belong to? How many stock graze on each heft? Do the animals stick to their hefts? Are these formalised?
- Do you get much stock ingress from other commons. If so where do they come from?
- Are there areas of under grazing or overgrazing? Where are they?
- Where are the key gathering points where livestock go on and off the common?
- Are there any handling facilities on the Common? Where are they? What condition are they in?
- What about boundaries? What condition are they in?

Water

- Where are the streams? Are they clean?
- Where do the animals tend to drink?
- Are there any small tarns or pools? What condition are they in?
- Are there any hydro schemes/potential for?
- Are there areas that flood?

Archaeology and heritage

- Where are the archaeological or heritage features?
- What condition are they in?
- Are they visible and is there any public interpretation?

Wildlife and habitats

- What birds and other wildlife do you see on the Common?
- Where do you see them? When do you see them?
- Are there any special plants or habitats on the Common? Where are they?

Climate Change

- Are there areas that might be important for carbon storage?
- Are there areas where holding water could make a difference to reducing flooding downstream?

Landscape value

- What do you think local people and visitors really value about the Common?
- Where are the best views?
- What's special about the landscape?
- Are there any events or traditions associated with the Common?
- Is there anything that detracts from the landscape on the common?

Visitors

- Where do visitors tend to go on the Common?
- Are there areas that are under pressure from visitors – walkers? Cyclists? Off roaders?
- What's the signage like for visitors?
- What are the footpaths like?
- Are there areas that get damaged? Where are they?
- Are there linear routes that get used that are not footpaths?

Natural resources

- Are there any other rights that are exercised such as peat cutting?
- Is there any activity such as quarrying, exercising of rights to collect stone happening on the common?

Once you've had a go at completing this please return to..../ arrange collection etc...

Appendix 5 Example report and map from habitat condition survey

See attached pdf's

Appendix 6 Management Plan example

Common Management Plan cover sheet		
Common Name	xx	
Plan author name and contact	xxxx	
Plan Period (2021 – 2031)	Date approved	

Annual reviews	Date completed	Summary of any agreed plan revisions

Section 1. Common Details	
Common Name	Peter Tavy Common
Size (hectares)	1119.19ha
Designations	<p>The Common lies within Dartmoor National Park</p> <p>Unit 74 of the North Dartmoor SSSI covers 124ha of the Common</p> <p>Units 1&2 of the Merrivale geological SSSI cover 302ha of the Common</p> <p>There are 63 Scheduled Monuments on the Common</p>
Location	Peter Tavy Common is located on the western edge of Dartmoor, about 3 miles north east of Tavistock
Single Business Identifier	
Governance arrangements and contact details	Commoners Association and Board of Trustees
Ownership details	<p>1103ha Duchy of Cornwall</p> <p>16.19ha unknown</p>
Agent Name (if applicable) and contact details	
List of Maps associated with this Management Plan	<p>1. Habitat survey carried out in August 2021</p> <p>2. Bird survey data. Most of the data comes from the MOD survey so very little data available for the area outside of the range boundary.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Archaeology from HER 4. At risk and vulnerable archaeology 5. Visitor usage 6. Depth of peat soils 7. Bare peat, drains and cuttings 8. Gullies and erosion features 9. Water
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Section 2. Local and Regional context

What other plans and strategies exist for this area? How does the Common fit in? Other initiatives? Projects?

- **Local Nature recovery strategies.** Natural Flood Management, peatland regeneration, tree planting/natural regeneration
- **National Park / AONB Management Plans** Dartmoor National Park Management Plan
- **SSSI designations / consents?** Part of the North Dartmoor and Merrivale SSSIs. Multiple Scheduled Monuments.

Section 3. Overview and priorities

What are the most important issues for the Common in the next 10 years?

Secure the interest of the next generation of commoners and keep the farm businesses viable, if there are no commoners there will be no management to deliver public goods.

Manage and educate the general public, both locals and visitors.

Commoners Vision for the Common in 10 years.

Peter Tavy Common is an unenclosed, mainly grazed landscape which supports healthy livestock, thriving biodiversity and 5000 years of archaeology. This common, with the adjoining farmland and woodland, form part of a large and well connected landscape for wildlife, resilient to climate change and allowing species to thrive.

It is grazed by hardy hill cattle, sheep and ponies which are owned by commoners who have dynamic, sustainable and resilient farm businesses. These businesses can be handed down through the generations, maintaining the culture of traditional commoning and the vibrancy of small rural communities.

Local people and tourists feel welcome and can access, enjoy and appreciate the area. Good on site information increases their awareness of the special qualities of the area, its wildlife,

archaeology, grazing livestock and the role of the commoners. This will help reduce the unwitting damage any users of the common can cause.

Farmers work together with conservationists and other stakeholders to agree the management of the mosaic of vegetation to give good grazing, clearly visible archaeology and diverse, dynamic habitats alive with abundant birds, butterflies and other species. The success of this partnership approach is based on mutual trust and respect and is measured by a program of monitoring carried out and understood by all parties.

Section 4. Public goods - management actions

1. Thriving plants and wildlife

Map area/s	Size of area/s (ha)	Description	Current condition	Target condition	Management Action
1 & 2	0.80	Species-rich grassland (G03) Wild flower cover easily greater than 30% but area is constrained by bracken and scrub.	Good		Light grazing with cattle in the late summer to control the extent of the bracken and scrub
	873.90	Grass moorland and rough grazing (M01) This has a variable sward structure and a range of wild flowers present. Some of the most heavily grazed areas around the edges of the Common have a surprisingly high coverage of wild flowers. Areas with lower grazing pressure appear to have fewer flowers, possibly because they are being shaded out by taller grasses. These areas support good numbers of skylark and meadow pipit. Cuckoos are found in areas that have some scattered trees generally on the fringes of the Common. Wheatear are near areas of rocks and scree. Small heath and Wall butterflies and Broom Moth are found in these areas.	Good/Medium		Maintain the variety of the sward to keep the mosaic and the range of wild flowers. Provide valuable grazing for livestock, good habitat for skylark and meadow pipit. Help wheatear numbers? Plentiful flowers increase insects which are food source for birds. Bracken? Scattered trees move out from boundaries?
	72.00	Fragmented dry heath (M02d) Western gorse is coming through in the sward over a large area east of Lower Godsworthy, west & south of White Tor. Two other small areas around Cox Tor and Roos Tor both western gorse. These areas support both skylark and meadow pipit. Stonechat, Reed Bunting and Grey Wagtail are found in the Walkham Valley NE of Roos Tor.	Medium		Sustain grazing pressure on western gorse west & south of White Tor to protect the archaeology there. Walkham Valley keep sufficient grazing livestock to prevent the increasing gorse from coalescing. Temporarily fence small areas where saplings are present to allow gorse to coalesce and so protect saplings. Create more habitat for stonechat, reed bunting and grey wagtail. Cuckoo?
	30.15	Fragmented wet heath (M02w) West of Cocks Hill and around Lynch Tor good variety of species, dwarf shrub cover 5-20%. Between Cox Tor and Roos Tor, Molinia dominated with very low dwarf shrub cover. These areas support both skylark and meadow pipit. Where there is standing water they support common frogs and keeled skimmer.	Unfavourable – recovering (SSSI)		West of Cocks Hill and around Lynch Tor. Keep grazing pressure the same as the vegetation is increasing/improving. Will soon be suitable habitat for nesting Snipe and Dunlin, which are found nearby. Encourage stock into Molinia dominated areas?
			Medium (non SSSI)		
	15.75	Upland heath dry (M04d) Mainly western gorse with a little bell heather	Medium		Continue present management. Heather should increase where protected by gorse.
	1.25	Upland heath wet(M04w) Dwarf shrub cover 25%, flowering. Where there is standing water supports common frogs and keeled skimmer.	Good		Keep grazing pressure the same as the vegetation is increasing/improving. Will soon be suitable habitat for nesting Snipe and Dunlin, which have territories near by.
	21.10	Blanket bog (M06) Some of this area was burnt in the wild fire Feb 2021. South of Lynch Tor and on Cocks Hill bog species plentiful but dwarf shrub below 20%. North of Lynch Tor dominated by Molinia and appears dryer. These areas support both skylark and meadow pipit.	Unfavourable – recovering (SSSI)		Monitor grazing pressure as burnt area recovers? Engage with the South West Peatland Partnership to investigate the potential for restoration and possible funding streams for the work. Raising the water table will help bog species while suppressing Molinia. Pools will increase invertebrates, food source for birds. Encourage snipe and dunlin from neighbouring territories.
Medium/Poor (non SSSI)					
23.00	Upland cliffs and screes (M07)	Medium		Continue present management	

		Present across a lot of the Common variety of mosses and lichens, well grazed vegetation. Supports wheatear.			
65.03		Upland flushes, fens and swamps (M08) Found across the Common and are in variable condition. Langstone Mire is extensive, very wet with a variable sward, a good variety of wetland herbs and grasses, it supports several pairs of breeding snipe and reed bunting. Most of the smaller flushes support a range of wetland herbs, as well as cotton grasses and sedges and some also support snipe and reed bunting. Common frogs, keeled skimmer and scarce blue-tailed damselfly are found in these wet areas.	Unfavourable – recovering (SSSI)		Continue present management. Ensure cattle keep grazing the fringes and dryer parts of Langstone Mire to keep the variable sward heights to maintain the biodiversity, including the breeding snipe.
			Good/Medium /Poor (non SSSI)		
5.35		Woodland and trees (T04) Delightful ghyll woodland with ash, oak, alder, sycamore, lime, rowan and understorey of hazel, hawthorn and holly. It has good structure with evidence of natural regeneration. Ground flora includes knapweed, wood-sorrel, tormentil, meadowsweet and self-heal.	Good		Continue present management
3.75		Scrub (V04) Three areas with various trees, bramble, bracken and scrub	Good		Continue present management
0.14		Ponds (W06) The Combe is an artificial mill pond, used as an unofficial swimming pool. This and the other two ponds have no obvious signs of pollution.	Good/Medium		Continue present management
		Brown hare are found over most of the Common. Otter are present in the Colly Brook valley.			

2. Beauty, heritage and engagement

Map parcel /s	Size of area/s	Description	Current condition	Target condition	Management Action
3 & 4	8 Scheduled Monuments around Cox Tor	1020006 – Enclosure and stone hut circle 770m south of Cox Tor 1011497 – Enclosed settlement 280m south-west of the Ordnance Survey triangulation pillar on Cox Tor 1011432 – Stone hut circle and a short length of boundary wall forming part of an unenclosed stone hut circle settlement on the north-east slope of Cox Tor 1020005 – Cairnfield 460m south-east of Cox Tor 1020004 – Cairnfield and two stone hut circles 490m and 550m south-west of Cox Tor 1020002 – Prehistoric settlement 610m south-west of Cox Tor 1011429 – Two stone hut circles and an enclosure forming part of an unenclosed stone hut circle settlement on the north-east slope of Cox Tor 1011389 – Sixteen stone hut circles forming part of an unenclosed stone hut circle settlement on the north-east slope of Cox Tor	At risk due to bracken	Low risk. Sites free of bracken and dense scrub, sustainably managed via livestock grazing	<p><u>Working with local conservation groups / volunteers</u> Local graziers working with local community groups and conservation volunteers to deliver active site management. The graziers could deliver wider area management (e.g., through mechanical cutting / bruising or swaling) whilst the volunteers target the more detailed areas (e.g., hut circles, cairns). Idea would be to ease the time and labour commitment on the local graziers, engage with local community / non graziers/ volunteers/school groups and raise awareness of both the archaeology and hill farming.</p> <p><u>Sustainable winter grazing of cattle</u> Winter cattle grazing, if undertaken with due care (to the archaeology, soils, and livestock) can be an effective tool in reducing bracken density, especially when combined with summer control works. Explore ways that this could be applied on Peter Tavy Common. Seek ways that ELMS could support local graziers in delivering this</p> <p><u>Moorland burning</u></p>

		1020090 – Coaxial field system and prehistoric settlement 410m west of Cox Tor			Develop a project that explores the effectiveness the role of traditional moorland burning as a tool for archaeological management.
3 & 4	4 Scheduled Monuments around Cox Tor and Roos Tor	1020039 – Upper Merrivale tin blowing and stamping mills, 750m north of Shillapark 1011441 – Irregular aggregate field system, stone hut circles and post-medieval fields on the north-east slope of Cox Tor 1003195 – Hut circles south-west of Wedlake 1020003 – Length of reave and three military emplacements 290m south-west and 280m south-east of Cox Tor	Vulnerable due to bracken	Low risk. Sites free of bracken and dense scrub, sustainably managed via livestock grazing	<u>Trialing Amidosulfuron</u> This is a chemical herbicide that could be an alternative to Asulam. Initial trials of Amidosulfuron indicate it is effective, targeted and has little impact on soil fauna and flora. Moreover, it is cheaper than Asulam and does not require dilution meaning it is easier to use on the ground. The bracken covered sites on Peter Tavy could be put forward as a trial area to undertake further testing of the effectiveness of this chemical.
3 & 4	2 Scheduled Monuments on White Tor 3 Scheduled Monuments on Cox Tor	1004584 – White Tor camp, Cudliptown Down 1007948 – Enclosed stone hut circle settlement on the south slope of White Tor 1011252 – Tor cairn 170m south of Cox Tor summit forming part of a round cairn cemetery 1011500 – Tor cairn forming part of a round cairn cemetery and a stone hut circle on the summit of Cox Tor 1011502 – Round cairn 170m north of the Ordnance Survey triangulation pillar on Cox Tor	Vulnerable due to visitor erosion	Low risk. Sites with no active erosion or visitor disturbance	Working with Historic England and DNPA archaeologists to draw up approved work methodologies that allow for the repair of archaeological sites suffering from both livestock erosion (stone circle, stone rows) and visitor disturbance (cairns, fire pits). This would include recording and reporting the damage. ELMS funding should be available to undertake these works. However, the works themselves could be undertaken by a wide variety of groups, including the graziers, volunteer groups, DNPA rangers.
3 & 4	2 Scheduled Monuments on Langstone Moor	1007897 – Stone alignment and round cairn on Langstone Moor 1007550 – Two concentric stone circles on Langstone Moor	Vulnerable due to livestock erosion	Low risk. Sites with no active erosion	Monitor the rate of spread of western gorse to the south of White Hill which could threaten 1007948
3		441 archaeological sites recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) including 44 Scheduled Monuments found over most of the Common	Low risk	Low risk	Maintain the low risk condition of the archaeology by controlling the vegetation through grazing livestock. Monitor the rate of spread of western gorse which threatens the archaeology west and south of White Hill, including SMs 1007978, 1007948, 1007429, 1007970, 1007975, 1011450 and 1011461.
		Cultural Heritage - Farmers have been grazing livestock on Dartmoor for over 800 years. Common rights were legally determined in 1217 by the Charter of the Forest. At least 6 of the farming families, who are still actively grazing the Common, have been farming at Peter Tavy for 150 to 350+ years using their common rights as an integral part of their farming enterprise. Twist Farm is entered in the Domesday book as having a venville right to pasture cattle and sheep on the moor. A culture that, it can be argued, created and preserved the historic environment and landscape through its distinct management techniques, skills, and practices.			Maintain the sustainability of farm businesses. These businesses need to be dynamic to thrive, not held in a time bubble. They need to explore how technology can increase sustainability. Find ways to support and encourage the next generation to want to keep this heritage alive for future generations, thereby avoid increasing abandonment.
		Genetic Heritage – Cattle, sheep and ponies were all recorded in the Domesday book. These animals would be the ancestors of the livestock grazing the Common today. These flocks and herds are genetically adapted to survive and thrive in the harsh environment found on Dartmoor.			Maintain the viability of grazing livestock on the Common

5		Dartmoor is famous for its wide open spaces, rocky tors, steep river valleys and far reaching views. Peter Tavy Common is also valued for its vast history and plentiful wildlife. The tranquillity and solitude aid mindfulness.	Good	Good	Through grazing livestock maintain the open landscape, with clearly visible archaeology and easily accessible viewpoints. Monitor the main routes across the Common for erosion and/or scrub encroachment
5		Visitors enjoy using the Common for various outdoor pursuits and events including Ten Tors. The accessibility, steady gradients, short vegetation and tracks allow all types of users to enjoy the common	Good	Good	Seek projects and events to promote the archaeological landscape, historic environment and the local hill farming tradition with the local community, holiday makers and visitors. Consider events such as Conservation tasks, livestock gathers and guided walks.

3. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Map parcel /s	Size of area/s	Description	Current condition	Target condition	Management Action
6, 7 & 8		Peter Tavy Common has approximately 200ha of deep peat (over 40cms) and approximately 140 ha of shallow peat (less than 40cms). Peat cutting has taken place on the deep peat so there is potential for restoration work to take place. This will improve the functionality of the blanket bog and increase the rate of carbon sequestration.	Medium		Engage with the South West Peatland Partnership to investigate the potential for restoration and possible funding streams for the work

4. Clean and plentiful water

Map parcel /s	Size of area/s	Description	Current condition	Target condition	Management Action
7 & 8		Peat cutting has taken place on the deep peat so there is potential for restoration work to take place to improve the water holding capacity of the deep peat.	Medium		Engage with the South West Peatland Partnership to investigate the potential for restoration and possible funding streams for the work
		Water quality is good in the rivers Walkham and Collybrook	Good		No intentional actions by the commoners will result in reducing the water quality
		Wild fire management			Regularly update the wildfire management plan. Encourage younger commoners to attend DSFRS training days to meet the number of trained commoners needed. Maintain and update the fire fighting equipment.

5. Protection from and mitigation of hazards

Map parcel /s	Size of area/s	Description	Current condition	Target condition	Management Action
7 & 8		Peat cutting has taken place on the deep peat so there is potential for restoration work to take place to improve the water holding capacity of the deep peat. There are some erosion gullies, both high and low flow, in the deep peat which could be blocked to slow the flow of water.			Engage with the South West Peatland Partnership to investigate the potential for restoration and possible funding streams for the work
9		There are high flow erosion gullies, outside the deep peat areas, which could be blocked to reduce the flow of water during heavy rainfall.			Use the old tin mining pits at SX 537 771 to create a temporary water storage area by building a few simple bunds to act as dams.

9		Natural flood management. Phase 2 EA project to slow the flow or create temporary storage of water on Peter Tavy Common			<p>Build a series of stone dams along the left-hand stone boundary of the above, which leads to the outlet of the tin mining pits (above) to slow water and reduce further erosion.</p> <p>Use leaky dams to slow down and hold water in the gully running parallel to the track (leading to the crossing point in the tin mining works).</p> <p>Create a series of crescent shaped bunds with infiltration pits on the run-off slope between Cox Tor and Roos Tor. Design needs careful consideration; permission will be needed from NE and we are constrained by designated archaeological features on one side and a geological SSSI on the other!</p> <p>Fence experimental areas to allow natural regeneration and rougher vegetation that will intercept run-off water. Examples of locations to consider are- an area of damaged wetland just beyond the Higher Godsworthy Farm entrance and/or the corner where the footpath comes into Wedlake near to the EA water monitoring station.</p> <p>Build a series of stone dams all the way down the stone wall boundary from the top of the enclosed land down towards the tin mining/ storage pits.</p> <p>Investigate the potential for peatland/ mire restoration on the area of Peter Tavy Great Common, within the firing range.</p>
		Wild fire management			Regularly update the wildfire management plan. Encourage younger commoners to attend DSFRS training days to meet the number of trained commoners needed. Maintain and update the fire fighting equipment.

6. Clean air

Map parcel /s	Size of area/s	Description	Current condition	Target condition	Management Action
8, 9 & 10		Peat cutting has taken place on the deep peat so there is potential for restoration work to take place to improve the water holding capacity of the deep peat. There are some erosion gullies, both high and low flow, in the deep peat which could be blocked to slow the flow of water. This will also help reduce the CO ² released into the atmosphere			Engage with the South West Peatland Partnership to investigate the potential for restoration and possible funding streams for the work
		Reduce emissions from livestock			<p>Reduce ammonia emissions by shortening the time cattle are housed in the winter</p> <p>Reduce fossil fuel usage by shortening the time cattle are housed in the winter</p> <p>Reduce fossil fuel usage by reducing the length and frequency of journeys in livestock vehicles</p>
		Maintain the good air quality on the common			No intentional actions by the commoners will result in reducing the air quality

Appendix 7 Cost scenario's for upfront investment to prepare for ELM

	Mapping support	Habitat Surveys	Legal advice	Facilitation	Admin	Total
Scenario 1	1400	6000	1600	5250	2000	16,250
Scenario 2	1050	4000	6000	7000	1125	19,175
Scenario 3	0	0	1500	1750	500	3,750

Commons scenario's

Scenario 1 – 2,000 ha Common in a protected landscape. HLS agreement being rolled over. FEP map available. Habitat information 10 years old – rich mosaic of habitats, some SSSI. Commons Association exists but not functioning well. Record keeping out of date. 10 active graziers. 10 inactive graziers

Scenario 2 – 1,000 ha Common in a protected landscape. Active shoot. No HLS, v. limited data and maps. Commons Association disbanded and no legal structures in place. Large areas of potential peat restoration. 5 active graziers who don't get on.

Scenario 3 – 200 ha Common. Majority SSSI – condition dependent on conservation grazing. Highly detailed maps and habitat data available. Grazing rights not all being utilised. 3 active graziers. 10 inactive. Commons Association functions well. Registers need updating

Overview of costs

Facilitation – drawing together key stakeholders, sourcing data, facilitating meetings / workshop sessions, support to public goods assessment, identifying gaps and helping to prepare a Management Plan for the Common. £350 per day

Common administration – support to facilitator, maintain and update databases, write and implement policies, communication and correspondence with members

Mapping advice and support – preparing and printing hard copy maps, digitising public goods information, training and supporting Commons to map and interpret information. £350 per day

Public goods surveys - habitat condition assessments, peat surveys / peat depth, soil carbon assessments? Undertaking practical survey work and reporting on results- £400 per day. (Habitat condition assessments £2.50 - £3.50 per ha)

Legal advice – drawing up Deed, Internal Agreement, Constitution £200 per hour

Key tasks

Stakeholder analysis

Gathering data

Bringing stakeholders together to discuss / plan for future

Assessing public goods

Filling gaps in information e.g. through habitat surveys

Preparing a Common Management Plan and associated maps

Ensuring legal structures / governance is fit for purpose

Record keeping / admin all up to date