

Contract Innovation Lab North West England, UK

Lead: University of Aberdeen (UNIABDN)

Co-Lead: Natural England (NE)



Region

CIL North West England covers a region that is characterised by upland livestock farming, low population densities and internationally recognised cultural landscapes.

Targeted Agri-Environmental/Climate Issues

Targeted issues are: decline of species rich grassland, decline of farmland birds, sustaining farmers' livelihoods, maintaining cultural heritage, natural flood management, maintaining water quality, soil quality and carbon sequestration.

Contract Innovation Lab Objectives

Broadly speaking, CIL objectives are to consolidate knowledge on agri-environmental agreements and initiatives across the region, and identify promising contracts to maintain and improve biodiversity, cultural heritage, water quality, soil quality and flood mitigation.

Specific CIL objectives depend on stakeholders' priorities but may include: (i) experimenting with expanding results-based contracts either in scale (several fields, cross-holdings) or content (multiple public goods); (ii) integrating collaborative aspects with results-based approaches; (iii) exploring how agri-environmental agreements can be tailored to work for the commons.



Type of Contracts

The CIL will focus on **results-based** and **collaborative approaches**, or a combination. We are building on the payment by results pilot in the Yorkshire Dales, which involved 19 farmers, and existing farmer groups receiving funding under the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund. In addition, there is interest to link to a trial for developing 'landscape scale management planning' comprising of an Area Plan and Land Management Plans at the farm scale which would provide holding scale detail as the basis for an agri-environmental contract.

Stakeholder Organisations Involved

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Lake District National Park Authority, Eden Rivers Trust, Lune Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, farm conservation consultants, Foundation for Common Land, National Trust, The Farmer Network, Yorkshire Farming and Wildlife Partnership.

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