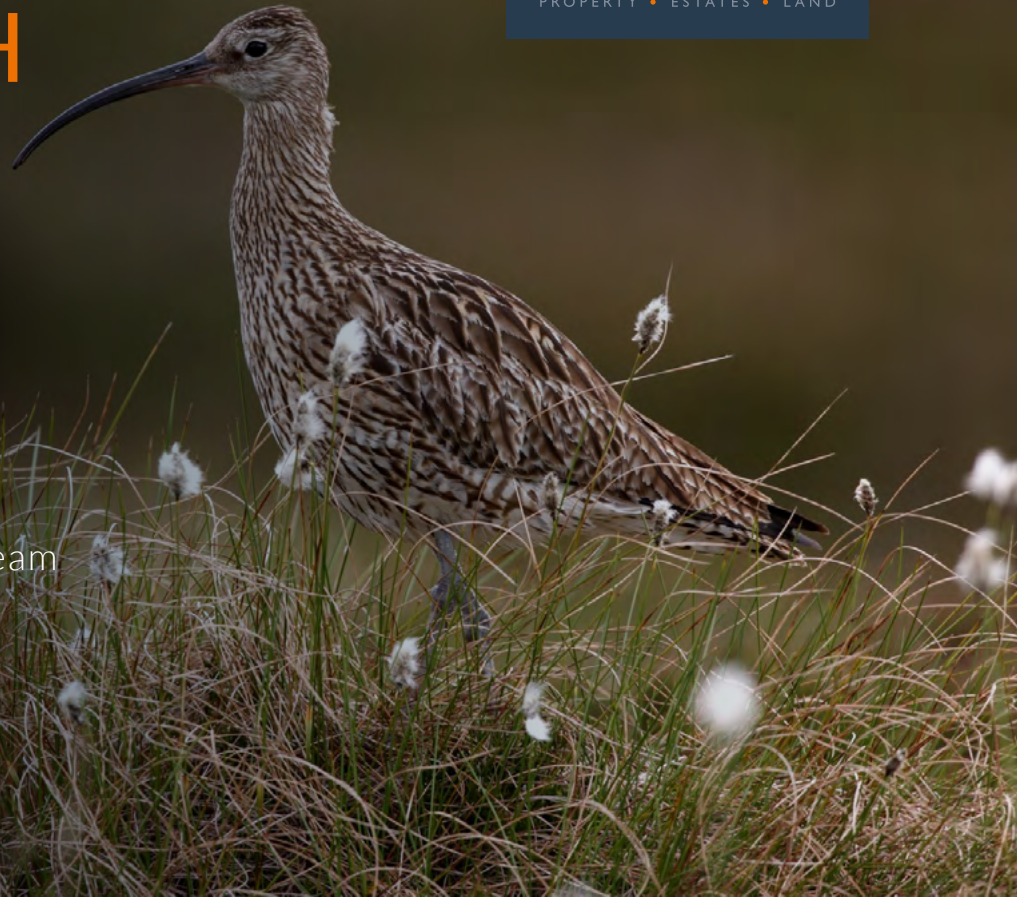




GSC GRAYS

PROPERTY • ESTATES • LAND

# COMING UP WITH THE GOODS



Could environmental management provide a valuable new income stream for your farm business?

With DEFRA’s mantra of ‘public money for public goods’ ringing in our ears, and a fresh round of applications for Countryside Stewardship beginning, for the fourth month of our Changing Landscape programme, we decided to turn our attention to environmental management.

GSC Grays are involved in 2 test and trial projects for ELM, working with DEFRA to help co-design the new scheme, and we expect further policy announcements by early summer. But we cannot afford to wait for every detail of the schemes to be confirmed before starting to prepare our businesses, and our land, for the changes ahead.

**56% OF THE RESPONDENTS IN OUR 2020 FARM BUSINESS SURVEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY FORM OF STEWARDSHIP SCHEME ON THEIR LAND**



56%

OF THOSE, OVER 30% HADN'T EVEN CONSIDERED APPLYING (31.82%)

A FURTHER 11% APPLIED IN 2020 (11.36%)

## ARE YOU READY FOR ELM?

- How important will ELM be to the viability of your farming business post-BPS?
- Do you know what public goods your farm delivers? Or has potential to deliver?
- Which parts of your farm have the highest value for wildlife, and which are the most productive?
- Do you know how to manage farmland habitats so that they deliver the most benefit for nature and the highest payments for your business under ELM?
- By starting to consider these questions now, you can make sure that you are ready to make the most of ELM when it arrives.

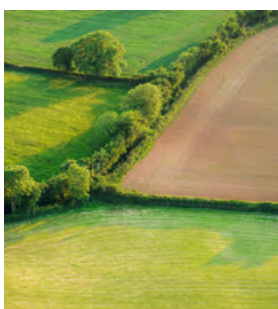
DEFRA are encouraging farmers to use Countryside Stewardship as a stepping stone into ELM.

On 25th of February we held a live webinar with our panel of experienced farm business consultants, land agents and environmental specialists, to answer the questions you wanted answered about stewardship.

**CLICK HERE TO  
WATCH A RECORDING  
OF THE WEBINAR**

In our experience, stewardship schemes are most successful when they are fully integrated with the farm business, so that there are shared benefits for wildlife and the farming enterprise.

To achieve this, it's important to weigh up the costs and benefits of the stewardship options available for your farm, and consider whether they will align with your usual farming practice.



Our Senior Farm Business Consultant Ben Rogerson, explored some examples as to how Countryside Stewardship can be made to work for an arable farm business. [Click here](#) to read more.

### WHAT'S YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT OF 'PAYMENT FOR PUBLIC GOODS' & NATURAL CAPITAL?



## AN EXPANDING MARKET

ELM will be the single largest source of public funding available to farmers and land managers after 2024. But it will not be the only way of securing an income from environmental management as private funding streams are becoming increasingly important for funding, particularly through carbon trading schemes or payment for ecosystem services.

Sam Cole, Rural Surveyor, looked at how when it comes to delivering 'public money for public goods', peatlands are some of the most valuable habitat in the country. To read what Sam had to say [click here](#).



To find out more about Countryside Stewardship, ELM or other Environmental Management Services contact:

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\* Please note that the information contained within this briefing is based on current understanding of Government Legislation and is subject to ongoing change. Before making any decisions that will affect your business you should seek further advice. Compiled February 2021.