

378A – Local Delivery Test & Trials

Buckinghamshire



Context

In 2021-2022, Pilio completed a Defra Test & Trials project looking at Landscape Recovery with an emphasis on Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. This project focused on policy questions around Land Management Plans (LMPs), advice & guidance, and private financing. You can learn more about this project [here](#).

From this T&T, Defra commissioned Pilio to design a new follow on project, seeking to understand whether a county approach for the incentivisation and delivery of land management projects within ELMs can be viable and successful, with a project focus on Buckinghamshire.

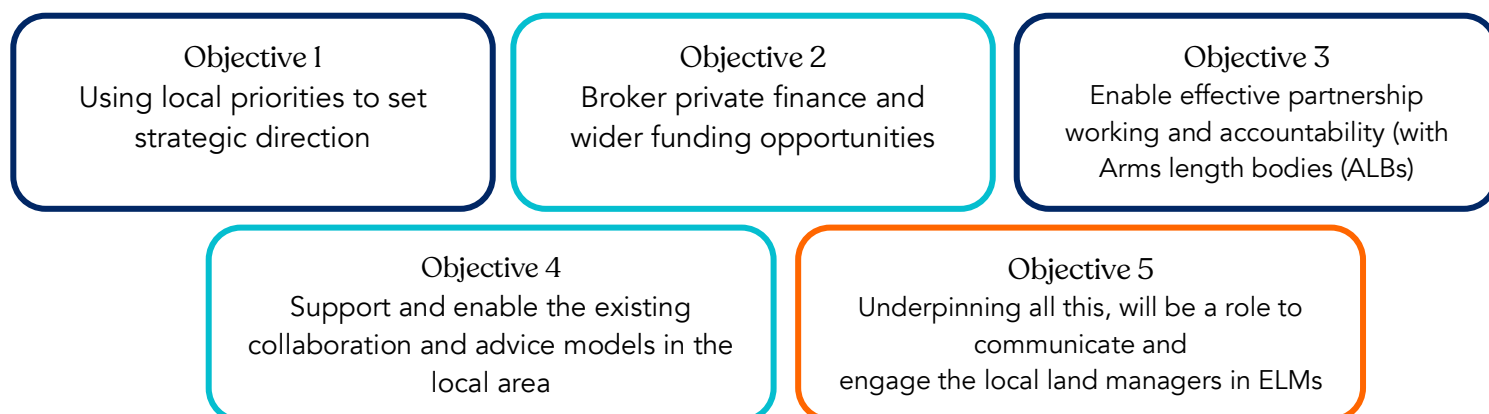
This new T&T is looking to understand the project opportunity, barriers, and players involved in environmental improvement and farmer uptake of schemes at a Buckinghamshire County level.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this project is to explore whether the existing networks in Buckinghamshire can be aligned and supported to incentivise and deliver sustainable land management projects. We are focused on:

- What organizations, delivery partners, farming networks, and investors are in the network within Buckinghamshire who can deliver these projects.
 - How this can be organized around local and governmental priorities.
 - What is the role of the government in helping mobilize this network.

Our 5 objectives are:



Key Activities

Stakeholder Consultations

We are engaging with Local Delivery Partners (LDPs), farmers, and potential investors throughout this project. These groups all play a key role in the realisation of environmental improvement and bring different priorities and viewpoints to the space.

Engagement includes activities such as 1-1 consultations, focus groups, and group feedback events.

Thematic Projects

To understand the learning in a real-life situation we will case study 5 thematic projects within Buckinghamshire. These case study projects will be a mix of past and planned environmental improvement farmer projects within Buckinghamshire, covering a range of natural capital areas such as habitat creation and changes to farm management.

This will provide tangible evidence and experience for environmental improvement within the county.

Tool Testing

The previous T&T project highlighted the importance of tools in evidencing and monitoring environmental improvement on farmland through schemes and projects.

A key finding on this topic was the lack of regulation and standardisation within the tool space leading to a hesitancy across stakeholders to use tools.

In this T&T, Pilio will undertake an assessment of the tools market to understand what tools are currently available in the marketplace, and the specific role each tool plays, and how this aligns with the requirements of the groups of this project.

Within this project, we will also support 15 farmers to use Pilio Nature, a software platform created by Pilio, to explore data readiness for thematic projects. This will include how Pilio Nature can be used to collect and monitor environmental data, and how it can be used through the whole process from project design and funding to implementation, providing evidence throughout.

