

Guide to colours

Farming	Environment	Land Use	Version:
Green Finance	Housing	Water	26 August 2025
Climate	Food	Economy	

Farm Foresight Policy Tracker - Government 2025-2026 (Yr 2 Labour)

Name	Category	Published by	Status	Date published	Date closed	Notes	Hyperlink	
Scotland's peatlands to get £20mn health boost	Environment	NatureScot	News	25/08/2025		Scotland secures its highest-ever peatland restoration funding—over £20 million across three years (including nearly £15 million in 2025/26)—to revive 12,000 ha of degraded peatland, create 400 green jobs, and accelerate natural recovery and climate resilience.	Here	
Net Zero Technology Outlook	Farming	Government Office for Science	Research and Analysis	21/08/2025		Outlines priority technologies across five major emitting sectors inc ag, assessing their readiness and certainty. For ag and land use, "wildcard" technologies are highlighted: novel, low-certainty yet potentially transformative innovations that could redefine the UK's net-zero pathway.	Here	
£6mn for Scotland's environment	Environment	Scottish Govt	News	21/08/2025		Additional funding announced for NatureScot and 3 National Park projects	Here	
Extra border checks cancelled ahead of UK-EU deal	Farming	DEFRA	News	18/08/2025		In a win for traders, the government is suspending the introduction of extra border checks on live animal imports from the EU, and on specific animal and plant goods from Ireland, to support British businesses and ease trade ahead of its new SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) deal with the EU.	Here	
IHT reforms largely protects family farms but could be better targeted	Economy	CenTax	Report	14/08/2025		Report into APR reforms uses detailed data to look at the predicted impact of changes, suggests a mixed picture - 49% of all impacted farm estates would see a tax increase of <5 percentage points (pp). All of the 25 farm estates per year facing an increase larger than 15pp are valued at over £7.5 million. 86% of impacted farm estates could pay their entire IHT bill out of non-farm assets, leaving around 70 farm estates per year that could not. The report makes recommendations to enable the tax to be better targeted at limiting wealth sheltering.	Here and FT write up here	
Paul Kissack named as new PS at DEFRA	Economy	DEFRA	News	13/08/2025		Ex CEO at Joseph Rowntree Foundation appointed as new Permanent Secretary at DEFRA	Here	
National Drought Group declares a Nationally Significant Incident	Water	DEFRA	News	11/08/2025		Five areas of England are officially in drought, with six more experiencing prolonged dry weather following the driest six months to July since 1976.	Here	
Supporting Scotland's transition - land use and agriculture	Land use	Scottish Govt	Consultation	06/08/2025	05/10/2025	Consultation on the Land Use and Agriculture Just Transition Plan seeks feedback on Scotland's vision, outcomes, and objectives to guide government support for a fair, sustainable net zero transition.	Consultation here	
Scotland's Fourth Land Use Strategy	Land use	Scottish Govt	Consultation	06/08/2025	05/10/2025	Sets out proposed approach to the next LUS and asks for feedback on this	Here	
Working Together: update to river basin management plans	Water	Environment Agency	Consultation response	06/08/2025		Consultation responses asked for better alignment of governance and policy, implementation and funding, and improvement in engagement. This will be used to develop the next round of consultation on RBMPs	Original consultation Here and response here	
Consultation on 2027-32 Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (ENRA) Research Strategy	Land use	Scottish Govt	Consultation	05/08/2025	24/10/2025	A draft strategy for the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (ENRA) Research Programme from 2027-32 is available for public consultation. The programme covers a broad range of issues critical to Scotland's environmental and agricultural futures	Here	
New version of Woodland Carbon Code launch	Green finance	Scottish Forestry	News	01/08/2025		Version 3 incorporates insights from recent research and consultation feedback and aligns with national and international frameworks	Here	
£150mn in farming grants successfully allocated	Farming	Defra	News	01/08/2025		Confirms Capital Grants now closed, announces that £2bn will go in ELMS funding by 28/29	Here	
Total Income from Farming 2024	Farming	Defra	Statistics	31/07/2025		TIFF in England in 2024 was £5.3 billion, +£1.0 billion/+22.5% from 2023. (Inputs down £0.9 billion, outputs up £0.1 billion). Agriculture's contribution to England's economy (Gross Value Added at basic prices) was £10.7 billion, an increase of £1.0 billion (+9.9%) from 2023.	Here	
National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)	Land use	DEFRA	Guidance	30/07/2025		The non-statutory standards help design, maintain and operate surface water drainage systems for: new developments; and retrofit SuDS	Here	
EFRA Committee publishes its priorities for the year ahead	Environment	EFRA	News	29/07/2025		Includes scrutinising the Good Food Strategy, biosecurity at the border, the Farm Profitability Review, to start work on skills and careers, and to launch a long-term inquiry into weather and climate change	Here	

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Foot and Mouth disease control strategy	Farming	Defra	Policy Paper	24/07/2025		Describes how an outbreak would be managed, and also precautions to avoid an outbreak	Here	
Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) programme	Environment	Defra	Policy Paper	23/07/2025		Sets out how NCEA will deliver natural capital monitoring as a national strategic capability, including a baseline of natural assets by 2029	Here	
Improving the visibility of distributed energy assets	Economy	DESNZ	Call for evidence	23/07/2025	10/09/2025	Asset visibility refers to the ability to identify and understand the capacity, location, and use of devices that generate, store, or consume energy such as electric vehicle chargepoints, solar panel installations, heat pumps and domestic-scale electricity storage batteries.	Here	
Making Wood Work for Wales	Environment	Senedd	Policy Paper	22/07/2025		Wales' first Timber Industrial Strategy launched, aims to increase both the scale and value of timber grown and timber products produced across Wales	Here and strategy here	
Animal Sentience Committee letter regarding food labelling policy	Farming	Animal Sentience Committee	Correspondence	22/07/2025		ASC commits to promote the effective use of food labelling to support value-driven purchasing in light of trade deals	Here	
Nitrate Vulnerable Zones Action Programme review	Farming	Scottish Govt	Consultation	21/07/2025	13/10/2025	Review the measures in the current Nitrate Vulnerable Zones Action Programme to evaluate whether they remain sufficient to achieve the aims of the Nitrates Directive.	Here	
How can the world feed itself?	Food	Science, Innovation & Tech Committee	Inquiry	21/07/2025		Innovative solutions are needed to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and support global food security. This inquiry will look at the scientific innovations and low technology solutions that could do this, as well as the impact of these innovations on global agriculture.	Here	
Independent Water Commission final report	Water	IWC	Report	21/07/2025		White paper to follow in autumn, abolishes OFWAT, focus on agricultural pollution	Report here and Defra response here	
Integrating GHG removals in the ETS	Climate	DESNZ	Consultation response	21/07/2025		Concludes that there is now a strong case for woodland to be included in official GHG removals and commits to further consultation	Here	
Agricultural property relief and business property relief reforms	Economy	HMT	Policy Paper	21/07/2025		Sets out the evidence and impact assessment behind proposed IHT exemption changes to APR and BPR to take effect in April 2026	Here	
How can the Government tackle the obesity epidemic?	Food	Health and Social Care Committee	Inquiry	21/07/2025		In their new inquiry, the cross-party group of MPs will investigate what public health interventions have been the most effective at reducing obesity and the consumption of less healthy foods, examining why existing policies relating to food and diet have seemingly not succeeded in reducing rates of obesity.	Here	
£1.87m in funding to drive nature investment	Environment	Nature Scot	News	17/07/2025		New round of FIRNS funding launched	Here	
Nature-based solutions: Environment Agency position statement	Environment	Env Agency	Policy Paper	17/07/2025		Confirms that EA sees NbS as part of a range of tools available to it in its various roles as regulator and advisor, and to work on solving the evidence gaps that inhibit wider uptake of NbS	Here	
A government Food Strategy for England	Food	DEFRA/DfH	Policy Paper	16/07/2025		Cross-departmental, "Good Food Cycle" includes a commitment to report every year on food security metrics	Speech here and policy paper here	
Sustainable Farming Scheme	Farming	Senedd	Scheme	15/07/2025		SFS launched	Here	
UK Green Taxonomy consultation response	Green finance	HMT	Consultation response	14/07/2025		Respondents highlighted that other policy measures were more effective at driving investment and tackling greenwashing, so govt will not be pursuing a Green Taxonomy.	Here	
Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework progress report	Environment	Defra	Policy Paper	14/07/2025		Summarises the available data (and data gaps) on the contribution of Protected Landscapes to EIP23 targets (noting these are under review)	Here	
Environmental Improvement Plan annual progress report: April 2024 to March 2025	Environment	Defra	Policy Paper	14/07/2025		Final annual progress report ahead of EIP25. Most of the report focuses on activities. In relation to data, numerous indicator gaps still exist but there have been improvements in aspects of the natural environment in 9 of the goals. There has been deterioration in other aspects of the environment in 7 of the goals. The report notes that the EIP25 will focus more on systemic interventions as theories of change.	Here	

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Unlocking benefits for people, nature and climate: Actions to jointly address climate change and biodiversity loss in England	Environment	DEFRA and DESNZ	Policy Paper	14/07/2025		Sets out what govt is doing to promote a net zero, nature positive future, noting the importance of integrating these policy areas (as recommended by NAO). Announcements expected later this year: cross-economy net zero plan on Carbon Budgets 4-6, Land Use Framework, a Carbon Budget Growth Delivery Plan (will cover reducing ag GHG emissions), an action plan on 30by30, Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (2026)	Here	
Survey shows tremendous support for tree planting	Environment	Scottish Forestry	News	10/07/2025		In the new Public Opinion of Forestry Survey, 82% of the people interviewed said they agree or strongly agree that trees are good because they remove CO2 from the atmosphere and store it in the wood.	Here	
Toxic lead ammunition banned to protect Britain's countryside	Environment	Defra	News	10/07/2025		Restrictions on lead in ammunition	Technical announcement Here and press release here	
Government sets out reforms to create a fair, secure, affordable and efficient electricity system	Economy	DESNZ	News	10/07/2025		Ongoing reforms to the energy system	Here	
Electricity network infrastructure: consents, land access and rights	Land use	DESNZ	Consultation	08/07/2025		Consultation on revisions to the planning system and land rights to enable building and maintenance of electricity infrastructure	Here	
Draft Environment Strategy for Scotland	Environment	Environment and Forestry Directorate	Consultation	03/07/2025	25/9/25	The Environment Strategy sets out a holistic framework for delivering Scotland's role in tackling the global crises of nature loss, climate change and pollution.	Draft Strategy here and consultation here	
Major boost to cut agricultural pollution	Farming	DEFRA	News	30/06/2025		50% more inspections each year, with EA to offer more guidance to farmers, strengthen links with supply chains and farm networks, make better use of technology like remote sensing, and take stronger action against serious or ongoing pollution.	Here	
Climate-related transition plans	Green finance	DESNZ	Consultation	25/06/2025	17/09/2025	Consults on how UK financial institutions should be developing and implementing credible transition plans	Here	
Multi-annual Great Britain control plan for pesticide residues – 2026, 2027 and 2028	Food	DEFRA	Policy Paper	25/06/2025		The co-ordinated control programme specifies particular foodstuffs to be sampled over a three year rolling programme and also includes a mandatory list of pesticides to be sought.	Here	
New climate budgets set	Climate	Scottish Govt	News	19/06/2025		Includes adopting Scotland-appropriate targets for woodland, peatland and livestock	Here	
Future Farming Investment Scheme	Farming	Scottish Govt	News	19/06/2025		The £14 million Future Farming Investment Scheme will open in July and offers flexible capital grants to support investments in efficiency, nature and climate friendly farming.	Here	
Government response to Animal Sentience Committee: report on the due regard to animal welfare – legislative compliance and enforcement	Farming	DEFRA	Policy Paper	16/06/2025		Govt response to ASC report: acknowledges ASC request for farm licensing and notes that it is looking at this as part of Corry Review. Consultation to follow on whether to make Animal Health and Welfare visits mandatory in England.	Here	
National Framework for Water Resources 2025: water for growth, nature and a resilient future	Water	Env Agency	Policy Paper	15/06/2025			Summary here	
Expanding the role of the private sector in nature recovery	Green finance	DEFRA	Call for evidence	12/06/2025		This call for evidence seeks evidence and insights on how best to support and incentivise business sectors to invest in nature recovery, especially those sectors which impact or depend upon nature the most.	Here	
Airport expansion and climate and nature targets	Environment	EAC	Inquiry	28/03/2025		As the Government commits to the expansion of airport capacity in the UK, the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has launched a new inquiry to examine whether doing so can be achieved in line with climate and environment goals.	Here	
Biodiversity net gain statutory credits: annual report 2024 to 2025	Environment	Defra	Policy Paper	14/03/2025		Updated 21/7 to reflect confirmation that no VAT on sales of BNG	Here	
Nitrogen Inquiry	Farming	ECCC	Inquiry	30/01/2025		HoL ECCC launches Nitrogen inquiry; first hearing on 5 Feb is emissions focussed	Here	

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Land Value Capture	Housing	HCLGC	Inquiry	22/01/2025		The Housing, Communities and Local Government (HCLG) Committee has launched an inquiry to look at how land value capture policies - which seek to capture the value uplift on land when it is granted planning permission - can contribute to the delivery of the Government's house building plans and help fund affordable housing and public infrastructure	Here	
Animal and Plant Health Inquiry	Farming	EFRA	Inquiry	09/01/2025		Will provide consistent scrutiny of ongoing and emerging issues and opportunities relating to animal and plant health - biosecurity at the border is the first topic.	Here	
Fairness in the food supply chain	Farming	EFRA	Inquiry	20/12/2024		The Government has identified food security as a national security issue. The fairness in the food supply chain inquiry will provide consistent scrutiny of issues relating to the UK's food security, the levels of support for domestic food production and the provision of affordable and healthy food. First call for evidence focuses on GCA and fair dealing powers under AA2020; closes 24 Jan.	Here and first call here	
Reforming the water sector	Water	EFRA	Inquiry	19/12/2024		Long-term review into reforming the water sector, which will cover a wide range of issues from financial stability to agricultural pollution	Here	
Flood Resilience in England	Water	EAC	Inquiry	10/12/2024		EAC to examine flood resilience as homes and businesses recover from more flooding misery in recent weeks - accepting evidence until 13 Jan	Here	
The Future of Farming	Farming	EFRA	Inquiry	06/12/2024		Wide-ranging and long-term inquiry into the future of farming, covering topics from education to land use and agri-tech.	Here and here	
The role of natural capital in the green economy [revived]	Green Finance	EAC	Inquiry	29/11/2024		The Government is committed to preserving 30% of land and sea in England by 2030. With just over five years to go, can private investment spur nature protection schemes that will see the pledge become reality? A previous inquiry has been revived and a new call for evidence launched - responses can be submitted online until 20 December.	Here and here	
Environmental sustainability and housing growth	Environment	EAC	Inquiry	18/11/2024		The environmental impact of planning reforms needed to meet the Government's housebuilding targets will be examined by the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) as it launches its first inquiry of the new Parliament	Here	