



LENS[®] | **LANDSCAPE
ENTERPRISE
NETWORKS**

Impact Report 2025

Building resilience across agricultural
landscapes and supply chains

LENs in numbers

Our impact, investment and reach across all LENS regions

Impact in 2025



+1.4 t/ha

Soil organic carbon increase

↓ 6%

Reduction in synthetic nitrogen application

Additional water holding capacity in soils:

+1.24m³/ha



+11km

Hedgerows created or restored

Woodland, grassland, wildflower and pasture margins created:

+43 hectares

96,000 tonnes of emissions reductions and removals (sequestered by soils and trees)

This is equivalent to driving 17,500 times around the world¹



Investment

€6.2m (£5.4m)

Funding to farmers in 2025

€29m (£25m)

Funding to farmers since 2021

€37,000 (£32k)

Average farm contract in 2025

Top funded categories:



Keep soils covered



Resilience payments to farmers



Reduce the use of synthetic inputs



Minimise soil disturbance

Reach

430+ farms

engaged to date representing **229,000+** hectares

Farming systems: arable, potatoes, dairy

16 funders including food and beverage companies, water and utility companies, local authorities and public bodies across multiple **landscapes** in 4 countries



¹ <https://www.openco2.net/en/co2-converter/>

About LENs

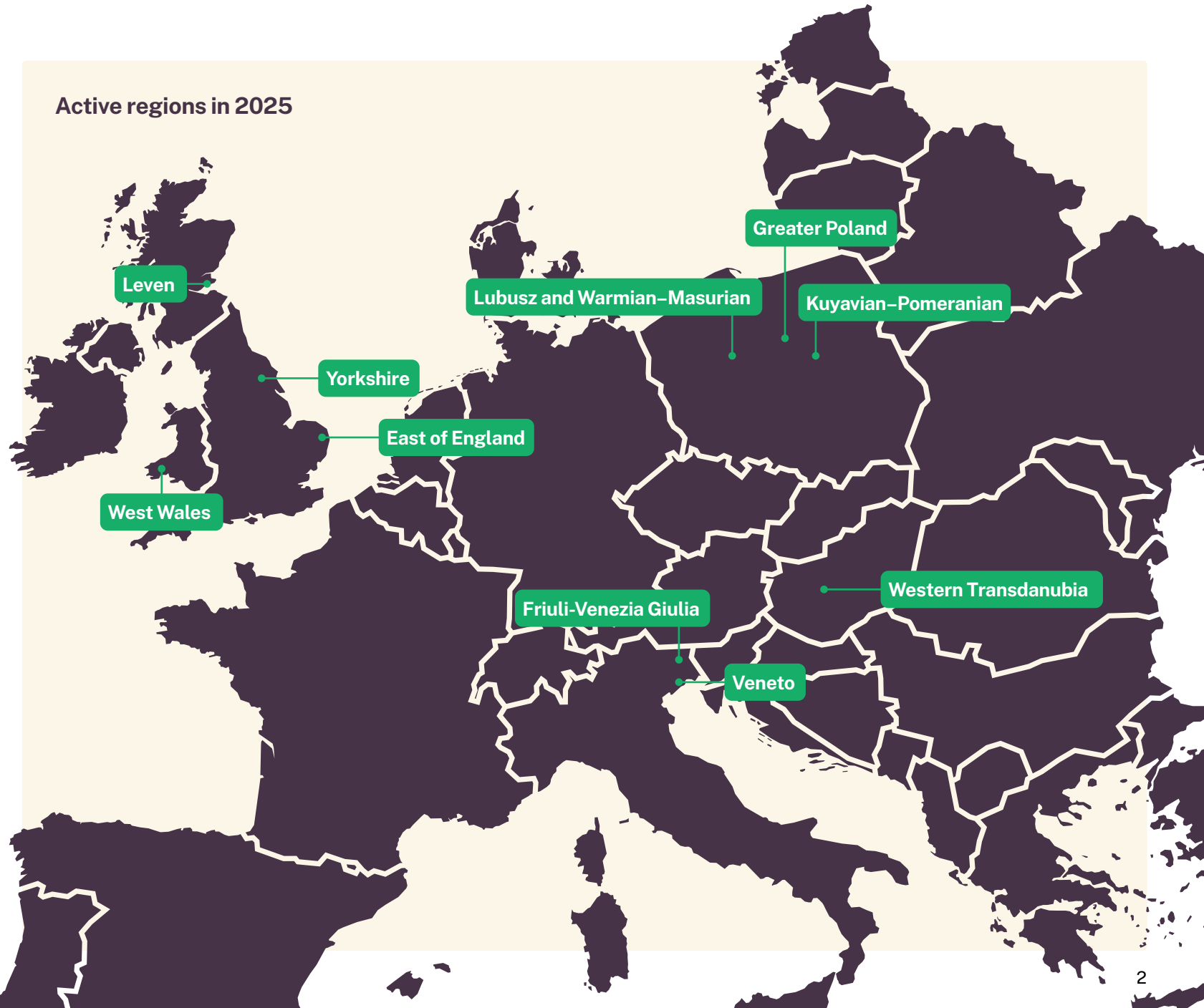
LENs brings together businesses, public bodies, communities, farmers and land managers, to co-fund and implement regenerative agriculture and nature-based solutions.

We identify shared land management needs, such as resilient crop production, mitigating flood risk, improving water quality, reducing GHG emissions, and increased biodiversity. We then work with farmers and land managers to deliver these outcomes.

How we operate:

- We work with farms of all sizes, including tenant farmers
- We fund activities on farm, and capital items
- Each year we encourage innovations, allowing us to continue to identify new ways of delivering resilience
- Each farm has access to advice and support
- We do not engage in carbon credits or nature markets

In 2026, we received the Kings Awards for Enterprise for Innovation



How LENS builds landscape resilience

Through a collaborative place-based approach, LENS operates at a scale big enough for impact but small enough to drive action quickly, building resilience at landscape levels. LENS makes farming landscapes stronger and more adaptable. Instead of failing when hit by extreme weather or other problems, the land stays healthy and adapts to changes.

Our interventions help farmed landscapes to better handle droughts, floods, pest outbreaks, input scarcity, price volatility, and climate uncertainty². We can't solve environmental issues one farm at a time. To save our soil, protect wildlife, and grow food sustainably, we have to stop working in silos and start tackling entire landscapes together.



Over the following pages, we demonstrate how LENS has contributed to all five landscape resilience drivers.

- 1**

More species diversity on farm

Crop diversity helps farms cope with shocks and stresses, by spreading the risk and benefitting soils, biodiversity and water retention.
- 2**

Connecting diverse habitats across a region

Diversity in the landscape helps to connect biodiversity, provide space and habitat for more species, and enhances ecosystem function.
- 3**

Protecting soil and water

Practices on farm that contribute to healthier soils and more resilient water resources. This has better outcomes for crops and the surrounding environment.
- 4**

Reducing reliance on synthetic inputs

Synthetic inputs are costly and bad for the environment. Shifting to regenerative farming can save money, improve environmental outcomes and cut emissions.
- 5**

Building networks and sharing learning

Sharing best practice, learning from other farms, accessing agronomic advice and building relationships with peers and customers, helps to drive positive change at scale.

² Schatte, P., and M. A. Meyer. 2025. Assessing holistic agroecological resilience of agroecosystems from a landscape perspective: a systematic review. *Ecology and Society* 30(2):24. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-16137-3002>



1 More species diversity on farm

Species respond differently to disturbance, so diversity provides greater ecological buffering and multiple nutrient pathways, pest suppression, better water retention and microclimate regulation (e.g. shade from tree cover). This diversity provides farms with an insurance policy against shocks and changing weather patterns. Farms can take simple steps to improve diversity, such as by introducing multiple crop varieties, planting hedgerows, woodland and wildflower strips (all measures that can be funded under LENS). Hedgerows are important for pest management, encouraging pollinators, providing heterogeneity in the landscape and reducing agricultural run-off, and stopping pesticides reaching nearby watercourses.



LENS has set the farm on a new course, highlighting the impact of cover crop mixtures, gypsum application, and no-till farming. My farming has become much more cost-effective thanks to these new technologies, and the improved drought tolerance of the crops is extremely noticeable — my wheat is still green when the crops of farmers using traditional methods have already withered away in the drought.

Tamás Szabó, Hungary farmer



3 Mijatovic, D.; van Oudenhoven, F.; Eyzaguirre, P.; Hodgkin, T. The role of agricultural biodiversity in strengthening resilience to climate change: towards an analytical framework. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability* (2013) 11 (2) 95-107. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14735903.2012.691221>

Farming systems with greater species diversity are better equipped than monocultures to rebound following stresses such as drought or low rainfall.³



Root nodules on cover crops in Hungary

5+ crops in the rotation

62% of farmers in LENS have at least five crops in their rotation. The average for conventional farming in the EU is two-three



43

new hectares of woodland, wildflower strips, buffer strips created



11 km

of hedgerows were created or restored



+6%

score increase for beneficial insects such as pollinators and natural pest control agents



Cover crop mix- Beans, Phacelia, Sorghum and Peas in Hungary



Cover crops grown from seed on farm in Hungary

2 Connecting diverse habitats across a region

A mix of crops, agroforestry, and non-crop areas can delay negative tipping points that affect uniform systems earlier.⁴ Variety enables ecosystems to rebound from shocks, encourages pollinator movement and seed dispersal, provides firebreaks and helps contain disease.

LENs supports farmers to introduce ponds, green corridors, riparian buffers, uncultivated margins and corners, and wetland scrapes. When linked and stacked in the same area, these have even greater impact.

Through spatial targeting, LENS reconnects biodiversity corridors and protects and improves water resources. We now have evidence of how and where LENS interventions are stacked in water catchments and the cumulative impact this has for healthy ecosystems. Some areas now have more than 25 practices stacked in the same 3km².

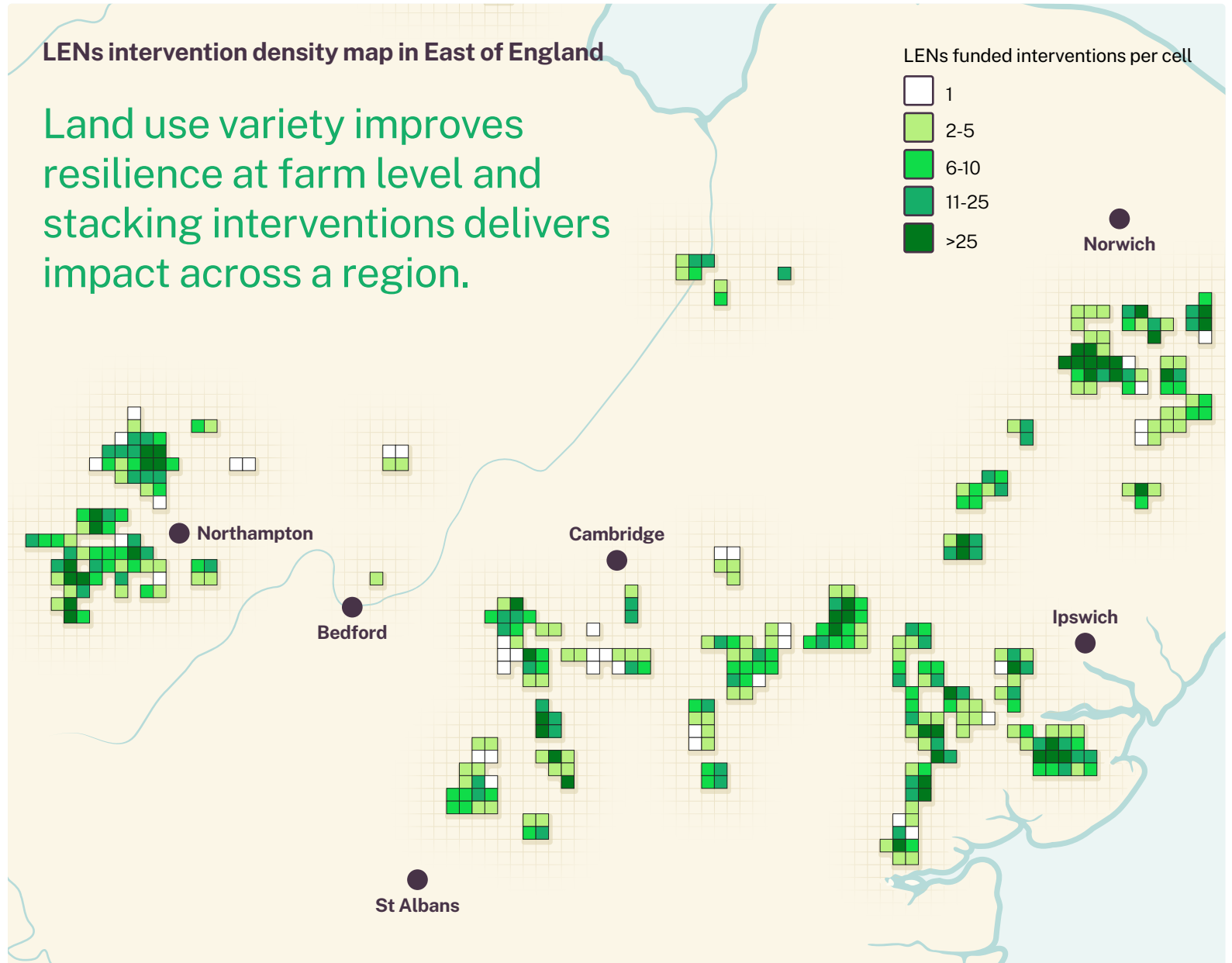


I have a 10-year scheme for willow planting, which began in 2023. It stabilised the riverbank and provided shading. We have large grass buffers along the bank and apply no products anywhere near the river to avoid pollution going into the water. Without some support, I just wouldn't have done it.

Richard Maddever,
East of England farmer



⁴ Banerjee, S., Baudena, M; Carter, P; Bastiaansen, R. ; Doelman, A; Rietkerk, M. Rethinking Tipping Points in Spatial Ecosystems. The American Naturalist Volume 207, Number 4 (2026) <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/739177>



3 Protecting soil and water

The importance of soil health has never been better recognised. Mineral soils under cropland in the EU are losing an estimated 7.4 million tonnes of carbon annually, largely caused by unsustainable farming practices.⁵

LENs supports farmers to adopt practices such as species-rich cover crops, intercropping, reduced tillage, and using nitrogen-fixing plants, soil activators, compost and organic manure. These activities improve the health and fertility of soils, increasing their ability to sequester carbon, retain water and nourish crops.



With LENs support, we're working to strengthen the fungal networks that drive nutrient cycling, organic matter formation and long term soil health. Because of LENs, we've been able to invest in changes where the benefits aren't always immediate but we believe the long term gains for the farm, environment and our community will be significant. We're building resilience from the soil up.

Claire Donkin,
East of England farmer



⁵ EU Soil Strategy for 2030, Reaping the benefits of healthy soils for people, food, nature and climate <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0699>

Healthy soils function as carbon, water and nutrient banks and microbial memory systems. They help farming withstand variable weather, remove dependence on external inputs and reduce fluctuations in crop yields.



+1.4t/ha

annual increase in soil organic carbon across all landscapes



+1.24m³/ha

increase per hectare in water holding capacity compared to 2024



70%+

arable land was under reduced tillage in 2025 across all landscapes



500m³

of new water storage created in wetland scrapes, ponds and earth bunds

Wetland scrapes, East of England



Use of microbial pellets to improve soil nutrient profile, East of England

4 Reducing reliance on synthetic inputs

Fertiliser and fuel prices are volatile and higher costs mean tough choices about how to invest limited resources. LENS helps farmers introduce nature-friendly methods such as organic manure, biostimulants and mechanical weeding. We have measured triple benefits:

1. Reduced inputs: average nitrogen use down **6kg/ha** across all regions between 2024-25 with crop yields remaining above regional averages
2. Financial savings: across all LENS regions, farms achieved an average synthetic input cost saving of **£140 per hectare**, based on 2025 market prices. Projecting forward, these savings rise to £160/ha when applying 2026 fuel and fertiliser costs
3. Reduced emissions: a drop of **13,500 tCO2e** emissions as a result of efficient use of fertiliser, precision application of fertiliser, changing to foliar nitrogen application and switching from ploughing to low tillage and direct seeding

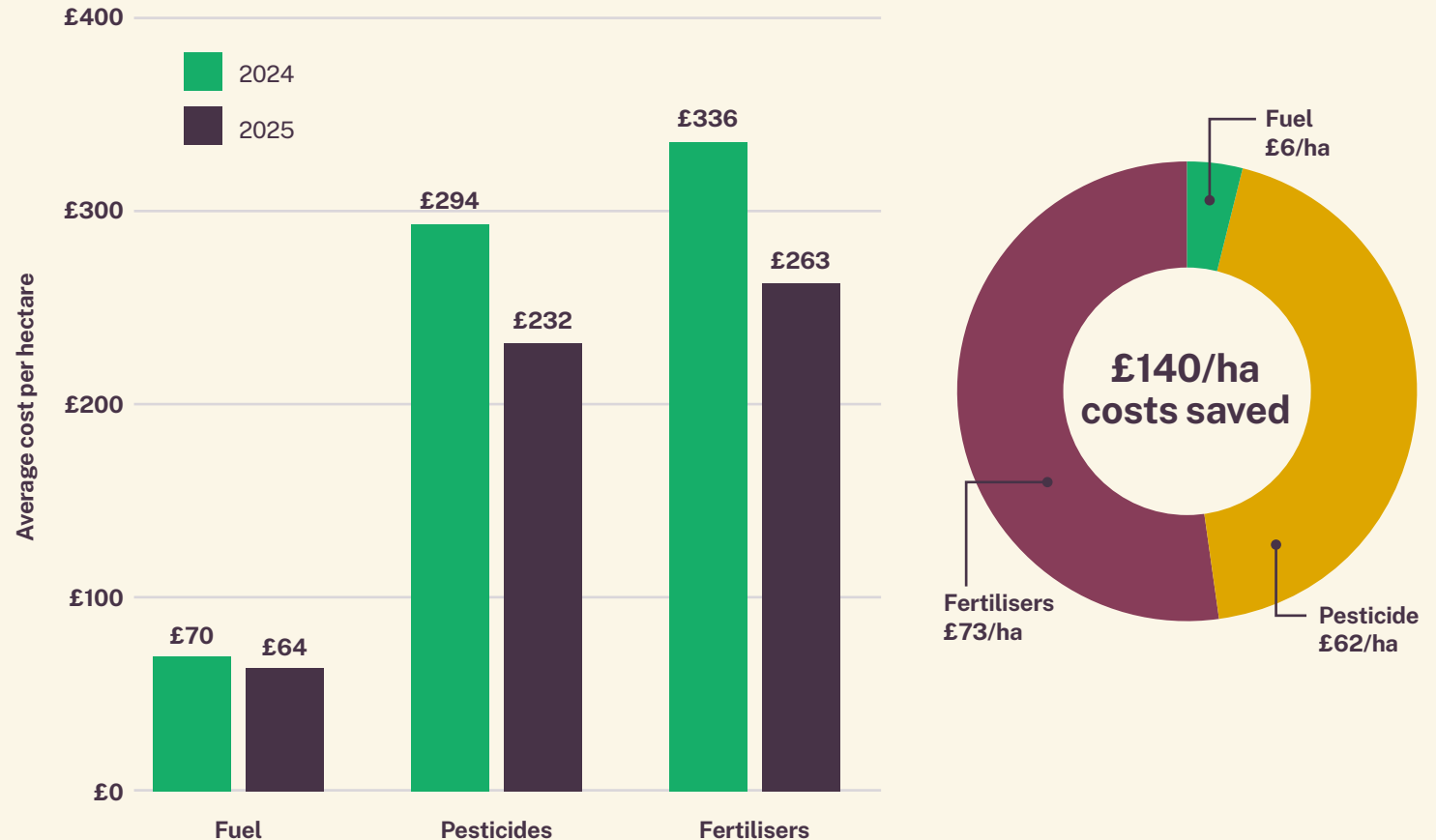


"Being part of LENS has focused our minds and we're really beginning to see the benefits. For example, direct drilling a field next to one that wasn't and the difference is very noticeable. The soil structure after direct drilling is far superior. We see many more birds foraging on the direct drilled area, which shows that there must be more invertebrates for them to feed off."

Michael Woolhouse, Yorkshire farmer

Having tracked fuel and input costs, LENS has shown reduced costs as farmers adopt more lower input farming methods.

Average annual costs per hectare for LENS farmers



5 Building networks and shared learning

Resilient landscapes aren't just about ecology and economics; they're built on farmer support, shared learning and relationships.

LENs promotes collaboration, encouraging farmers to experiment, share failures and innovations, and coordinate responses. We have on-farm workshops, a farmer newsletter, training events and awards. At farm days, funders and farmers share experiences, understand challenges and discuss solutions.

LENs gives meaningful support to farmers, with the flexibility to suit each farm and a pathway to become leading regenerative farmers. The Resilience Pathway is a staged approach to adopting regenerative agriculture practices and helps farmers identify where they are on that journey. It has four levels - entry, engaged, advanced and leading, and is aligned with SAI Platform's Regenerating Together Framework.

To further aid this progression, in 2026, we introduced farmer roadmaps. Our agronomists work with farmers to plan next steps for the regenerative transition.

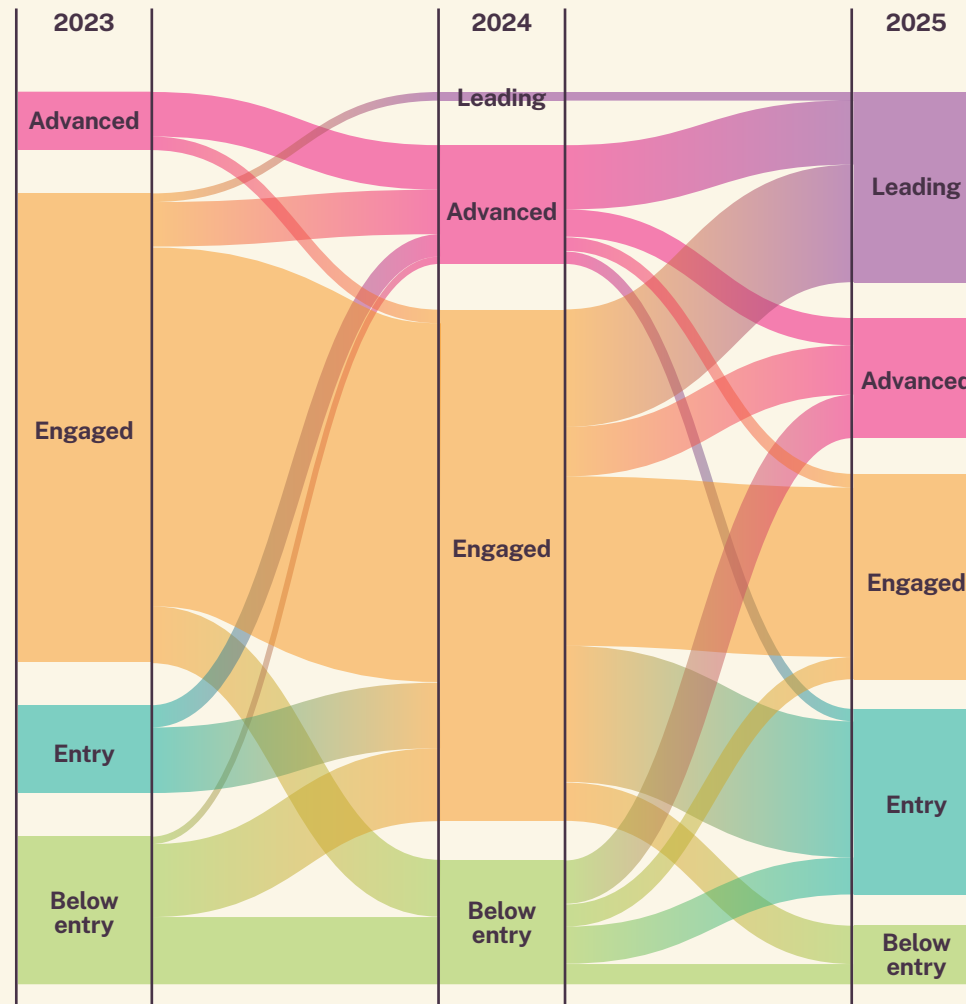


"One of the most valuable benefits [of LENS] is access to advisory services. Thanks to my MRV results and expert guidance, I was able to implement recommendations the very same day. This has already allowed me to omit a zinc-based foliar fertiliser on my fields. I look forward to continued support that will allow me to improve my farm even further."

Wojciech Mila, Poland farmer



Farm Progression across LENS Resilience Pathway levels



The diagram represents 100+ farms which have been part of LENS between 2023 and 2025. It shows that more farms are progressing to advanced and leading levels, as they adopt regenerative practices.

Leading farms must have:

- >70% of arable land with three or more crops
- >70% of arable land covered 10 months of year
- >50% of arable land with cover crops
- >70% of land under minimum tillage
- >5% of land with positive impacts for biodiversity

By contrast, entry level is:

- >30% of arable land with three or more crops
- >30% of arable land covered 10 months of year

Note: a small proportion of farms are also moving down a level, this could be down to unforeseen weather conditions meaning they couldn't meet all of the criteria. Cover crops establishment for instance has been a challenge in 2024 and 2025 in some regions due to wet weather conditions.

A cost-effective model for collective landscape regeneration

Greater impact, lower cost

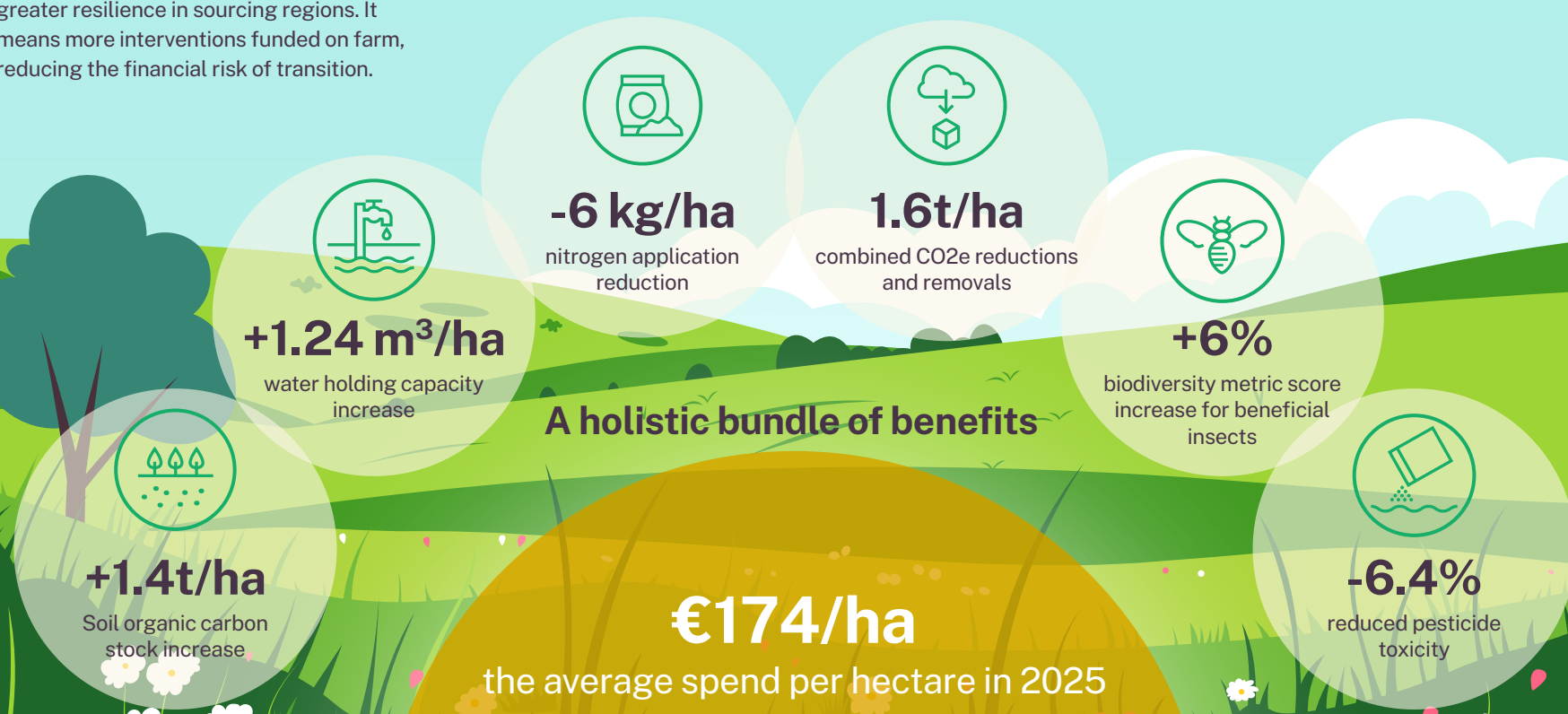
By pooling funding from multiple sources, LENS reduces costs for organisations to invest in landscape resilience, while achieving greater outcomes for the benefit of all involved. For example, in 2025, our Yorkshire region leveraged an additional €5 from other funders for every €1 invested. Co-funding builds greater resilience in sourcing regions. It means more interventions funded on farm, reducing the financial risk of transition.

Cost-efficient

For every €1 of funding, 70¢ goes directly to farmers. The remaining 30¢ covers programme administration, farmer technical support, agronomic advice, contracting and payments, MRV and impact reporting.

Trusted and science-backed methods

We have best-in-class MRV systems. These are affordable, thanks to our cost-sharing approach. Our primary datasets and expertise mean we can assess what drives and sustains positive change.



Impact measurement methods

We measure environmental and economic outcomes on every farm annually. Farmers receive data insights about their farm and funders receive credible results linked to their funding, as well as the right to report business-specific claims. We are not a carbon credit scheme.

Our impact metrics and measurement approach exceeds requirements of SAI Platform's Regenerating Together Framework.

We measure, quantify and report GHG emission reductions and removals in accordance with GHG Protocol Land Sector Removals Standards and SBTi Forest Land and Agriculture standard.

Our 2025 carbon numbers were externally verified by SE Advisory Services. Our MRV methods are reviewed and updated annually by 3Keel Group Ltd.

Impact areas

Farmer Wellbeing & Resilience

Outcome indicators

- Resilience pathway level achieved in 2025
- Improved profit margins
- Ability to cope with challenges
- Improved wellbeing (sense of purpose and connectivity to land)

Healthy productive soils

Outcome indicators

- Increase in soil organic carbon
- Land under reduced tillage
- Land under cover crops
- Crops in the rotation

Thriving biodiversity on farm

Outcome indicators

- New saplings planted
- New habitats created
- Habitat area compared to farm size
- Key species score

High water quality & conservation

Outcome indicators

- Nitrogen use efficiency
- Nitrogen use
- Nitrates
- Pesticide reduction
- Environmental impact quotient use
- Water holding capacity

Climate mitigation

Outcome indicators

- Crop emissions reductions
- Emissions sources breakdown
- Soil carbon sequestration
- Hedgerow and tree sequestration

Contribution to landscape resilience and ecosystem services

- Food production
- Biological control
- Water quality
- Pollution
- Habitat
- Reduced flood risks
- Climate stability
- Air quality
- Recreation



The view from LENS funders and farmers

“Since 2021, we’ve partnered with LENSs across 4 countries to help farmers transition to more regenerative practices, aiming at improving soil health and fertility, water and biodiversity, but also capturing carbon. Ultimately, it is enhancing more resilient farming systems which are critical to help secure the ingredients we’ll need in the future.”

Cécile Doinel, Regenerative Agriculture Lead, Nestlé PURINA Petcare Europe

“LENSs continues to promote innovative, landscape-scale measures that help land managers transition to regenerative agriculture, create thriving soils and diversify their businesses by delivering ecosystem services for funders, like water companies. The MRV data generated provides us with valuable evidence we can show to our regulators to demonstrate how LENSs creates more resilient landscapes that balance the production of food, water, and environmental benefits.”

Danny Coffey, Asset Manager (Catchment), Affinity Water

“Diageo first engaged with LENSs in Yorkshire in 2023, and it has been exciting to see the model grow and move north to Scotland in the last year. The ability for the stacked investment model to deliver impact is clear and it is helping us build supply chain resilience across some of our priority crops. As LENSs has evolved, the ease of access from a funder perspective is another key strength.”

Adam Carson – Agriculture Partnerships Manager, Diageo

“Sustainable farming makes me feel more connected to the land and I have a great sense of purpose in my work. It has also opened up opportunities for connecting within my community; this year I opened an educational farm, and when I have guests, I take them on a tour of the farm, explaining the measures I’ve implemented with LENSs.”

Francesca Berton, LENSs farmer since 2023, Italy

“I have found the knowledge exchange opportunities through LENSs involvement very useful, not only from other farmers but also from the funders involved in the wider supply chain.

The main benefit to my farm has been the ability to expand cover/catch cropping and most importantly through an innovation proposal to implement an all year cover crop. This has enabled me to progress further along the Resilience pathway, delivering improved soil quality and the opportunity to control some problem grassweeds more effectively than in a cash crop.”

Nic Drever-Smith, LENSs farmer since 2024, Yorkshire

“I used to question the benefits of regen agriculture, but after the first properly selected cover crop created a spongy soil structure and the corn planted afterward – which was submerged during the spring floods – did not die and I was able to harvest it with an excellent yield, I have since considered it an important part of farming. Thanks to the support from the LENSs programme, I can introduce new soil conservation technologies with lower risk.”

Pál Bodorics, LENSs farmer since 2022, Hungary

Funding partners



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