

High Weald Nature Recovery Area: a Vision for Grasslands

Grassland is farmed profitably and benefits the environment

All grassland soils are healthy

Traditional grassland management practices are sustainable

Populations of key species have increased and spread across the High Weald

The ecosystem services provided by grasslands are maximised.

Regenerative agricultural practices are improving soils, storing carbon and increasing grassland plant diversity

All designated grassland sites are in favourable condition

New and better use of technology is making grassland management for multiple benefits easier

Herbal leys are used as part of the arable system

Amenity grassland has become more diverse and is benefiting wildlife

Species-rich road verges are managed as priority habitat

There is more scrub within and around fields, particularly along woodland boundaries

Road verges are managed for pollinators

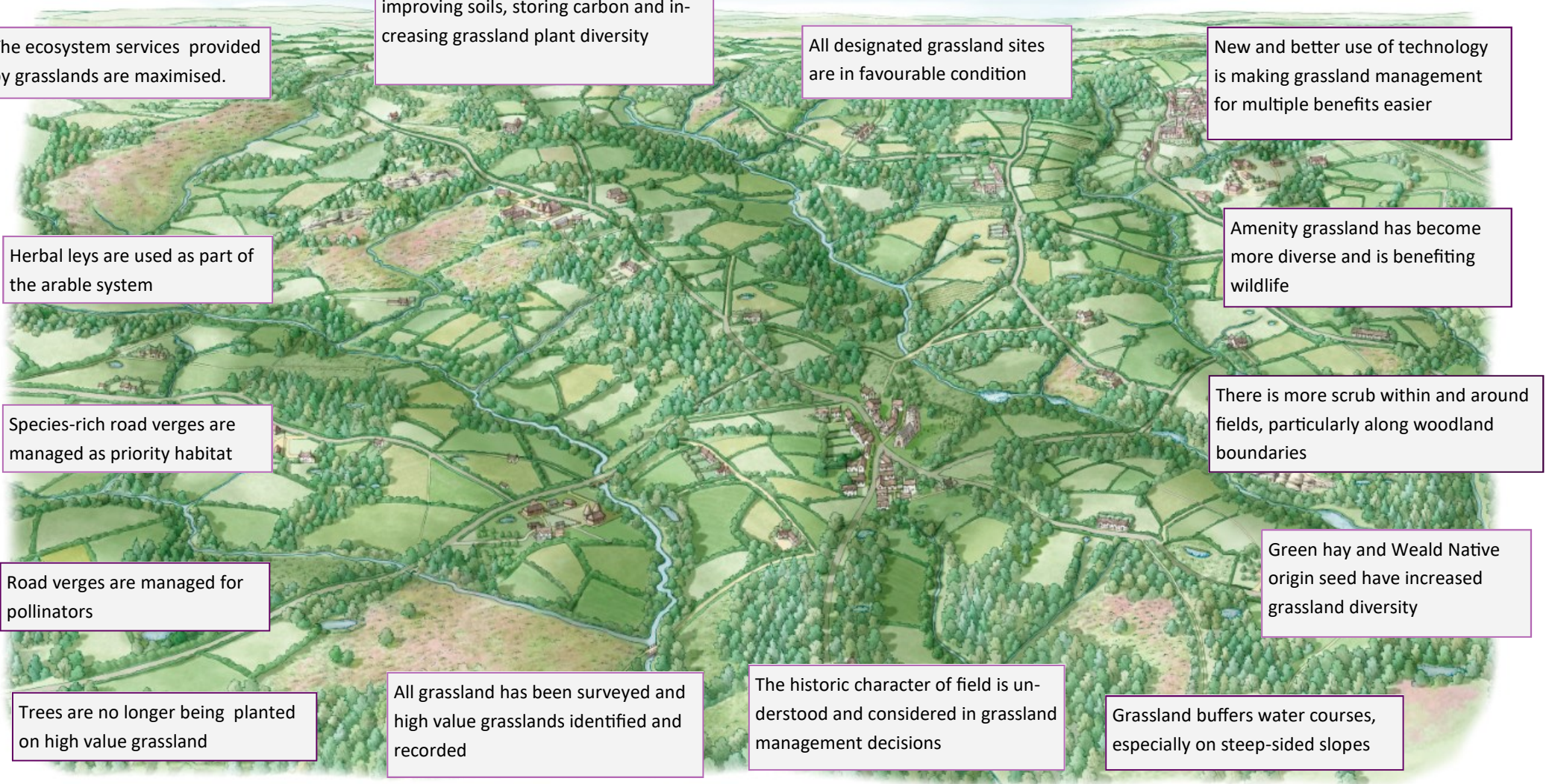
Green hay and Weald Native origin seed have increased grassland diversity

Trees are no longer being planted on high value grassland

All grassland has been surveyed and high value grasslands identified and recorded

The historic character of field is understood and considered in grassland management decisions

Grassland buffers water courses, especially on steep-sided slopes



High Weald Nature Recovery Area: a Vision for People

A High Weald Grassland Network shares knowledge and expertise and finds solutions to management challenges

Land managers manage grassland for multiple benefits

More people recognise different grassland types and understand their relative values

The costs of managing a landscape rich in public goods is recognised and incentives for environmental land management recognise these costs

Land managers understand grassland management and restoration techniques

Grasslands are appreciated and respected by the public as places for quiet recreation, seeing wildlife and environmentally-friendly and productive farming

More businesses are offering specialist grassland services that meet land managers' needs

There are no incidents involving livestock and dogs

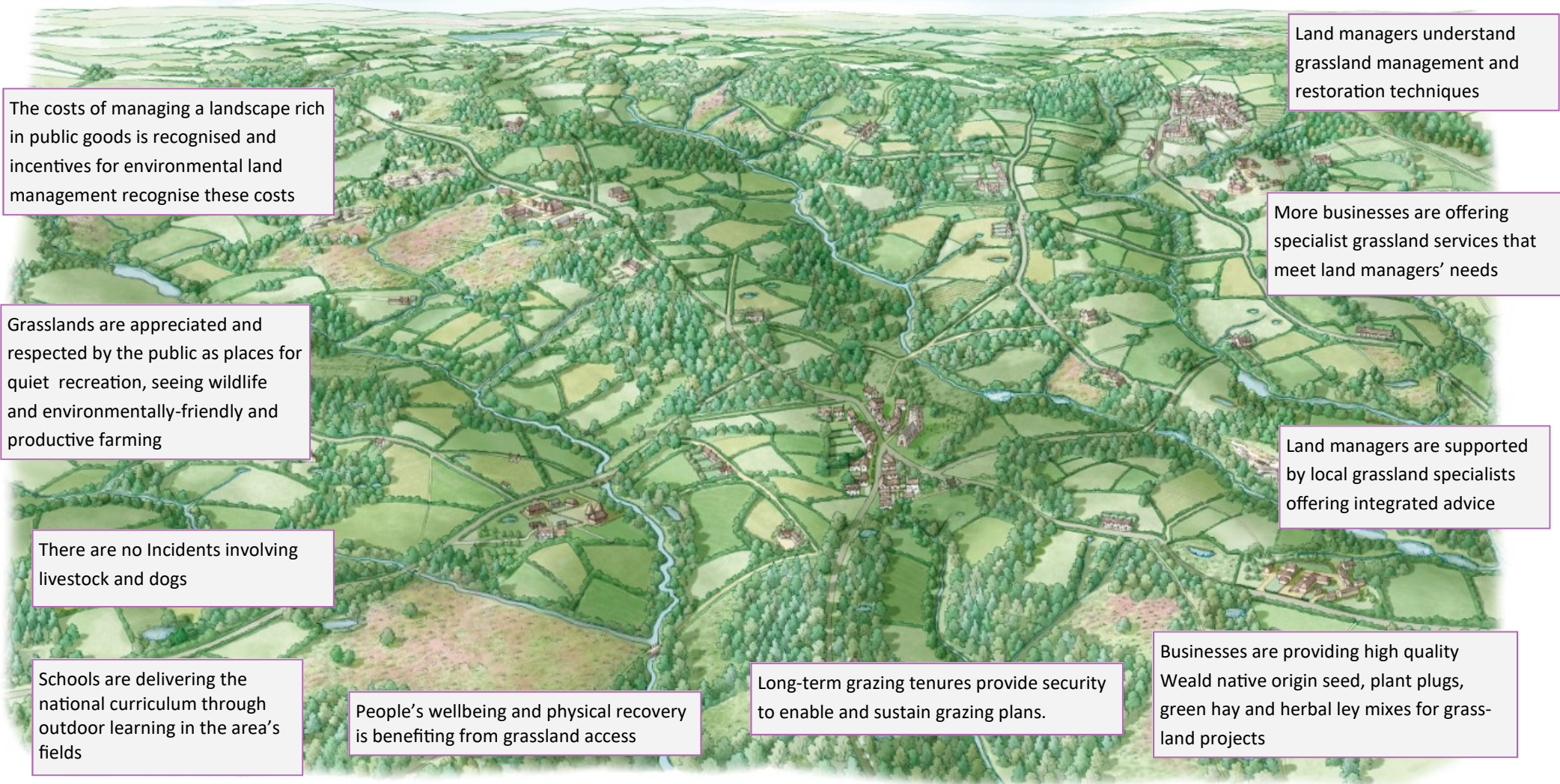
Land managers are supported by local grassland specialists offering integrated advice

Schools are delivering the national curriculum through outdoor learning in the area's fields

People's wellbeing and physical recovery is benefiting from grassland access

Long-term grazing tenures provide security to enable and sustain grazing plans.

Businesses are providing high quality Weald native origin seed, plant plugs, green hay and herbal ley mixes for grassland projects



High Weald Grasslands - a Natural Asset

Acid grassland is found

Permanent grassland protects soils and soaks up water in the headwaters of seven river catchments

Strongly associate with woods, shaws and hedges. Many are 'ancient'.

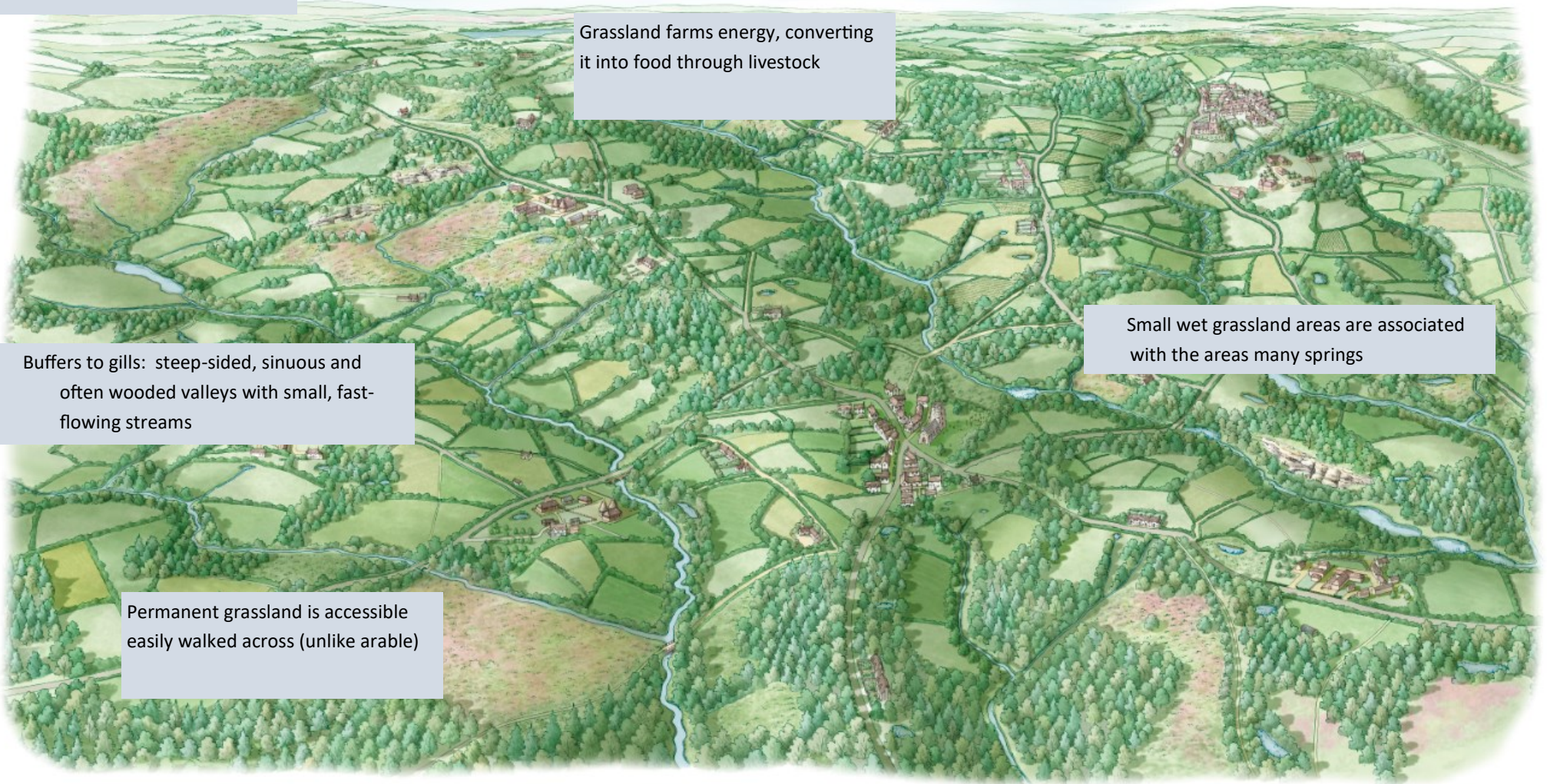
Acid grassland is found

Grassland farms energy, converting it into food through livestock

Small wet grassland areas are associated with the areas many springs

Buffers to gills: steep-sided, sinuous and often wooded valleys with small, fast-flowing streams

Permanent grassland is accessible easily walked across (unlike arable)



High Weald NRA: Withing a medieval landscape

12,571 of historic field boundaries

639 recorded iron-working sites

85% of agricultural land is classified as Grade 3 or 4.

2265km of historic routeways

Hedges: historic and often found on the top of man-made banks

Fields: small and irregularly-shaped; cleared from woodland by our ancestors and unchanged since the Medieval period

Wildflower fields and verges: grasslands that have escaped 'improvement' and are remnants of a habitat that was common until the 1950s.

Over 3500 scattered farmsteads: often with a range of buildings arranged along a track, many of which date from the 17th century or earlier

Veteran trees: often found on woodland and field boundaries and of interest because of their size and age

Banks: created to indicate administrative, ownership and management boundaries and to manage livestock.

