

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee

Draft Minutes of the meeting held at Blagdon Village Club, Blagdon, 20th March 2024

Present:

Partnership Committee

Andy Wear (Chair)	Farmer
Cllr Edric Hobbs (Vice Chair)	Somerset Council
Jim Hardcastle	National Landscape Manager
Fern Elias-Stagg	Avon Wildlife Trust
David Julian	CPRE
Steve Dury	Somerset County Council Officer
Lauren Holt	National Trust
Cllr Mike Adams	North Somerset Parish Councils Representative
Simon Clarke	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Rachel Thompson MBE	The Trails Trust

Other attendees

Andrew Chamberlain	Ranger Volunteer Coordinator
Joanna Cheung	Support and Communications Officer
Judith Chubb-Whittle	Landscape Planning Officer
Tim Haselden	Project Development Officer
Beth Kuipers	National Landscape Volunteer

Apologies

Barbra Lakin	Somerset Council Officer
Esther Coffin-Smith	North Somerset Council Officer
Julie Cooper	Somerset Council Officer
Cllr Theo Butt Phillip	Somerset County Councillor
Cllr Nick Cottle	Somerset County Councillor
Jo Lewis	Natural England
Cllr Annemieke Waite	North Somerset Council
Cllr Roger Dollins	Somerset Parish Councils Representative
Tina Bath	Mendip Society
Chris Farr	Country Land and Business Association
James Bateman	Country Land and Business Association
DI Sheppard	Bath & North East Somerset Council Officer
Cllr Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset Councillor

Summary of Actions

No.	Item	Notes	Action
1	Introduction and Apologies	Apologies as stated above	
2	Declaration of interest	No declarations.	
3	Notes of Previous Meeting	No other matters arising. Accepted as a true and accurate record. JC to arrange AW to sign	JC
4	Your Mendip Hills Headlines	Issues and ideas that need to be in the next National Landscape Management Plan. Workshop led by Judith Chubb Whittle Findings to be collated and presented as part of the Management Plan review.	
5	Paper A - Partners' Updates	See appended Notes Paper A noted and accepted	
6	Paper B - Officer Support Group Report	See appended Notes Presented by Jim Hardcastle	
7	Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Presentation by Steven Dury RT – Raised the importance of the ancient droves to nature, they could enhance connectivity for wildlife. RT – Suggested the option of blended finance. AW – Great to see inclusion of the farming community.	
8	Paper C - National Landscape Team Activity Plan for 2023/24 and 2024/25	See appended Notes Presented by Jim Hardcastle	
9	Paper D– National Landscape Association Update	See appended notes Presented by National Landscape Team To be noted	
10	AOB		

12	Date of next meeting	Thursday 20 th June 2024, morning meeting JC to send invite to Partnership	JC
----	-----------------------------	--	----

DRAFT

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	20 th March 2024	Paper: A
Title:	Partner Updates	
Presented by:	Jim Hardcastle	
To be noted.		

1. Somerset Council

2. BANES

GI Projects/Programmes within the AONB area:

Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership

Met 14th March at which partners updated on a number of projects including the Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail, River Chew Walk, Chew Vally Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP), Keynsham Memorial Park Weir removal scoping and feasibility work, Landscape recovery in the Lower Chew (Avon Needs Trees), Farm cluster project led by BART being submitted to WECA Green Recovery Fund. The Chew Valley NatureFest a day of family fun on 30th June, organised by Chew Valley Nature Recovery Network will promote nature recovery in the Chew Valley. The Partnership is coordinated by the Chew Valley Reconnected Project Manager.

Limestone Landscape Link

Work continues on the commissioned work from Atkins to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case for a large-scale nature recovery project stretching from the Limestone Link area (between the Mendips and Cotswolds) to Lower Woods in South Gloucestershire, including the Cotswolds Scarp. As a lead partner with WECA and South Gloucestershire Council, officers from BANES GI and Nature Recovery Team, together with other key stakeholders including the Mendip Hills AONB have been attending workshops for the work that should conclude end of March. BANES GI Programme Manager- Connecting Landscapes has been invited to speak at the Big Chalk conference in September on the benefits of the LLL being part of Big Chalk.

Green Infrastructure

BANES are currently preparing a new GI Strategy using the new Natural England GI Framework that includes key standards for which BANES are collating baseline evidence to set targets including for urban nature recovery, accessible natural greenspace and tree canopy. Engagement with key stakeholder will take place July/August following on from the stakeholder event held September 2023.

Local Plan

The BANES Local Plan options consultation is now open and will close on the 8th April

Training for BANES Officers about the National Landscape

Officer training from the team at Mendip Hills NL will be given to officers in BANES on April 24th. Good attendance is expected especially from Planning DM case officers.

3. NSC

4. Natural England

5. National Trust

6. SWT

7. AWT

- We are continuing to make progress with dealing with Ash Dieback on our Mendip reserves.
- We recently planted a climate resilient orchard at one of our Mendip nature reserves with the aim to provide connectivity for wildlife between existing woodland and fruit trees. We had fantastic support with the tree planting from several groups including the Mendip National Hills National Landscape volunteers.
- Issues: recurring issues of dogs off leads on reserves. Misuse of footpaths by cyclists and horse riders on several of our Mendip nature reserves.

8. Parish Council Representatives

9. Mendip Society

The Mendip Society has continued with its revamped Walks and Talks Programme, organised visits took members to Burcott Mill, Avalon Marshes, Leigh Down Stone Circles, and Mendip Hospital Cemetery.

A second advanced Hedge laying course was run to tackle the overgrown hedge at Tania's Wood, whilst the Volunteers manage the clearance of pathways and deer park embankment.

Slader's Leigh is as always very popular with local's and others using the Strawberry-Line walk, and it has been especially busy whilst the National Trust Kingswood car park was closed for tree felling works.

A few requests that have come in through the small grants scheme which are at a delicate stage in getting the final approvals and agreements in place, hopefully these should be sorted soon.

We continue with sponsorship, and promote our work at the Mendip Ploughing Society Annual Ploughing Match, the Wrington and Burrington Hedging Society Hedging Competition, and North Somerset Ploughing Match, these special events bring together people from the Farming, and Local Communities who have a passion and understanding of the Countryside, alongside new people to the area who wish to engage and learn about historic skills and past times.

The Mendip Society AGM is at Draycott Village Hall, Saturday 27th April 10.30 Guest Speaker will be Dr Andy King who will be giving a talk on 'site monitoring of Mendip using Drones'

The Mendip Society will continue to respond to Planning Applications opposing new developments that continue to Land lock the Mendip Hills, where the scale of development detracts from the openness and tranquillity of the countryside both in and around the Mendip Hills. Many Villages risk losing their unique identity and require better public transport linking them to road and rail networks.

10. CPRE

New CPRE Policy on Farming: The policy recognises the vital role farmers and farming plays in ensuring the countryside continues to provide public benefits for the nation. It sets out CPRE's belief that we should properly safeguard farmland to deliver greater benefits for our long-term future. The health and vitality of farmers and the sector are central to tackling the interconnected crises of securing our food supply, restoring nature and stabilising the climate as well as sustaining the health of the countryside. As such farmers should be properly rewarded by the market for sustainable produce and by public funding to enable them to deliver key goals set publicly.

Hedgerows: On 24th January, Selaine Saxby (MP for North Devon) led a parliamentary debate titled "Hedgerows: Legal Protection." The debate brought together some of CPRE's Hedgerow Heroes to discuss how to secure, promote and enhance hedgerows across the country. Locally, CPRE Somerset and Friends of the Quantocks have sent a joint letter to Selaine Saxby, Rebecca Pow and Sarah Dyke (3 local MPs who spoke at the debate) thanking them for speaking at the debate but pointing out that Somerset Council and the Rural Payments Agency are failing to investigate a case of illegal hedgerow removal in the Quantock Hills National Landscape.

Consultations: CPRE Somerset has responded to recent consultations on Somerset's Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain Guidelines Rural Affordable Housing: CPRE's recent report on the state of rural affordable housing in England showed that the south west is the area worst affected. The South West has the highest levels of rural homelessness and longest waiting lists for social housing in England. This is one of the key campaigns that features in CPRE's general election manifesto for the next government.

Rooftop renewables: Campaigning to maximise the opportunity for rooftop solar, and to reduce industrial scale development on green field and productive farmland. CPRE Somerset hosted a successful event in November 2023, calling for a rooftop revolution to save our countryside. We have also produced an interactive map of solar power plants in Somerset. All attendees were invited to sign CPRE's petition calling for more rooftop solar and, more recently, to respond to the Govt's consultation on building regs, asking for rooftop solar to become mandatory on new builds.

Litter: We continue to recruit Litter Volunteers who pledge to carry out regular tidy ups in their local area. So far, we have given out over 280 litter picking kits to volunteers and we have links with five SEND schools, who have students doing litter picking as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. One of our volunteers does regular clean ups at Cheddar Reservoir and has established good contact with Bristol Water ranger team over problems with litter and antisocial behaviour in the lower car park.

Fingerposts: CPRE Somerset is offering small grants to Parish Councils to help restore their historic fingerpost signs. Details of signposts restored so far can be found [here](#).

11. The Trails Trust

The Trails Trust (TTT) currently represents multi-user access whether on foot, by horse, by bicycle or disabled conveyance to the Mendip Hills AONB partnership.

ELM 159 Test

Landscape Recovery Test ELM 159A

TTT is pleased to report that the second test (159A) 'Incentivising green infrastructure public access and biodiversity creation in land management' is running in the Landscape Recovery

Test and Trial programme and continues to run smoothly.

The Mendip test team, which includes a member of the Mendip Hill unit team, is working with ten participants chosen from the 50 test 1 participants.

The test started in July 2022, we have 9 milestones to complete and are currently on the seventh milestone.

The following mechanisms have been researched, tested and a report on each sent to Defra.

Advice & Guidance theme

- Pictorial image mechanism designed to help landowners and land managers overcome impacts and barriers to public access.
- Usefulness of topical advice, an example containing a highway exit mechanism tool designed to help landowners and land managers assess where exits can be managed in a land management plan when planning access creation / improvement and how to decide if more specialist help is required.
- An advice and guidance framework to inform a future green infrastructure access and biodiversity creation / improvement tool kit.

Payments theme

- Blended finance – how can the private, public and third sectors be incentivised to invest, participate and collaborate to deliver a strategic accessible connected green infrastructure network that works for people and nature through land management plans.

Land management Plans

- Constructing long term agreements to deliver creation and improvement of access and biodiversity on the land holding.

The team is

- due to report shortly on land owner and manager opinions about the value of access and the payments that should be made

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	20 th March 2024	Paper: B
Title:	Officer Support Group Report	
Presented by:	Officer Support Group member	
To be noted.		

1. Update

- 1.1. The Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) programme has been extended for another year, finishing now in March 2025. Existing delivery staff have been offered contract extensions. All national landscape teams are requesting urgent confirmation from Defra of clarity for the programme and staff after this date.
- 1.2. The National Landscape Team will receive £69,390 from Defra's Access for All budget. Details are yet to be finalised but the priority will be on improving accessible routes and car parking facilities at a number of sites.
- 1.3. Defra have also offered approximately £85,000 for capital works in the National Landscape. The team are waiting for my guidance on how this can be spent but have allocated 10% to purchase items in relation to the new brand.
- 1.4. The contribution from Defra for the Partnership remains at £184,661 until 2025. As local authority contributions remain at the current rate with no inflationary increase despite all costs rising the team remain in danger of running at a loss this year and in subsequent years.

2. Somerset Council Financial Position

- 2.1. Despite receiving written confirmation and having it agreed at the last Partnership meeting the contributions from Mendip and Sedgemoor district councils have not been allocated to the National Landscape team's core budget via Somerset Council.

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	20 th March 2024	Paper C
Title:	National Landscape Team Activity Plan Update for 2023 - 2024.	
Presented by:	Jim Hardcastle	

Mendip Hills National Landscape Team

Activity Plan 2023-24

National Landscape Association Metrics

1. Hectares of habitat conserved or enhanced for biodiversity
2. Hectares of land conserved for geodiversity
3. Hectares of land where the heritage asset condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced
4. Hectares of landscape enhanced via the removal of overhead cables
5. Number of SMs where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced
6. Number of other designated sites where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced
7. Number of non-designated heritage assets where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced
8. Number of volunteers
9. Attendance at events convened/organised by AONB team
10. Number of young people (<18yo) engaged with via school visits, activities etc
11. Number of farmers/land managers engaged with
12. Number of people engaged with via AONB promotional publications (newsletter database)
13. Number of people engaged with via social media (engagement rate)
14. Number of partnerships where the AONB team is the project/team/steering group lead
15. Number of partnerships where the AONB team is a supporting partner
16. Number of strategies, plans, policy or guidance documents appraised or developed by the AONB team
17. Number of Major 'development schemes' appraised – LPA planning applications
18. Number of non-Major 'development schemes' appraised – LPA planning applications
19. Number of other 'development schemes' appraised – Highways, Environment Agency, BT etc
20. Number of National Infrastructure Projects appraised
21. Number of other 'land management schemes' appraised – woodland management, catchment sensitive farming countryside stewardship
22. Amount of Defra funding spent (core)
23. Amount of local authority funding spent (core)
24. Amount of non-local authority funding spent (core)
25. Value of other 'external' grants or contributions spent on projects (non core)
26. Value of external projects substantially influenced/generated by the AONB team
27. Value of volunteer days

Project Delivery

NATURE							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj.	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Nature Recovery Plan (NRP)	Produce a Nature Recovery Plan for the National Landscape.	TH	L1, L3, BG2, BG3, BG4, N1, N2, N3, LM1, LM2, LM3	2.2.2	1, 2, 6, 7	Published in August 2023. Nature Recovery Plan - Mendip Hills AONB	GREEN
	Secure long-term funding for the Nature Recovery Ranger.	JH	L1, L2, BG1, BG2, BG3, P1, P2	6.2	24, 25	Mendip Activity Centre funding for 20% of role. NO has been moved to core funding with a permanent contract.	GREEN
	Develop the surveying skills of the volunteers.	AC, NO	H1, P1, P2, P3	2.1	8, 27	Champion Species focus on dormouse, adders and black oil beetle initially.	GREEN
	Submit a bid to the Natural England Species Recovery Programme c. £150k.	TH			25	Bid not successful. Landscape Recovery bid also submitted in partnership with the National Trust but not successful.	AMBER
Mendip National Nature Reserve	Support the designation process of the 'super' NNR, lead the subsequent steering group.	JH, TH	L1, BG1-6, R2, P1, P3	2.2.3	14	Declaration confirmed on 26/7/23. Declaration event on 19/10/23, led by Natural England. MHNL team now chairing new delivery group.	GREEN
CLIMATE							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red,

				Plan ref.			Amber, Green)
Tree planting	Plant 4000 trees in line with the Nature Recovery Plan	TH/ NO	BG1-2	2.2.1	1, 8, 9, 10, 27	Approx 2500 planted – partnership with NT south of Kings Wood, plus understorey planting in Netherwood. Supporting Westbury Tree Group and purchased trees for them, which are planting around Westbury-sub-Mendip.	AMBER
PEOPLE							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delive ry Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Nature Recovery Plan Community Engagement Plan	Prepare a strategy for involving the community in the understanding and delivery of the Nature Recovery Plan.	JH / TH	P1, P2	1.1	9, 12, 13	Two-year plan in place to focus on Champion Species engagement and community monitoring – this has led to production of ID sheets, A2 posters, and films for all champion species. Nature Recovery Ranger leading on hibernaculum monitoring.	GREEN
Somerset Nature Connections (SNC)	Work with SWT and other partners to deliver the project that supports work with groups and individuals with mental health conditions and special educational needs to deliver activities focussed on improving people's health and wellbeing through contact with nature and landscape. Partnership project with the 2 other Somerset AONBs and Somerset Wildlife Trust.	TH	P1, P2, L3, R4, N1	8.2.2	9, 15	Successful final year of project delivery with Somerset Wildlife Trust, ending in March 2024. 1 year's continuation funding has been secured from Farming in Protected Landscape Programme and Healthier with Nature (NHS/WENP/NE) pilot (match funding TBC), this will secure project delivery and a member of staff, bringing project in-house with a focus on North Somerset farms, and integrating into a wider green social prescribing pilot, aiding longer-term funding sustainability.	AMBER
NAAONB Conference 2024	Support the delivery of the NAAONB Conference through field trips and staff time.	JH, ALL	L3, P3	1.1	9	Two field trips planned in the Mendip Hills National Landscape. JH introduced the host landscapes with a speech at the start of the conference. Mendip Hills NL won the Bowland Award for the best project in an NL for the adder hibernaculum project.	GREEN

Mendip Farm Cluster group	Work with SWT to continue the Facilitation Fund farmers group.	JH	L1, L2, BG1-3, H2-3, N1, N3	6.1.1	15	Somerset Wildlife Trust achieved continuity funding and working closely with FiPL team. Jemima Western, Somerset Wildlife Trust coordinator for the Mendip Farm Cluster Group, is now contracted to work 2 days a week as a Farm Engagement Officer in the NL team.	GREEN
Off-road event guidance	Produce a webpage for off-road event guidance including a calendar of known events.	JC	R2-4	4.1	12	Working group established with Natural England, National Trust and Somerset Wildlife Trust.	AMBER
Top of the Gorge	Support the delivery of the adventure festival through pre-event meetings, on site staffing and volunteer rangers.	JH	R2-4	8.3.1	9	Financially supported the organiser of the event. The 2023 event attracted over 1000 people to take part in running and cycling events across the Mendip Hills National Landscape.	GREEN
	Deliver the Gorge Championship community day on Friday 9 th June involving local schools.	AC, JC	R2-4	8.3.1	9, 10	The community day for schools was over-subscribed forcing a rethink as to how to engage schools.	RED
Mendip Hills AONB Partnership	Restructure the Partnership to make it a body that has greater influence on the future of the National Landscape.	JH	L3	N/A	14	On hold as awaiting guidance from Natural England on the production of AONB management plans that will clarify the expected structure of Partnerships.	RED
Mendip Way	Formalise The Mendip Way Partnership.	TH, KD	R2-4	4.3	14	Sustainable Recreation Officer to reconvene The Mendip Way Group and produce a plan with them during next financial year. Walkers are Welcome group details updated on website.	AMBER
Limestone Landscape Link	Support the work with other partners on the Limestone Landscape Link programme.	TH	BG2	5.1	15	Attending steering group now hosted by Bath and North-East Somerset Council, as well as The Big Chalk Board.	GREEN
PLACE							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delive ry Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Connecting on Mendip Project /	Develop this project into the core team to coordinate sustainable recreation.	TH / KD	R1, R2, R3, R4	4.3	27	Achieved, Sustainable Recreation Officer now part of core funded team.	GREEN

Sustainable Recreation							
Landscape Planning Guidance	Produce updated Landscape Character Assessment guidance.	JCW	D1, D4	7.1	16	Pending.	RED
Training	Develop a training programme for local councillors on the AONB special qualities, nature recovery and planning system.	JCW / TH	D4, P2, L3	1.1	9	Started with a Parish Council taster session to cover planning and nature recovery on 26/7/23. Individual PC sessions booked on: 27/9/23, 4/10/23, 19/10/23 and 9/11/23. Approximately 70 councillors and clerks have attended.	GREEN
National Landscape	Deliver the transition to the Mendip Hills National Landscape.	JH	L3	4.3.1	13	Manager is part of Steering Group and now Working Group. EGM for the AONB Partnership delivered on 9/8/23 to reveal the branding. Launched on 22/11/23 - first changes will be to website, social media, the vehicle and jackets. Other changes will be phased as and when resources allow.	GREEN
Management Plan	Begin the management plan review process for the 2024 – 29 management plan.	JCW	ALL	N/A	14	Landscape Planning Officer has produced draft 'light-touch' review. The consultation plan for the 2025-2030 has been produced and will be circulated to the Partnership.	AMBER
	Deliver a light touch review in 2023-24.	JCW	AL	N/A	14	See above.	AMBER
Art in the Landscape	Develop bids and programmes of delivery for the Art in The Landscape Weston Hub.	TH	L3, P1-2	3.2.2	25	Worked as part of National Landscape Association group to submit 'Nature Calling' bid which was successful (funding from Arts Council England and Defra). Developed local partnership with Super Culture in Weston-s-Mare, held one steering group with local stakeholders, and working on delivering year 1 of the project and securing local match funding for next financial year. Commission brief to go live soon.	GREEN
	Deliver the Moments on Mendip landscape photography programme.	TH	L3, P1-2	3.2.2	25, 9	Partnership project with Somerset Film commissioned by Seed Sedgemoor (Arts Council England), with photographic artist appointed via shortlisting and interview process. Three public workshops took place in Cheddar during the summer with 55 participants. The project culminated in a	GREEN

						Mendip Rocks! branded event in Cheddar Gorge, with the road closed, to project the artists' images and community photography of the NL's Special Qualities onto the rockfaces. 1300-1500 people attended.	
	Submit a bid to Arts Council England with Somerset Art Works for the Ash Barrow project.	TH	L3, P1-2	3.2.2	25	Unsuccessful. Project being redeveloped and alternate funds are being explored for elements of the bid. To be integrated into a wider access master plan for Deer Leap reserve.	AMBER

DRAFT

DRAFT

1. Conserve & Enhance

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj.	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Blackmoor Reserve and Deer Leap	Coordinate management plans and instigate works that conserve and enhance these sites, based around existing countryside stewardship schemes for Blackmoor and Deer Leap.	TH / NO	L1, L2, R1, LM2, P1, P2, P3	6.3.1	1,2	Deer Leap: Funding for an Accessibility Plan for the visitor area has been approved. Consultant Mei Loci appointed. Skylark areas protected and awareness raised via skylark models. Hibernaculum installed. Scrub and grassland management taken place, plus sheep grazing. New gate installed. Walls repaired. Blackmoor: Heathland being managed for adders. Scrub growth removed from archaeological features. Walls repaired.	GREEN
Mendip Way	Update online resources for the Mendip Way and support its development.	TH	R1, R2, R3, R4, P1, P2	4.1 4.2	1,4	New, engaging Mendip Way Guide published: 2432-MHAONB-Mendip-Way-Guide-WEB.pdf (mendiphills-nl.org.uk)	GREEN
Farming in Protected Landscapes	Support the allocation of project funds and the Local Assessment Panel for this programme.	JH	N1, N2, N3, L1, LM1, LM2, BG3, BG6	NA	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	2023-24 project allocation £265,277 2024-25 (final year) project allocation £341,983	GREEN
	Deliver a Farm Carbon Toolkit application process.	LS	N1, N3	NA	1, 7	Fast track Farm Carbon Audit £1500 application process put in place but landowners have not applied.	AMBER

2.							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delive ry Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Mendip Rocks!	Work with SESC & Mendip Society to organise a programme of events aimed at family groups and people with geological interests during Sept and Oct.	JH/TH	BG5, BG6, P3	8.3.1	3, 4	12 events delivered in autumn 2023; walks, talks and lectures attracting over 1700 people.	GREEN
MHAONB Website	Maintain visitor traffic to 50,000 Users & 65,000 sessions on AONB website.	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	Due to change in Google Analytics up-to-date figures are only available between April and July 2023. Users: 12,998 Sessions: 16,601 Projected Users for year: 51,992 Projected Sessions for year: 66,404	GREEN
Social media	Achieve 4000 followers on X (Twitter)	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	February 2024 3,798 followers	AMBER
	Achieve 4500 likes on Facebook	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	February 2024 5.8k likes	GREEN
	Achieve 16000 views on YouTube	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	February 2024 16,830 views	GREEN
	Achieve 2600 followers on Instagram	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	February 2024 2,806 followers	GREEN

Enewsletters	Distribute a minimum of 24 newsletters (12 to the public list, 12 to the Partnership list)	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	February 2024 8 newsletters	AMBER
	Achieve 1600 on the newsletter database.	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	February 2024 1,698 contacts	GREEN
Talks & other opportunities	Deliver 10 talks (walks), including online events & attend relevant events.	JH, TH JCW	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3, 4	The Community Farm 20/5/23 11 attended Cheddar Fairlands 18/5/23 90 attended 2 x Site visits for NLA Conference 6/9/23 37 attended 2 x Wells WI group walks 15/9/23 20/10/23 28 attended 5 x Parish Council training events 70 attended Dry Stone Walling Association talk 7/10/23 14 attended Bat walk Deer Leap 26/9/23 14 attended Westbury Society talk 21/9/23 22 attended Moments on Mendip projections event 22/10/24 1500 attended	GREEN
Annual Forum	Organise and deliver an annual forum for the public to raise awareness of the special qualities of the AONB.	JH, JC	L3, H2, N1, P1, P2, P3	8.3	3	'A New Dawn? Nature Recovery on the Mendip Hills AONB' annual forum held on 11/11/2023 at Fernhill Farm. 5 speakers focused on Champion Species with new films shown. 80 attendees.	GREEN

3.

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delive ry Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Planning liaison	Establish a planning liaison group that meets on a regular basis.	JCW	D1, D4	1.1	6	Ongoing	GREEN
	Two newsletters to planning managers (DM & policy) &	JCW	D1, D4, L3	1.1	6	Ongoing	GREEN

	planning officers. July & January						
Regional	Liaise with other NL planners and partner organisations.	JCW	D1, D4	N/A	4, 5, 6	Ongoing	GREEN
4.							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Cheddar Vision Group	Chair the Vision Group to deliver the action plan.	JH	R1, R2, D2	4.1, 4.2, 4.3	4	The group continues to be co-chaired by the NL Team. The Cheddar Wildlife Management Group is now also chaired by the NL Team.	GREEN
Volunteer Rangers	Submit funding bids and seek sponsorship to support the volunteer rangers.	TH	P1, P2	8.1	7	None required at present.	AMBER
	Maintain the Mendip Shed as a base for the volunteer rangers and other groups to use with a functioning workshop.	JH	P1, P2	8.1	3	Ongoing secondary base for the NL team and volunteers.	GREEN
	Plan and deliver the rota of site visits, meetings and social gatherings	AC	P1, P2, R4	8.1	1, 2, 3	The volunteer rangers have a regular social meeting at a pub, bi-monthly formal meetings, butterfly transects, hibernaculum monitoring, helping with Young Rangers.	GREEN
	Train 10 volunteers via Dry Stone Walling Association (DSWA).	AC	P1, P3	2.2.1	3	9 achieved training directly or indirectly with Dry Stone Walling Assn.	AMBER
	Restore 300m drystone wall via weekly practical tasks.	AC	P1, P3	2.2.1, 3.1	1, 2	Approx 320m completed at Westbury Beacon and Cook's Field so far.	GREEN
Practical Task Volunteers	Maintain a weekly programme of tasks focussed on delivering the Nature Recovery Plan.	AC, NO	P1, P2, L2	2.2, 4.2	1, 2, 3	Weekly tasks now scheduled until end of the financial year.	GREEN
Young Rangers & Advanced	Programme and deliver their activities aimed at creating environmental decision makers of the future.	ALL	P1, P2, L2	8.1	3	Young Rangers provided with a varied programme; tree planting, navigation, dormouse monitoring, building a hibernaculum and litter-picking and film-making.	GREEN

Mendip Hills Fund	Achieve donations of >£20000	JH	P2, P3	8.4	7	£12.5k allocated to groups in 1/24.	AMBER
	Administer the panel to meet in November and March	JH	P2, P3	8.4	3, 4	Ongoing	GREEN
5.							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delive ry Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Partnership	Administer 2 x meetings per year minimum.	JH	ALL	N/A	4	Ongoing with additional EGM in August for an update on the National Landscape rebrand.	GREEN
Officer Support Group	Administer 2 x meetings per year minimum	JH	ALL	N/A	4	Not taken place.	RED
Regional representation	Actively participate in regional and Somerset wide environmental partnerships that will benefit the Mendip Hills and protected landscapes	ALL	ALL	N/A	4	The National Landscape Team is represented on; Somerset Local Nature Partnership Local Nature Recovery Strategy working groups – Somerset and WENP Big Chalk Board Limestone Landscape Link Group Mendip Strategic Tourism Group Super National Nature Reserve Working Group	GREEN
National representation	Attend NLA meetings, contribute to responses, forums and communications	ALL	ALL	N/A	4	The NL Team is represented on NLA groups; Communications Working Group Rebrand Steering Group Conference Working Group Planners Group Climate Working Group 30x30 Working Group	GREEN

Management Plan Review – Objectives/Policies

Landscape Quality Objectives:

L1 Promote appropriate management to ensure that the distinctive Mendip Hills AONB landscape is maintained and enhanced

L2 Provide opportunities to acquire and develop skills required to care for and promote the landscape and its special qualities.

L3 Increase awareness and appreciation of the purposes of designation and the special qualities of the AONB

L4 Increase awareness of the benefits of supporting local products and services that help conserve and enhance the landscape.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity Objectives:

BG1 Ensure that there is no net loss of characteristic habitats and species.

BG2 Promote a landscape scale approach to the conservation and expansion of coherent and resilient ecological networks within and adjoining the AONB.

BG3 Increase monitoring and awareness of the biodiversity resource of the Mendip Hills AONB so that it is sufficiently understood to continue to guide the successful conservation of the characteristic habitats and species.

BG4 Promote a holistic approach to implementing AONB Management Plan objectives, National Character Area Statements of Opportunity and a locally designated Nature Improvement Area's objectives

BG5 Recognise and celebrate geological sites and features of the Mendip Hills AONB to ensure the successful conservation both of the geology and wildlife habitat they provide.

BG6 Increase awareness of the Mendip Hills geology, particularly cave systems in relation to the importance they play in water management and water supply.

Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage objectives;

H1 Improve the recording, interpretation and understanding of all aspects of the AONBs historic environment to ensure local communities and visitors enjoy a rich experience of the sense of place.

H2 Increase awareness and communicate the significance of the high quality historic environment of the Mendip Hills AONB

H3 Promote appropriate management of sites, structures and landscapes designated for their international, national, regional or local importance in the historic environment to ensure no further loss of heritage assets.

Recreation, Access and Tourism objectives:

R1 Maintain, improve and promote public access and quiet recreational activities with measures to ensure access for all in accordance with the purposes of AONB designation.

R2 Support the development of tourism and day visits that benefits the local economy, conserves and enhances the landscape and improves understanding of the Mendip Hills.

R3 Develop and promote more sustainable methods of travel to and around the AONB for enjoyment and recreation.

R4 Support healthy lifestyles by encouraging more people to use the Mendip Hills for sustainable outdoor activities.

Natural Resources objectives:

N1 Recognise and promote the benefits and relevance of the AONB as a valuable source of ecosystem services, economic and health benefits.

N2 Promote conservation of water resources and enhance their quality taking measures to reduce low flows and flooding by appropriate management and use.

N3 Promote sustainable management of soils in accordance with best practice to minimise erosion and water pollution and maximise resilience to drought.

Land Management objectives:

LMI Support sustainable farming to ensure it remains as the principle land use and contributes to maintaining the special qualities of the AONB.

LM2 Support and promote rural land management that conserves and enhances natural resources, including biodiversity, landscape character the historic environment and aids public awareness and enjoyment of the Mendip Hills AONB.

LM3 Promote a sustainable woodland economy that enhances the Mendip Hills AONB woodlands and wider landscape with targeted woodland management and creation in appropriate locations supporting wood fuel and local community opportunities.

LM4 Influence the use, restoration and after use of all quarries to minimise the impact on the landscape and to be compatible with the purposes of designation.

Development and Transport Objectives:

D1 Working with the local planning authorities, ensure that development in the AONB and its setting is of a nature, scale, location and design that meets community need without compromising the special qualities of the Mendip Hills AONB.

D2 Working with the local highways authorities, ensure that the special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport and associated infrastructure.

D3 Encourage reduction in Carbon emissions within the AONB through reducing energy consumption, applying energy conservation measures, encouraging more sustainable patterns of development, and utilising renewable energy generation technologies that are of an appropriate type and scale for their siting.

D4 Ensure issues of importance for the management of the AONB landscape are fully reflected in strategies and plans produced by other agencies and local communities.

Participation objectives:

P1 Increase the opportunities for volunteering and the range of people participating, to benefit the environment, people's health and well being and local communities in and around the AONB.

P2 Encourage the involvement of local people and the wider community in the management of the AONB

P3 Promote the Mendip Hills as an educational resource for all ages and encourage sharing of research and learning tools.

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	20 th March 2024	Paper C Continued
Title:	National Landscape Team Activity Plan Update for 2024-25	
Presented by:	Jim Hardcastle	

Mendip Hills National Landscape Team

Activity Plan 2024-25

National Landscape Association Metrics

28. Hectares of habitat conserved or enhanced for biodiversity
29. Hectares of land conserved for geodiversity
30. Hectares of land where the heritage asset condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced
31. Hectares of landscape enhanced via the removal of overhead cables
32. Number of SMs where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced
33. Number of other designated sites where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced
34. Number of non-designated heritage assets where the condition or setting has been conserved or enhanced
35. Number of volunteers
36. Attendance at events convened/organised by AONB team
37. Number of young people (<18yo) engaged with via school visits, activities etc
38. Number of farmers/land managers engaged with
39. Number of people engaged with via AONB promotional publications (newsletter database)
40. Number of people engaged with via social media (engagement rate)
41. Number of partnerships where the AONB team is the project/team/steering group lead
42. Number of partnerships where the AONB team is a supporting partner
43. Number of strategies, plans, policy or guidance documents appraised or developed by the AONB team
44. Number of Major 'development schemes' appraised – LPA planning applications
45. Number of non-Major 'development schemes' appraised – LPA planning applications
46. Number of other 'development schemes' appraised – Highways, Environment Agency, BT etc
47. Number of National Infrastructure Projects appraised
48. Number of other 'land management schemes' appraised – woodland management, catchment sensitive farming countryside stewardship
49. Amount of Defra funding spent (core)
50. Amount of local authority funding spent (core)
51. Amount of non-local authority funding spent (core)
52. Value of other 'external' grants or contributions spent on projects (non core)
53. Value of external projects substantially influenced/generated by the AONB team
54. Value of volunteer days

Project Delivery

NATURE							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj.	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Nature Recovery Plan (NRP)	Update with alignment to the new Defra outcomes framework and new Management Plan. Develop long-term monitoring of the champion species.	TH, NO	L1, L2, BG1, BG2, BG3, P1, P2	6.2	16, 24, 25		
Mendip National Nature Reserve	Produce a partnership management plan for the Mendip NNR.	JH, TH	L1, BG1-6, R2, P1, P3	2.2.3	14, 16		
CLIMATE							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Tree planting	Support Westbury Tree Nursery and plant 4000 trees in line with the Nature Recovery Plan.	TH/NO	BG1-2	2.2.1	1, 8, 9, 10, 27		
Big Chalk	Attend the Big Chalk Board and Limestone Landscape Link meetings to support work focussed on connectivity across England.	TH/JH	L1, BG1-6, R2, P1, P3	2.2.3	1, 15		
PEOPLE							
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red,

[illegible]

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress report	RAG (Red, Amber, Green)
Cheddar Gorge Experimental Traffic Regulation Order Consultation	Act on the findings of the consultation.	JH	L3, BG5, H3, R1, R2, R4, D2, D3	NA	2, 3, 5, 6		
Deer Leap Access Audit and Master Plan	Act on the report's conclusions to enhance access and deliver part/full version of 'Ash Barrow' project.	TH	H3, R2, R4, D2	3.1, 3.2, 6.3.1	3, 5, 14, 25		
Landscape Planning Guidance	Produce updated Landscape Character Assessment guidance.	JCW	D1, D4	7.1	16		
Training	Deliver a training programme for local councillors on the NL special qualities, nature recovery and planning system.	JCW	D4, P2, L3	1.1	9		
National Landscape	Produce items that promote awareness of the National Landscape brand.	JH	L3	4.3.1	13		
Management Plan	Review the management plan for adoption by local authorities in March 2025.	JCW	ALL	N/A	14		
Nature Calling	Deliver year 1 of the 'Nature Calling' programme for the national Art in the Landscape Weston Hub (develop partnership working and secure match).	TH	L3, P1-2	3.2.2, 8.3.1	9, 14, 25		

My Mendip Memories	Secure remaining funding and deliver the 'My Mendip Memories' photography and film project.	TH	H1, L3, P1-2	3.2.2	14, 25		
--------------------	---	----	--------------	-------	--------	--	--

DRAFT

DRAFT

Core Delivery

6. Conserve & Enhance						
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj.	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress re
Blackmoor Reserve and Deer Leap	Coordinate management plans and instigate works that conserve and enhance these sites, based around existing countryside stewardship schemes for Blackmoor and Deer Leap.	TH / NO	L1, L2, R1, LM2, P1, P2, P3	6.3.1	1, 2	
The Mendip Way	Update online resources for the Mendip Way and support its development, and Walkers are Welcome groups.	TH / KD	R1, R2, R3, R4, P1, P2	4.1 4.2	1, 4, 14	
Farming in Protected Landscapes	Support the allocation of project funds and the Local Assessment Panel for this programme.	JH	N1, N2, N3, L1, LM1, LM2, BG3, BG6	NA	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	
7.						
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress re
Mendip Rocks!	Work with SESC & Mendip Society to organise a programme of events aimed at family groups and people with geological interests during Sept and Oct.	JH/TH	BG5, BG6, P3	8.3.1	3, 4	
MHANL Website	Maintain visitor traffic to 50,000 Users & 65,000 sessions on NL website.	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	
Social media	Achieve 4000 followers on X (Twitter)	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	
	Achieve 6000 likes on Facebook	JC	L3, H2,	1.1	3	

			R2, N1, P3			
	Achieve 18,000 views on YouTube	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	
	Achieve 3000 followers on Instagram	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	
Enewsletters	Distribute a minimum of 24 enewsletters (12 to the public list, 12 to the Partnership list)	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	
	Achieve 1800 on the enewsletter database.	JC	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3	
Talks & other opportunities	Deliver 10 talks (walks), including online events & attend relevant events.	JH, TH JCW	L3, H2, R2, N1, P3	1.1	3, 4	
Annual Forum	Organise and deliver an annual forum for the public to raise awareness of the special qualities of the AONB.	JH, JC	L3, H2, N1, P1, P2, P3	8.3	3	
8.						
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress re
Planning liaison	Establish a planning liaison group that meets on a regular basis.	JCW	D1, D4	1.1	6	
	Two newsletters to planning managers (DM & policy) & planning officers. July & January	JCW	D1, D4, L3	1.1	6	
Regional	Liaise with other NL planners and partner organisations.	JCW	D1, D4	N/A	4, 5, 6	
9.						
Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress re
Cheddar Vision Group	Chair the Vision Group to deliver the action plan.	JH	R1, R2, D2	4.1, 4.2, 4.3	4	
Volunteer Rangers	Submit funding bids and seek sponsorship to support the volunteer rangers.	TH	P1, P2	8.1	7	

	Maintain the Mendip Shed as a base for the volunteer rangers and other groups to use with a functioning workshop.	JH	P1, P2	8.1	3	
	Plan and deliver the rota of site visits, meetings and social gatherings	AC	P1, P2, R4	8.1	1, 2, 3	
	Train 10 volunteers via Dry Stone Walling Association (DSWA).	AC	P1, P3	2.2.1	3	
	Restore 300m drystone wall via weekly practical tasks.	AC	P1, P3	2.2.1, 3.1	1, 2	
Practical Task Volunteers	Maintain a weekly programme of tasks focussed on delivering the Nature Recovery Plan.	AC, NO	P1, P2, L2	2.2, 4.2	1, 2, 3	
Young Rangers	Programme and deliver their activities aimed at creating environmental decision makers of the future.	ALL	P1, P2, L2	8.1	3	
Mendip Hills Fund	Achieve donations of >£20000	JH	P2, P3	8.4	7	
	Administer the panel to meet in November and March	JH	P2, P3	8.4	3, 4	

10.

Work Area	Action	Lead	MGT Plan Obj	Delivery Plan ref.	NAAO NB KPI	Progress re
Partnership	Administer 2 x meetings per year minimum.	JH	ALL	N/A	4	
Officer Support Group	Administer 2 x meetings per year minimum	JH	ALL	N/A	4	
Regional representation	Actively participate in regional and Somerset wide environmental partnerships that will benefit the Mendip Hills and protected landscapes	ALL	ALL	N/A	4	
National representation	Attend NLA meetings, contribute to responses, forums and communications	ALL	ALL	N/A	4	

Management Plan Review – Objectives/Policies

Landscape Quality Objectives:

L1 Promote appropriate management to ensure that the distinctive Mendip Hills AONB landscape is maintained and enhanced

L2 Provide opportunities to acquire and develop skills required to care for and promote the landscape and its special qualities.

L3 Increase awareness and appreciation of the purposes of designation and the special qualities of the AONB

L4 Increase awareness of the benefits of supporting local products and services that help conserve and enhance the landscape.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity Objectives:

BG1 Ensure that there is no net loss of characteristic habitats and species.

BG2 Promote a landscape scale approach to the conservation and expansion of coherent and resilient ecological networks within and adjoining the AONB.

BG3 Increase monitoring and awareness of the biodiversity resource of the Mendip Hills AONB so that it is sufficiently understood to continue to guide the successful conservation of the characteristic habitats and species.

BG4 Promote a holistic approach to implementing AONB Management Plan objectives, National Character Area Statements of Opportunity and a locally designated Nature Improvement Area's objectives

BG5 Recognise and celebrate geological sites and features of the Mendip Hills AONB to ensure the successful conservation both of the geology and wildlife habitat they provide.

BG6 Increase awareness of the Mendip Hills geology, particularly cave systems in relation to the importance they play in water management and water supply.

Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage objectives;

H1 Improve the recording, interpretation and understanding of all aspects of the AONBs historic environment to ensure local communities and visitors enjoy a rich experience of the sense of place.

H2 Increase awareness and communicate the significance of the high quality historic environment of the Mendip Hills AONB

H3 Promote appropriate management of sites, structures and landscapes designated for their international, national, regional or local importance in the historic environment to ensure no further loss of heritage assets.

Recreation, Access and Tourism objectives:

R1 Maintain, improve and promote public access and quiet recreational activities with measures to ensure access for all in accordance with the purposes of AONB designation.

R2 Support the development of tourism and day visits that benefits the local economy, conserves and enhances the landscape and improves understanding of the Mendip Hills.

R3 Develop and promote more sustainable methods of travel to and around the AONB for enjoyment and recreation.

R4 Support healthy lifestyles by encouraging more people to use the Mendip Hills for sustainable outdoor activities.

Natural Resources objectives:

N1 Recognise and promote the benefits and relevance of the AONB as a valuable source of ecosystem services, economic and health benefits.

N2 Promote conservation of water resources and enhance their quality taking measures to reduce low flows and flooding by appropriate management and use.

N3 Promote sustainable management of soils in accordance with best practice to minimise erosion and water pollution and maximise resilience to drought.

Land Management objectives:

LMI Support sustainable farming to ensure it remains as the principle land use and contributes to maintaining the special qualities of the AONB.

LM2 Support and promote rural land management that conserves and enhances natural resources, including biodiversity, landscape character the historic environment and aids public awareness and enjoyment of the Mendip Hills AONB.

LM3 Promote a sustainable woodland economy that enhances the Mendip Hills AONB woodlands and wider landscape with targeted woodland management and creation in appropriate locations supporting wood fuel and local community opportunities.

LM4 Influence the use, restoration and after use of all quarries to minimise the impact on the landscape and to be compatible with the purposes of designation.

Development and Transport Objectives:

D1 Working with the local planning authorities, ensure that development in the AONB and its setting is of a nature, scale, location and design that meets community need without compromising the special qualities of the Mendip Hills AONB.

D2 Working with the local highways authorities, ensure that the special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport and associated infrastructure.

D3 Encourage reduction in Carbon emissions within the AONB through reducing energy consumption, applying energy conservation measures, encouraging more sustainable patterns of development, and utilising renewable energy generation technologies that are of an appropriate type and scale for their siting.

D4 Ensure issues of importance for the management of the AONB landscape are fully reflected in strategies and plans produced by other agencies and local communities.

Participation objectives:

P1 Increase the opportunities for volunteering and the range of people participating, to benefit the environment, people's health and well being and local communities in and around the AONB.

P2 Encourage the involvement of local people and the wider community in the management of the AONB

P3 Promote the Mendip Hills as an educational resource for all ages and encourage sharing of research and learning tools.

Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	20 th March 2024	Paper: D
Title:	National Landscape Association Update Report	
Presented by:	Jim Hardcastle	
To be noted.		

1.0 Update

- 1.1 A working group has been established to advise on the 'apportionment' of the recently published Targets and Outcomes Framework for Protected Landscapes by Defra. The targets that need to be apportioned amongst Protected Landscapes are:

Target 1

Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).

Target 2

Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

Target 3

For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

Target 4

Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.

Target 5

Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

Target 6

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

Target 7

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

Target 8

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

Target 9

Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.

Target 10

Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

Natural England will also work with individual Protected Landscape bodies to apportion the targets set out in our targets and outcomes framework appropriately between them, based on local circumstances including potential partner contributions and other evidence. Apportioned targets will be agreed between individual Protected Landscapes and Natural England within 18 months of publication of the Targets and Outcomes Framework.

Further detail can be found here [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework)

- 1.2 A new Protected Landscapes Partnership backed by over £2 million of funding from Defra brings together national organisations representing England's National Parks, National

Landscapes, National Trails and Natural England to collaborate, share knowledge and tackle common objectives such as nature recovery and improved public access.

- 1.3 Following a meeting of the lead officers for National Landscapes in Birmingham recently the National Landscape Association is urging Defra, alongside all the teams, to provide clarity regarding the future of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme as a priority.
- 1.6 The National Landscapes Association is helping to coordinate work around the 30by30 target. In 2020, the government committed to protecting 30% of the UK's land by 2030 (30by30). The first step has been to produce the criteria for what is 'protected'. The draft criteria state the lands purpose must be for biodiversity conservation, the land must be under some form of protection, legal or another effective means, and its management must be for long-term outcomes for biodiversity.

DRAFT