Lake District National Park Partnership

Nature Recovery Delivery Plan

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We want to see a National Park that is full of thriving nature and functioning ecosystems that are renowned for their intrinsic value and that provide wellbeing for the people who work, live, and visit here. We do not plan to return to the past, nor create wilderness everywhere. Our aim is to restore nature in the National Park to improve its functioning and resilience to adapting to future climate change and providing a wonderful green destination, whilst at the same supporting the local economy.

Contents

1 Introduction

National Parks England (NPE) prepared the English National Park's Wildlife Delivery Plan (WDP) in 2020 as one of four themed national strategies, for 2030, to shape the 10 English National Park authorities collective work on nature, climate, farming, and landscapes for everyone. This approach was designed to support and provide a national framework on these themes and that of their stakeholders and partners that they will undertake in each of the English National Parks.

This plan develops that initial document and takes the Government's ambition and targets for nature recovery to describe how the Lake District National Park Partnership will contribute to restoring nature on 30% of land by 2030 (30 X 30) as set out at the UN Nature Summit COP15. We want to take urgent action to tackle biodiversity loss, reduce the chance of local extinction of known threatened species as well as increase their abundance and resilience and manage their successful recovery.

In doing so, we will demonstrate how we can deliver the multiple public goods and benefits set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan, including:

- Nature recovery
- Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Carbon storage
- Enhancing biosecurity

The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP) takes this further to describe how nature's recovery (Goal 1: Thriving Plants and Wildlife) is the apex goal of the EIP. This plan describes the Lake District National Park Partnership's contribution to this.

The Partnership's evidence from State of the Park Report 2018 was unambiguous about the urgent need to improve on the current state of nature both inside and outside of protected sites. In 2018, only 21.6% of the area of protected sites are in favourable condition. We know that there have been significant losses of habitats and species outside of protected sites over the last 50 years, but we have no accurate means of measuring current trends. To summarise the data, where priority habitats have been mapped, we know that:

- 44% of the known priority habitats are found on designated sites
- 25% of known priority habitats are not on designated sites or under an agri-environment scheme (80% of this is either coastal and floodplain grazing marsh or woodland)
- 31% of priority habitats are in AES but not on designated sites
- 23% SSSIs are in favourable condition (updated in 2023)
- 62% SSSIs are in unfavourable recovering condition
- 15% SSSIs are in unfavourable condition

Positively though, the vast majority of water bodies' hydrological regimes are in the same or better condition compared to 2013 and the status of bathing water quality

remains excellent. However, only 43% of water bodies are in ‘good’ or ‘better’ ecological status and some water bodies are still deteriorating in condition. Only 4% of SSSI protected rivers and 42% of SSSI lakes are in favourable condition and many lakes are considered under threat. Furthermore, a significant amount of peat has been restored during the last 10 years from the known 9,674 hectares of upland and lowland peat.

There are many good examples of agri-environment schemes, landscape restoration, and catchment initiatives, which have positively contributed towards looking after this fantastic landscape and delivering a range of public goods. However, the State of the Park Report 2018 is clear that these examples have not been enough to halt and reverse the loss of wildlife throughout the landscape. These positive examples need to become more widespread if we are to protect and restore precious habitats, biodiversity, and soil quality, and to adapt to climate change across the National Park. We need to secure and build on the gains and learning achieved through successful examples to help us tackle the nature, farming, and climate crises and in so doing, establish a sustainable future for the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Lake District. This is our opportunity to work collaboratively to maximise the benefits we can deliver in this for cleaner water, healthier soils, and greater resilience to floods and droughts.

Farmer led nature recovery can work alongside and in combination with other existing and new nature recovery approaches that are active in the Lake District today. Some of these place restoration of natural processes as a primary driver for nature recovery. A range of approaches can be complementary in tackling the challenges of the nature and climate crises. The principles set out in the Lawton Review to improve, expand, buffer, and connect core nature sites can be achieved through both farmer led and nature led approaches. These will be key to urgently helping nature recover as well as, protecting and enhancing the Lake District National Park’s Special Qualities and World Heritage attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.

The ambition described here is integrated with the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilot biodiversity outcomes; and shows how the innovative Cumbria LNRS Priority species list can be incorporated into the delivery of the Partnership Plan. It will continue to support the statutory Cumbria LNRS and show how it can be delivered locally in the National Park. Integrating these will be essential tools to help us collaboratively define the priorities for recovery.

2 What are we wanting to achieve for nature?

Our vision for nature is a National Park that is full of thriving nature and functioning ecosystems that are renowned for their intrinsic value and that provide wellbeing for the people who live and visit here. People will know the moment they step across the National Park boundary, as the landscape inside will look and feel visibly richer in nature. The air will be alive with buzzing insects and scented with wildflower rich hay meadows. Salmon will spawn in the natural gravel beds of tree-lined rivers, following their natural course, while the crystal-clear lake water entices bathers to take a dip. Peatlands will be restored to active carbon sinks, thronging with waders between tufts of cotton grass and sphagnum mosses, while ancient woodlands will be expanded, buffered, and reconnected. Thriving family farms, underpinned by sustainable soils, will weave nature and cultural heritage together, blurring the boundaries between different

land uses to connect communities and habitats, allowing species to move and expand, so that wildlife richness is not confined to a few select sites but becomes the norm – an integral and immediately recognisable feature of the National Park as a whole.

Central to this vision is a three-tiered approach.

- First is the restoration of our SSSIs to favourable condition. These are nationally important sites, which cover nearly a quarter of the National Park and are legally protected for nature. Managed well, these sites are vital reservoirs out of which priority habitats and species can expand.
- Second is the establishment of Core Nature Recovery Areas, to deliver 30 X 30 across the wider landscape. These are areas of land managed for multiple benefits, where there is a clear, long-term focus on, and commitment to, the restoration of natural processes, species, and habitats on a landscape scale, following the Lawton Principles of more, bigger, better, and more connected. Existing and future Landscape Recovery schemes could help create these areas.
- Last but far from least, is the integration of nature throughout everyday land management and activities across the National Park as a whole. From swift bricks and sustainable housing design, to flower-rich roadside verges, restored hedgerows and scruffy field margins, we will use tools such as the Farming in Protected Landscape Programme and the Lake District Design Code pilot to champion a nature-positive approach.

By 2030 we will deliver:

- At least 30% of the Lake District National Park being managed as core areas for nature recovery
- 95% of SSSIs will be in recovering condition
- 100% of SSSIs in favourable management
- 75% of waterbodies at or above Water Framework Directive good ecological status (by 2027 to meet Water Framework Directive)
- 209 ha of annual woodland creation
- 1000 ha of annual peatland restoration works

We will do this by:

- Working with individual farms, farm clusters and community farming initiatives to increase understanding of options for nature and climate recovery and identifying and co-creating farming-led nature recovery schemes at both local and landscape scales.
- Supporting partners in their nature recovery endeavours.
- Championing and resourcing the recovery of priority and, or protected habitats and species across the Lake District through restoration schemes. This will include their long-term protection and management.
- Delivering targets for woodland creation and restoration schemes in line with the Partnership's "Tree planting and woodland creation guidelines".
- Delivering targets for peatland restoration through such schemes at
    - Rusland Moss National Nature Reserve
    - Caldbeck Common
    - Barf Common

- Delivering targets for improving the water environment by taking a catchment-based approach to restoring natural processes by delivering river restoration, water quality improvements and habitat enhancement.
- Pursuing the restoration and reintroduction of key species.
- Establishing a system to assess condition and extent of all priority habitats in the National Park and a means of properly selecting County Wildlife Sites.
- Supporting the delivery of four community led land management initiatives to increase nature recovery, climate recovery and maintain cultural heritage.
- Linking nature with other nearby protected landscapes as well as other important habitats and nature areas outside of the National Park, making the Lake District's wildlife-rich sites part of a nationwide Nature Recovery Network

Our strategic priority is to achieve urgent nature recovery that will help the Partnership celebrate, sustain, and enhance the Lake District National Park's Vision and Special Qualities, and World Heritage attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. In doing so, it will also support the vision for nature of the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Pilot, Bringing Back our Wildlife):

"Cumbria's wildlife in rural, urban, and coastal places will be actively looked after and treasured. Healthy ecosystems on land and sea will support a sustainable local economy valued for its natural assets and contribute to the wellbeing of residents and visitors.

We will achieve this together by developing with farmers, land managers, landowners and local communities, opportunities to develop local nature recovery and landscape recovery scale schemes that are better connected for multiple public benefits, and as part of our green recovery. In doing so together we will identify the priorities for farming led nature recovery that can be delivered through land management choices, supporting the restoration of wildlife habitats at a landscape-scale, and creating an environment which is in a better and healthier state than we inherited it.

We will create a Nature Recovery Network where wildlife can thrive in a mosaic of different habitats and where people can enjoy the landscape for its intrinsic beauty and through many more opportunities to connect with nature. This will integrate with a national network of wildlife-rich places that expands, improves, and connects nature across towns, cities, countryside, and coast. As well as recovering nature across England at scale to tackle the crises of biodiversity loss and climate change to also improve public health and wellbeing.

This growing, resilient network of connected, wildlife rich landscape will help protect us from flood risk, absorb carbon and help mitigate against the effects of climate change, providing the people of Cumbria and beyond with plentiful clean water and air, and good food produced on farmland flourishing with wildlife."

This plan will be updated when the statutory Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy is published.

3 Nature in the Lake District National Park

The landscape character of the Lake District National Park and World Heritage Site has developed through a long history of agro-pastoralism and local industry interacting with the natural and physical environment of the area. Our future land management choices are critical to delivering the public goods and benefits set out in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Improvement Plan 2023.

The Lake District hosts an abundance and variety of species and habitats. Proportionally, it has a greater variety of freshwater habitat and more ancient semi-natural woodland than most other areas of the UK.

The north and central Lake District is a dramatic upland landscape. The high fells contain the most biologically diverse range of upland habitats in England, with internationally important fell habitats, including Arctic Alpine plants, heathland, upland lakes and tarns, rivers, peatlands, woodlands, and species-rich pastures. There are expanses of peat bogs supporting a unique assemblage of species and carbon stores. These are rare in the UK and extensive areas are designated Special Areas of Conservation.

The rugged high fells in the north give way to gentler, undulating hills, to the south, dissected by pastoral river valleys, woodland, and linear lakes. These are characterised by undulating low fells and ridges, which, in the central section, are dissected by the two major lakes – Windermere and Coniston Water – and minor rivers.

This area has very diverse wildlife with several sites of international significance including the mires at Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Common, the slopes and crags of Yewbarrow Woods (containing yew groves in association with old sessile oak woods), and the lowland raised bog complex of the Rusland Mosses. There are also important areas of Atlantic oak woodland with rich bryophyte communities along some valley sides.

Bassenthwaite Lake supports a population of vendace (a fish only found in one other location in the UK) and an extremely rich aquatic flora. Other lake-related ecological designations include Ennerdale SSSI – for its characteristics freshwater flora and fauna which include examples of nationally rare willow and alder carr and drier oak woodland; and Elterwater SSSI – one of the least disturbed examples of lakeshore wetlands in South Cumbria.

A smaller area of the LDNP is within the West Cumbria coastal plain, which encompasses a diverse range of coastal and wetland habitats. Including extensive sand dune systems and estuary habitats as well as some of the finest raised mires.

Species of European importance include the Dormouse, Otter, bats, Great Crested Newt, Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and Floating Water Plantain. We also have nationally important populations of Red Squirrel, Red Deer and Freshwater Mussels, and the fish Vendace and Shelly, which are absent from the rest of England.

As of 2021 approaching 10% of the area of the Lake District National Park currently encompasses a range of areas and sites being managed to deliver nature recovery and other public goods. These are led by a range of partners in the Lake District National Park Partnership and other land managers. These places act as core areas for nature

recovery and provide employment, training, and recreation. Nature recovery and public goods delivery are predominantly driven by sustainable farming practices. These areas have built up a good evidence base to support decision making and monitoring that helps to inform options for delivering nature recovery and public goods. Examples include Wild Ennerdale, Wild Haweswater, Eycott Hill, Foulshaw Moss, Lowther Estate, and Restoring Hardknott Forest. These areas are represented in the Nature Recovery Delivery Plan as opportunities to retain, improve and expand core areas of nature recovery in the National Park. These areas and sites can complement farmer and community led initiatives such as the Ullswater Catchment Management Community Interest Company.

In addition to habitat restoration, a number of well-considered species recovery and reintroduction projects have been undertaken across the park through initiatives such as the Back On Our Map (BOOM) Project. Its work across South Cumbria includes explored the feasibility of re-introducing Pine Marten, it has undertaken an oral history audio tour of the Rusland Valley for Corncrake and delivered a range of practical interventions, such as seed collection and germination to increase the connectivity of Aspen tree populations. Elsewhere, an enclosed scientific release of Eurasian Beaver in the National Park is trialling its reintroduction, supporting the Government's commitment to providing opportunities to reintroduce formerly native species, where the benefits for the environment, people and the economy are clear.

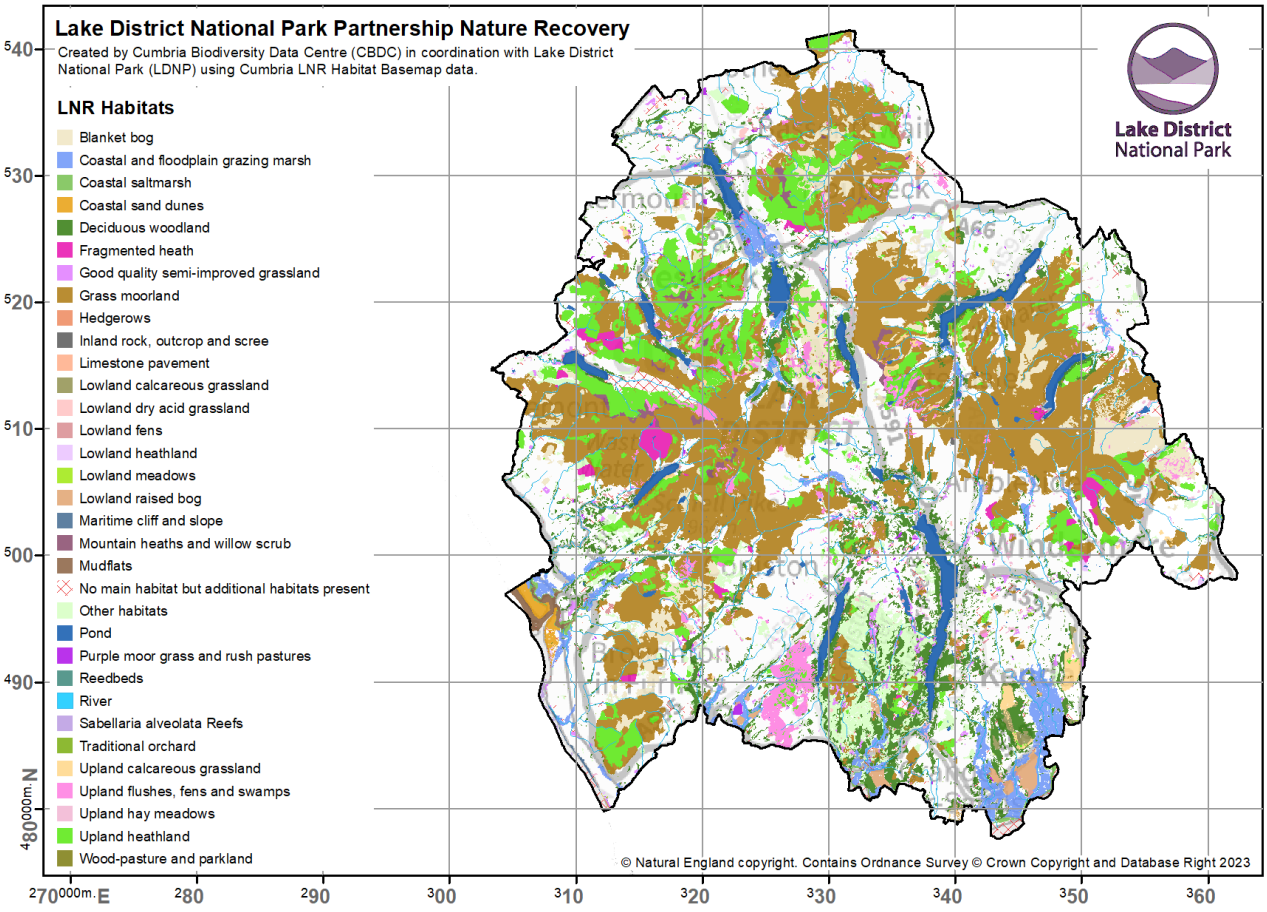
4 Key Nature Recovery Habitats and Species Recovery

We need to urgently develop and grow the network of landscape scale nature recovery areas and delivery approaches that combine farming, forestry, and land management choices for positive nature restoration. We have prioritised habitats and species that we will focus on to support our ambition for the Lake District to be the richest and most connected part of England's nature recovery network; achieving nature recovery at a landscape scale through creating more, bigger, better, and more joined-up areas of wildlife- rich habitat. We have created and included a target species list to highlight the opportunities for restoration, reinforcement, or reintroduction of iconic, threatened or economically important plants, animals, and fungi. We are considering how we respond to factors beyond our control and will seek solutions on environmental issues such as nitrogen deposition affecting lichen and bryophyte communities, for example as features of the Atlantic Rainforest and therefore the condition / status of these SSSIs.

4.1 Habitats

There is a diverse range of priority habitats within the Lake District National Park. The Cumbria LNRS habitat base map demonstrates this rich diversity well (see Map 1). It shows collated habitat data from a wide range of local and national sources (including Natural England's 'Priority Habitat Inventory' layer). The base map also shows non-priority habitat which has been used later to identify restorable habitat.

Map 1. Habitat base map



In Table 1 are some examples of the key habitat types we wish to improve the management outcomes of, as well as their quality, opportunities for creation of areas of new habitat and connectivity between them.

Table 1. Habitat types and desired outcomes

Habitat types	**Outcomes**
Grasslands, hay meadows, species-rich verges, pastures, calcareous grasslands, calaminarian grasslands, species-rich acid grasslands	Expanded well managed range of connected grasslands characterised by the species richness invertebrates, fungi, and good soil health, providing habitat for rare and important species, particularly pollinators
Wetland habitats, fens and valley mires, basin mires, marshes, floodplain meadows, swamps, springs, and flushes	A diverse mosaic of dynamic wetland habitats provides in good condition, particularly wet woodland, species rich wet grassland and transitional habitats reducing lake sedimentation and improved water quality and retention, providing the space for abundant wildlife to thrive

Peatlands, associated mire, fen, flush, lagg woodland, carr and wet grassland, blanket bog	All types of peatlands managed in the context of landscape scales habitat mosaics, are functioning well, supporting associated wildlife populations, and where needed restored
Coastal sand flats, mud flats and dune systems, salt marsh, flood plain grazing marsh, coastal scrub, and woodlands	Restoration of natural coastal process supporting a dynamic mosaic of habitats for common and rare coastal species as, reduction in disturbance and lessening human impact as well the use of nature-based solutions for coastal defence
Ancient Woodland, Atlantic Rainforest, wet woodland, creating good management of existing and new plantings	All treescapes are resilient to the effects of climate change, well connected and managed for the benefit of key species, in particular ancient woodland is expanded, restoration and creation opportunities always plant the right trees in the right place for the right reason
Lowland heath, on infertile sands and gravels up to about 300m	There is an expanded network of sites in good condition that are well connected allowing wildlife to move in the landscape upland areas
Fell and fell-edge habitats, montane heath, montane scrub, upland heathland, rocky slopes and screes, springs and flushes, tall herb vegetation, blanket bog	A dynamic mosaic of upland habitats, of varied structure and connectivity, in good condition that provide the conditions for rare and threatened species to be resilient to the effects of climate change
Lakes, rivers, and tarns	Aquatic life thrives in cool, clean abundant waters, within a rich mosaic of hydrologically functioning and well connected, dynamic, open, and transitional habitats, in particular rare and threatened species populations are restored whilst mitigating against and where possible eliminating non-native invasive species
Limestone pavement	Protected as a whole resource, managed as a mosaic complex of complementary habitats, that are better connected with species rich habitats allowing movement

	of wildlife and in particular for rare or threatened species with specific requirements
Habitat mosaics and networks, farmland, wood pasture, hay meadows, stone walled fields, arable land, coppice, trees in fields and boundaries	Creating highly resilient and connected habitats at different scales for improving ecosystem function, providing food and shelter and corridors for movements of species, and sustaining wildlife populations in the long term

We have used the Cumbria LNRS strategic habitat network mapping, which aggregates similar habitats into six broad groups of habitat networks. These present existing habitats and associated habitats and show the broad scale opportunities for restoration and creation, for:

- **Coastal**
  - Coastal saltmarsh
  - Coastal sand dunes
  - Coastal vegetated shingle
- **Grassland**
  - Lowland calcareous grassland
  - Lowland dry acid grassland
  - Lowland meadows
  - Maritime cliff & slope
  - Upland calcareous grassland
  - Upland hay meadow
- **LNR Fell and Fell Edge**
  - Blanket bog
  - Upland heathland
  - Upland flushes fens & swamps
- **Water and Wetlands**
  - Lakes
  - Lowland fens
  - Purple moor grass & rush pastures
  - Reedbeds
  - Rivers
- **Peatland**
  - Blanket bog
  - Lowland raised bog
- **Woodland**
  - Broadleaved Woodland

Maps for each of these habitat groups are presented in Annex 1.

4.2 Species

We intend to work together to develop a species recovery plan for the National Park that is integrated with the statutory LNRS. From the 251 rare and/or threatened species in Cumbria we have initiated a process to identify habitat associations for species, to determine which species should be able to be restored through habitat restoration as well as broad scale management of priority habitats. Including those which require highly targeted or localised species-specific management in priority habitats. Annex 2 presents the priority species for the National Park for:

- Species that could be restored through restoration and broad scale management of priority habitats
- Species that require highly targeted or localised species-specific management in priority habitats
- Species that rely on important habitats for wildlife which are not classed as priority habitats

We have prioritised these species to highlight the opportunities restoration, reinforcement, or reintroduction:

- Alpine Catchfly
- Arctic Charr
- Black Grouse
- Corncrake
- Curlew
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel
- Golden Eagle
- Hazel Dormouse
- High Brown Fritillary
- Juniper
- Netted Carpet Moth
- Osprey
- Otter
- Pine Marten
- Red Squirrel
- Salmon
- Vendace
- Water Vole
- White Clawed Crayfish
- White Faced Darter
- White Tailed Eagle

Invasive species

Invasive species currently within the Lake District National Park, or which may be future invasive species as a result of climate change are having an impact upon other species recovery. These, for a range of reasons currently include grey squirrels, mink, signal crayfish, giant hogweed, Crassula helmsii, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, American skunk cabbage and Rhododendron ponticum. We will work with partners to

align and coordinate our invasive species work, consistent with the Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy 2023 to 2030 which emphasises prevention, followed by early detection and rapid response, and finally long-term management and control.

We are also aware that climate change is expected to increase the risks from new non-native species due to more frost-free winters and increased flooding events. Habitats that are suffering from degradation may also be more vulnerable to invasion and disease, increasing the risk to biodiverse natural habitats.

Species reintroduction

Some species that could be considered for reintroduction are included in the prioritised lists above. The LDNPP Partnership will work to identify projects for these and other species such as White Stork, Crane, Golden eagle, Beaver, Pine Marten, Water Vole and White-Tailed Eagle.

We will take a rigorous and informed approach to species protection / re-introduction to account for the anticipated impact of climate change predictions. We will follow IUCN species re-introduction guidelines to ensure that our strategic approach is resilient and future-proof, as far as possible.

5 Our contribution to 30 X 30

In 2020, the UK Government committed to protecting 30% of the UK's land and sea for nature's recovery by 2030 (30by30).

In December 2022, a global 30by30 target was agreed under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

The UK Government published "Delivering 30by30 on land in England" on 9 December 2023.

Delivering 30by30 on land in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)

This document sets out the criteria and metrics by which areas of land could be counted towards the 30by30 target. It also contains an indicative map of England showing areas currently counting towards 30by30 and potential 30by30 areas. The whole of the land area of the Lake District National Park is shown as a potential 30by30 area. This is also the case for all other Protected Landscapes.

Before "Delivering 30by30..." was published the LDNPA had already carried out an initial scenario assessment of a range of designations and levels of nature protection to estimate what might be the current situation of the Lake District National Park's contribution to 30x30. For our initial scenario the LDNPA measured the land area and accumulated the percentage of effectively managed areas that deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity. Table 2 and Annex 3 show this initial 30x30 scenario assessment.

Now that the Government's initial definition has been published the LDNPA will produce an updated map and data table on the current and potential 30x30 areas in the LDNP.

The LDNP Partnership will work with the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy partnership, and the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership to establish a 30x30 ambition for the Lake District National Park.

Table 2 - Initial 30x30 scenario assessment.

DESIGNATION	Total Area of designation (ha)	% of LDNP area	Cumulative Area (ha) (excluding previously counted areas)	Cumulative % of LDNP area (excluding previously counted areas)
SSSI - FAVOURABLE	8931.1	3.8	8931.1	3.8
SSSI - UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING	16543.8	7.0	25474.9	10.8
NNR (National Nature Reserves)	4409.8	1.9	28258.6	12.0
SPA (Special Protection Areas)	1849.1	0.8	29069.4	12.3
SAC (Special Areas of Conservation)	37320.4	15.8	44025.2	18.6
RAMSAR	772.0	0.3	44036.9	18.6

6 What is happening now?

The Partnership has identified the following opportunities (in Table 3) to deliver nature recovery within the National Park between now and 2030. It is not an exhaustive list but shows some key initiatives. It is intended to capture the high-level priorities and ambition for nature recovery in the National Park.

Current Lake District National Park Partnership nature recovery projects

Table 3.1: Nature Recovery Project: Park wide farming-led nature recovery

Description:	Large scale farming led nature recovery in LDNP Partnership Plan
Potential Delivery Partners:	Farmers across NP, Community Interest Companies, Farmer clusters, LDNPA, NT, NE, plus others. Leading examples include West Lakes CIC and Ullswater CIC.
Potential Delivery Methods:	Farmers across NP, Community Interest Companies, Farmer clusters, LDNPA,
Potential Funding Sources	Central Government funding, Defra & agencies, charitable trusts, ELM, natural capital investment,
Timing:	2020 - 2025
Amount in ha/costs:	Parkwide approach for nature friendly farming. FiPL is funded nature recovery planning or delivery on over 10,000ha of land.
Notes:	Large scale Parkwide farming led nature recovery in LDNP Partnership Plan

Table 3.2: Nature Recovery Project: Landscape Recovery Pilot Projects

Description:	Upper Duddon and Eastern Fells
Potential Delivery Partners:	• UD – Univ of Leeds, National Trust, Forestry England • EF – UU, RSPB, Lowther Estate
Potential Delivery Methods:	Landscape Recovery implementation plan and funding model

Potential Funding Sources	Funding model to be developed in 2022-2024. Blend of state, private, and other funding.
Timing:	Development phase – 2022-2024 leading to 20–30-year implementation phase
Amount in ha/costs:	Approx 2,500ha in each area

Table 3.3 Nature Recovery Project: Great North Bog

Description:	Partnership
Potential Delivery Partners:	Nature North and Cumbria Peat Partnership
Potential Delivery Methods:	Net Zero funding Carbon investment and offsetting, NFM
Potential Funding Sources	Large programme fund, and local funding sources
Timing:	2022 onwards
Amount in ha/costs:	Funding restoration and conservation plan for 7000km2 of peat-based landscape
Notes:	Goes beyond the LDNP & includes 9 other protected landscapes[1] (including the South Pennine Park)

Table 3.4 Nature Recovery Project: Lowther Estate Re-Wilding Project

Description:	To allow natural processes to return and for wildlife to flourish. Through increasing the diversity of herbivores on the estate, including longhorn cattle, Tamworth pigs, red deer, ponies and beavers, wildlife has returned in abundance. These ecosystem engineers are being used in low densities to create a diverse range of habitats, from wetlands and wildflower meadows to woodlands and scrub. over 4,000
Potential Delivery Partners:	Lowther Estates
Potential Delivery Methods:	Regenerative land management
Potential Funding Sources	Mix of public and private finance
Timing:	Started 2019
Amount in ha/costs:	40,000 hectares

Table 3.5 Nature Recovery Project: Wild Ennerdale

Description:	Allowing the evolution of Ennerdale as a wild valley for the benefit of people, relying more on natural processes to shape its landscape and ecology
Potential Delivery Partners:	National Trust, Forestry England, United Utilities and Natural England
Potential Delivery Methods:	
Potential Funding Sources	
Timing:	Ongoing
Amount in ha/costs:	40,000 hectares

Table 3.6: Restoring Hardknott Forest

Description:	Combination of practical conservation, informed by research and monitoring, to create and restore 630 hectares of native woodland and other wildlife rich habitats.
Potential Delivery Partners:	Forestry England and University of Leeds
Potential Delivery Methods:	Volunteers and students to help with monitoring, research, and practical restoration
Potential Funding Sources	Copeland Community Fund and the Green Recovery Challenge. Also support from the European Outdoor Conservation Association, the Friends of the Lake District, the United Bank of Carbon, the North Face Explore Fund and alumni and friends of the University of Leeds. We are especially indebted to support from the Leverhulme Trust through a Philip Leverhulme Prize that allowed us to start the project.
Timing:	
Amount in ha/costs:	Restore 630 hectares

Table 3.7: Back on our Map Pine Marten project

Description:	Species re-introduction work with communities to restore the landscape and reintroduce a suite of locally threatened or extinct species to the distinctive lowland fells of south Cumbria.
Potential Delivery Partners:	University of Cumbria. Morecambe Bay Partnership, Natural England, Cumbria Wildlife Trust Forestry England.
Potential Delivery Methods:	By working together, the project will restore and connect whole ecosystems to reverse the decline in biodiversity through community action.
Potential Funding Sources	
Timing:	2019-2022
Amount in ha/costs:	

Table 3.8: Nature Recovery Project: Wild Haweswater

Description:	Haweswater's landscape is not only beautiful, but also a place where nature and people thrive.
Potential Delivery Partners:	
Potential Delivery Methods:	
Potential Funding Sources	RSPB, United Utilities
Timing:	Ongoing
Amount in ha/costs:	

Table 3.8: Nature Recovery Project: Reconnecting Cumbria Endangered Landscapes Programme

Description:	Re-establishing natural processes alongside thriving local economy across 33,000ha, creating a mosaic of interconnected habitats will sustain abundant wildlife, including many iconic species, and deliver vital services including flood risk alleviation and carbon sequestration. Through collaboration with farmers, we will enable transition to flourishing, nature-regenerative businesses, facilitating lasting landscape-scale change.
Potential Delivery Partners:	RSPB, UU, Lowther Estate, NE, CWT, Woodland Trust, ERT, LRT, local farmers
Potential Delivery Methods:	
Potential Funding Sources	Endangered Landscapes Programme
Timing:	2023-2028
Amount in ha/costs:	

7 Our 2030 Targets

The LDNP Partnership nature recovery targets for 2025 are set out in the Partnership Plan 2020 – 2025. These are:

1) 10% of the Lake District National Park is managed as core areas for nature
2) 81% of SSSIs will be in recovering condition
3) 75% of waterbodies at or above Water Framework Directive good ecological status by 2027
4) 209 ha of annual woodland creation
5) 1000 ha of annual peatland restoration works completed

These establish the foundation for the 2030 targets (see Table 4). In addition, it is expected that Defra will publish the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, and guidance on 30x30. As a result, this plan and its targets will need to be updated.

Nature Recovery Targets for 2030 – Targets 1-18

Target 1: % of National Park in core nature recovery areas contributing to 30x30, protected sites being demonstrably well managed.

- **Link to 23EIP**: Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: needs to be determined
- **2030 target**: 30%

Target 2: Improved connectivity between CNRAs/designated sites

- **Link to 23EIP**: Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: needs to be determined
- **2030 target**: need to agree this indicator

Target 3: % of farmed land in ELM

- **Link to 23EIP**: New interim target to restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: needs to be determined
- **2030 target**: need to agree this indicator

Target 4: % Area of Park with area planning initiatives delivering land management, nature recovery, and public goods, running at locally defined scale.

- **Link to 23EIP**: New interim target to restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: needs to be determined
- **2030 target**: 50%

Target 5: Other priority habitats (montane and coastal habitats).

- **Link to 23EIP**: New interim target to restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: N/A
- **2025 milestone**: N/A
- **2030 target**: Need to agree this indicator

Target 6: Peatland restored

- **Link to 23EIP**: Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: (4,920 ha 2013 – 2018)
- **2025 milestone**: 5,000 ha
- **2030 target**: 12,000 ha

Target 7: % Woodland cover

- **Link to 23EIP**: Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: 12.6% in 2020 (29,792 ha)
- **2025 milestone**: 13.3% (+1,728 ha)
- **2030 target**: 14.1% (+3,460 ha)

Target 8: % Hay meadow restored

- **Link to 23EIP**: Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: 300 ha
- **2030 target**: 600 ha

Target 9: % Species rich grassland restored

- **Link to 23EIP**: Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030.
- **Measurement**: hectares
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: 500 ha
- **2030 target**: 1000 ha

Target 10: % waterbodies at or above Water Framework Directive good ecological status

- **Link to 23EIP**: N/A
- **Measurement**: km
- **Current status**: 37% in 2019
- **2025 milestone**: N/A
- **2030 target**: 75% by 2027

Target 11: Priority species restoration (which could include alpine catchfly, Curlew, Freshwater Mussel, Red Squirrel)

- **Link to 23EIP**: N/A
- **Measurement**: population size and distribution
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: Needs to be determined
- **2030 target**: Need to agree this indicator

Target 12: Priority species reintroductions which could include Black Grouse, Pine Marten, Water Vole, Corncrake, Golden and White-Tailed Eagle

- **Link to 23EIP**: N/A
- **Measurement**: status of reintroduction (e.g. feasibility assessment, habitat restoration, translocation projects)
- **Current status**: Pine Marten BOOM and Duddon Valley LR; WTE – feasibility underway; black grouse – ELP habitat measures planned
- **2025 milestone**: actively pursuing
- **2030 target**: Need to agree this indicator

Target 13: Increased overall diversity and abundance of species

- **Link to 23EIP**: N/A
- **Measurement**: Indices of overall abundance and diversity to allow us to assess trajectory of change in biodiversity.
- **Current status**: Require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: Waiting for Govern to define EIP indicator
- **2030 target**: Need to agree this indicator

Target 14: SSSIs in favourable management

- **Link to 23EIP**: N/A
- **Measurement**: % sites
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: 75%
- **2030 target**: 100%

Target 15: SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable-recovering condition

- **Link to 23EIP**: N/A
- **Measurement**: % sites – favourable condition may not be achievable due to factors beyond our control such as invasive species
- **Current status**: 85% in 2023
- **2025 milestone**: 90%
- **2030 target**: 95%

Target 16: SSSIs in favourable condition

- **Link to 23EIP**: New interim targets for all sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) to have an up-to-date condition assessment and for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve
- **Measurement**: % sites
- **Current status**: 23% in 2023
- **2025 milestone**: 25%
- **2030 target**: 30%

Target 17: Explore, test, and pilot the potential for natural colonisation to contribute to this new woodland creation

- **Link to 23EIP**: Increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050, with a new interim target to increase this by 0.26% (equivalent to 34,000 hectares) by 31 January 2028, in line with the trajectory required to achieve the long-term target.
- **Measurement**: pilot project delivery status
- **Current status**: require baseline
- **2025 milestone**: pilot underway/complete?
- **2030 target**: Need to agree this indicator

Target 18: Establish a system to assess extent and condition of priority habitats

- **Link to 23EIP**: N/A
- **Measurement**: system creation status
- **Current status**: N/A
- **2025 milestone**: system established and functioning
- **2030 target**: Need to agree this indicator

The Partnership has costed these ambitions, where there will be opportunities to deliver them. Its estimates are based on current (2023) Countryside Stewardship rates. However, these costings also need to include capital costs; revenue costs such as agreements with farmers and on-going maintenance; as well as staff costs to facilitate, design and monitor the work.

Summary total for restoring nature across broad habitat types

Total per habitat type – woodland:

- Area in hectares: 2090
- Create: £21.3m
- Maintain for 10 years: £11m
- Total: £32.3m

Total per habitat type – peat:

- Area in hectares: 1200
- Create: £15.1m
- Maintain for 10 years: £9.9m
- Total: £25m

Total per habitat type – grass:

- Area in hectares: 1600
- Create: £1m
- Maintain for 10 years: £6.2m
- Total: £7.2m

Total per habitat type – rivers and lakes:

- Area in hectares: tbc
- Create: tbc
- Maintain for 10 years: tbc
- Total: tbc

TOTAL ESTIMATE: £64.5m

8 Actions for prioritising delivery of the Plan

To enable our Plan targets and ambitions to be achieved, we set out these proposed actions for the Partnership to resource and collaborate together to deliver:

1. **Core Nature Recovery Areas (CNRAs), agreeing how we deliver 30x30**
    a. Quantify the area of the National Park already contributing to 30x30
    b. Identify gaps between them
    c. Assess connectivity opportunities
    d. Identify delivery mechanisms
2. **Priority Habitats**
    a. Review existing targets to ensure they are ambitious enough and account for all planned activity
    b. Review delivery mechanisms, such as partner projects, BNG, NN, AES
    c. Review the woodland targets to meet UK Government targets for 2040
    d. Decide whether targets are needed for wood pasture montane and coastal habitats
    e. Determine timeline for establishment of system to monitor priority habitat extent and condition outside of SSSIs (see monitoring section)
    f. Scope a woodland natural regeneration pilot, agreeing its contribution to woodland targets
    g. Set clear SSSI targets for both favourable condition and unfavourable recovering, for 2025 and 2030
3. **Habitat connectivity**
    a. Agree how connectivity will link protected sites and core nature recovery areas
    b. Use LNRS mapping to identify opportunities
    c. Identify delivery mechanisms
    d. Assign targets for 2025, 2030
    e. Agree a monitoring scheme (see monitoring section)
4. **Priority Species**
    a. Agree priority species lists for existing and missing species
    b. Agree direct (presence/absence, distribution, total population) or and indirect (translocation feasibility studies, targeted habitat restoration) targets
    c. Determine indices of overall abundance and diversity to allow us to assess trajectory of change in biodiversity.
    d. Identify delivery mechanisms
    e. Assign targets 2025, 2030
    f. Agree a monitoring scheme (see monitoring section)
5. **Wider landscape**
    a. Define what counts as area planning initiatives delivering land management, nature recovery, and public goods, running at locally defined scale
    b. Assess current AES status and consult with NE on realistic targets
    c. Refine AES targets to focus on higher tier schemes
    d. Determine delivery mechanisms needed to get to 50% by 2025 target, and set 2030 target
    e. Set targets for 2025, 2030

f. Agree a monitoring scheme (see monitoring section)

Furthermore, the Partnership will also agree and describe its contribution to relevant EIP targets for Thriving Plants and Wildlife

- Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, and then increase abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042
- Restore or create areas of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030
- Restore or create wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels
- Improve the Red List Index for England for species extinction by 2042 compared to 2022 levels
- Develop local targets for all SSSIs to have an up-to date condition assessment; and for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028
- Increase local tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land cover by 2050, with a new interim target to increase this by 0.26% by 31 January 2028, in line with the trajectory required to achieve the long-term target

9 Monitoring

The Lake District National Park Partnership will develop a monitoring approach that will:

- Work to complement and build on existing and evolving national and local monitoring frameworks, in particular Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and the Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan.
- Incorporate and build on monitoring that is already planned or being done in the Lake District National Park, informed by existing Cumbria Local Nature Partnership's audit.
- Identify gaps, building on Cumbria Local Nature Partnership's existing gap analysis.
- Prioritise where resources of people and funding are needed.
- Monitor progress of Nature Recovery Delivery Plan delivery (outputs).
- Monitor the state of nature in Lake District National Park (outcomes).

A key relevant action in the LDNP Partnership's Plan 2020-2025 Farming forestry Nature and Climate outcome is Action 2f: Improving the system to assess condition and extent of priority habitats. We require resource to develop this and as part of an integrated Cumbria wide approach with the LNRS monitoring framework and Local Nature Partnership's Data and Evidence working group.

Our intention is to learn from what other partnerships are doing elsewhere and collaborate across the Partnership and with other partners to access and pool increased resources for monitoring. We will also:

- Use of range of methodologies – field survey: specialists/citizen science; paid/volunteer; academic; remote sensing; project-based/routine.
- Work towards all survey work being able to contribute to improving shared Partnership data – for example using Cumbria Local Nature Partnership/Cumbria

Biodiversity Data Centre data standards; survey training; ease of sharing; support for Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre.

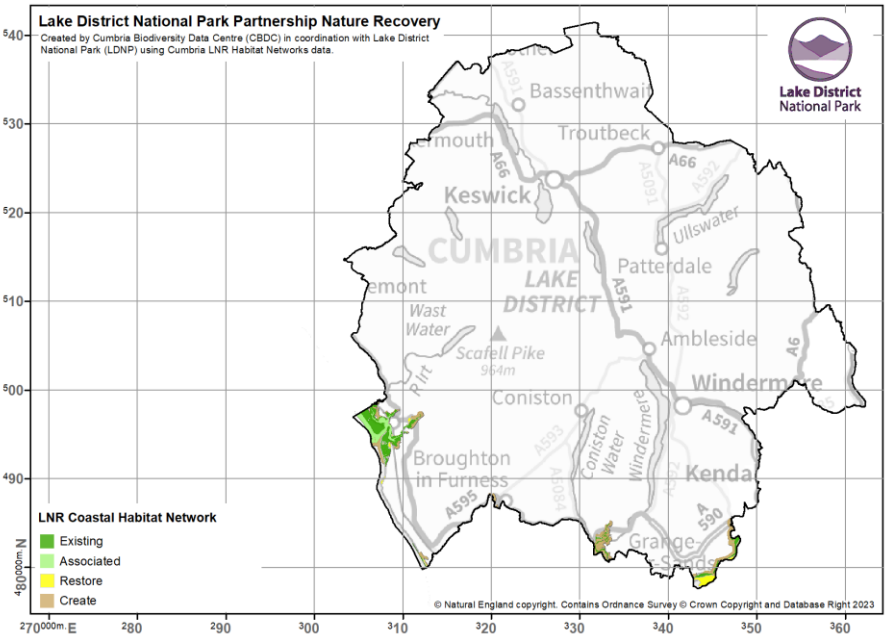
To achieve this, a small group of key partners will identify a lead partner to take forward the development of the monitoring approach in 2023 and report in to the LDNPP Farming Forestry Nature and Climate Key Outcome Group. Our approach will be consistent with the LDNPP Plan monitoring framework.

10 Annex 1

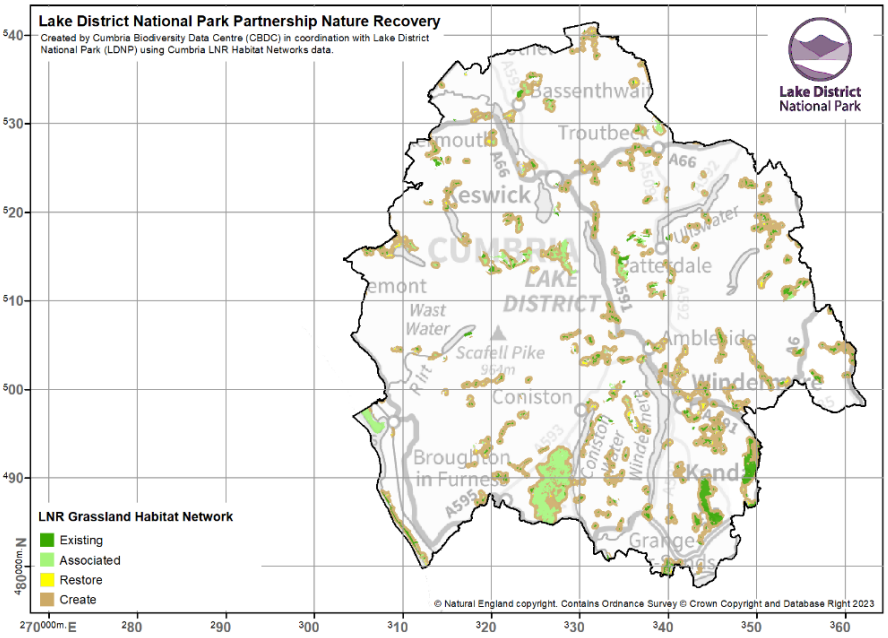
10.1 Strategic habitat network maps

Map 2 Coastal habitat network

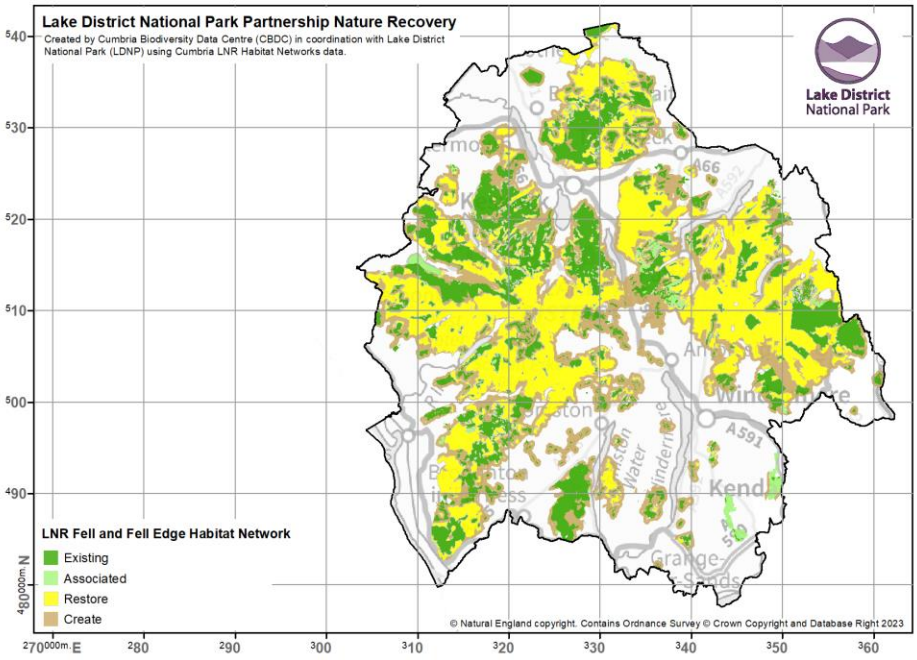
Please note that the attached coastal broad habitat network map includes only Coastal sand dunes and Coastal saltmarsh network as the LDNP boundary does not intersect with Coastal vegetated shingle network.



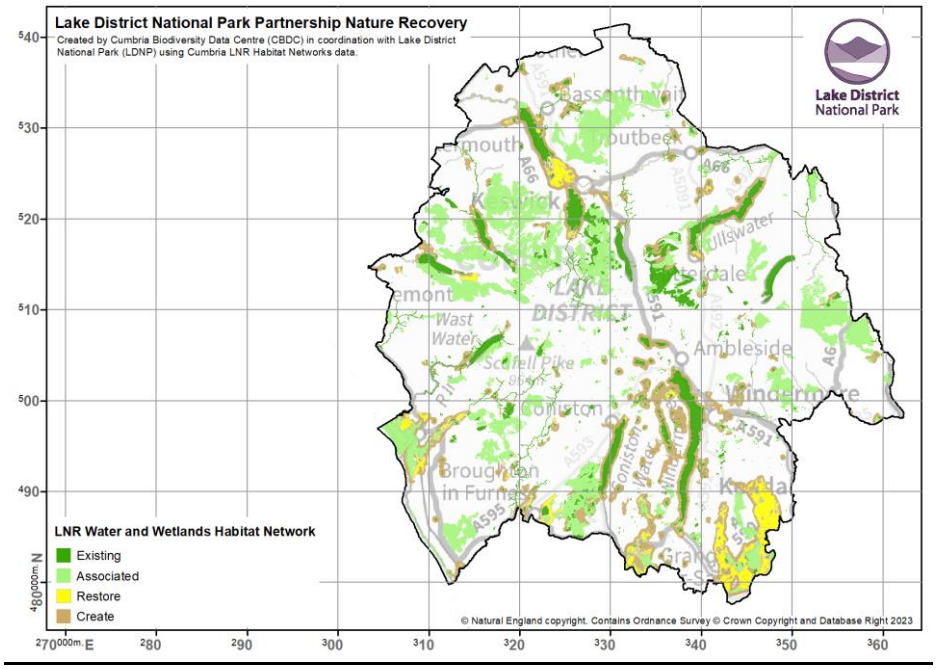
Map 3 Grassland habitat network



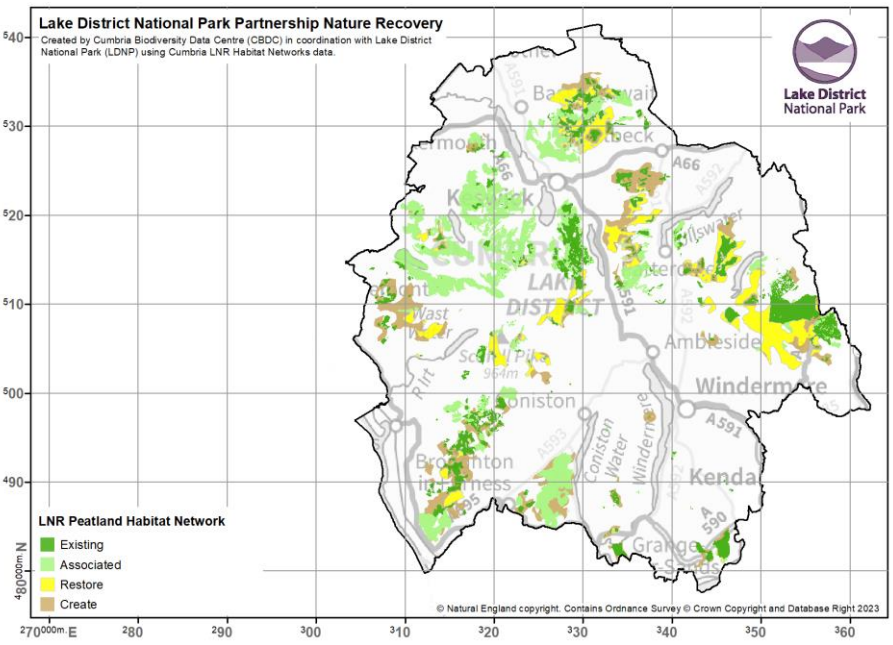
Map 4 LNR Fell and Fell Edge habitat network



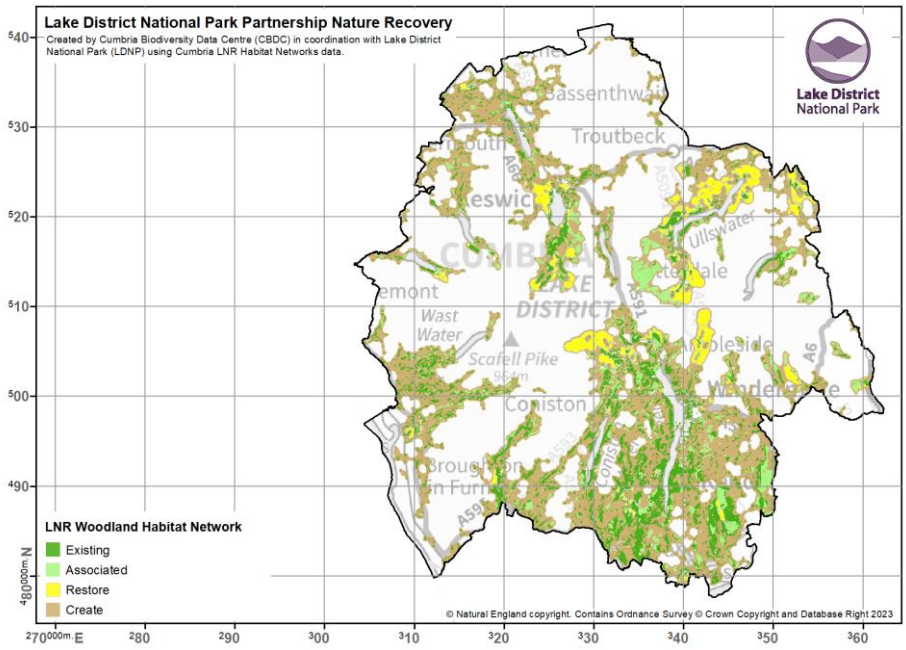
Map 5 Water and Wetlands habitat network



Map 6 Peatland habitat network



Map 7 Woodland habitat network



11 Annex 2

11.1 Priority Species

Table 5. Species that could be restored through restoration and broad scale management of priority habitats

Species	Taxonomic Group
European Eel	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Vendace	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Gwyniad	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
River Lamprey	jawless fish (Agnatha)
Sea Lamprey	jawless fish (Agnatha)
Atlantic Salmon	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Brown/Sea Trout	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Brown Trout	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Sea Trout	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Arctic Charr	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Mud Snail	mollusc
Lilljeborg's Whorl Snail	mollusc
Argent & Sable	insect - moth
Barred Tooth-striped	insect - moth
Bordered Grey	insect - moth
Brown Hairstreak	insect - butterfly
Chestnut-coloured Carpet	insect - moth
Cistus forester	insect - moth
Dark Spinach	insect - moth
Dingy Skipper	insect - butterfly
Forester	insect - moth
Grayling	insect - butterfly

Species	Taxonomic Group
High Brown Fritillary	insect - butterfly
Large Heath	insect - butterfly
Marsh Fritillary	insect - butterfly
Netted Carpet	insect - moth
Northern Brown Argus	insect - butterfly
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	insect - butterfly
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	insect - butterfly
V-Moth	insect - moth
Welsh Clearwing	insect - moth
Silvery Arches	insect - moth
Tormentil Mining Bee	insect - hymenopteran
Moss Carder-bee	insect - hymenopteran
Shining Guest Ant	insect - hymenopteran
Northern Yellow Splinter	insect - true fly (Diptera)
Wall Mason Bee	insect - hymenopteran
River jelly-lichen	lichen
Copper lecidea	lichen
Umbilicaria crustulosa	lichen
Brown Grimmia	moss
Slender Thread-moss	moss
Bittern	bird
Black Grouse	bird
Common Sandpiper	bird
Cuckoo	bird
Curlew	bird
Dunlin	bird
Golden plover	bird
Hawfinch	bird

Species	Taxonomic Group
Lapwing	bird
Marsh Tit	bird
Oystercatcher	bird
Pied Flycatcher	bird
Redshank	bird
Redstart	bird
Reed Bunting	bird
Ring Ouzel	bird
Ringed Plover	bird
Skylark	bird
Snipe	bird
Spotted Flycatcher	bird
Tree Pipit	bird
Whinchat	bird
Wood Warbler	bird
Woodcock	bird
Natterjack Toad	amphibian
European Otter	terrestrial mammal
Nathusius's Pipistrelle	terrestrial mammal
Soprano Pipistrelle	terrestrial mammal
Brown Long-eared Bat	terrestrial mammal
Daubenton's bat	terrestrial mammal
Lady's-Mantle	flowering plant
Flat-sedge	flowering plant
Rare Spring-sedge	flowering plant
Dwarf Cornel	flowering plant
an Eyebright	flowering plant
Eyebright	flowering plant

Species	Taxonomic Group
Eyebright	flowering plant
Eyebright	flowering plant
Rubicund Hawkweed	flowering plant
Small-headed Hawkweed	flowering plant
Juniper	conifer
Dwarf Juniper	conifer
Floating Water-plantain	flowering plant
Spignel	flowering plant
Bird's-nest Orchid	flowering plant
Tubular Water-dropwort	flowering plant
Hoary Cinquefoil	flowering plant
Shrubby Cinquefoil	flowering plant
Small-white Orchid	flowering plant
Creeping Spearwort	flowering plant
Hairy Stonecrop	flowering plant
Wood Bitter-vetch	flowering plant

Table 6. Species that require highly targeted or localised species-specific management in priority habitats

Species	Taxonomic Group
Freshwater Pearl Mussel	mollusc
Duke of Burgundy	insect - butterfly
Yellow-ringed Carpet Moth	insect - moth
Zircon Reed Beetle	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)
White-faced Darter	insect - dragonfly (Odonata)
Common Tern	bird
Dotterel	bird
Eider	bird
Hen Harrier	bird

Species	Taxonomic Group
Herring Gull	bird
Lesser Black-backed Gull	bird
Little Tern	bird
Merlin	bird
Peregrine falcon	bird
Ruff	bird
Sandwich Tern	bird
Twite	bird
Willow Tit	bird
Adder	reptile
Hazel Dormouse	terrestrial mammal
Pyramidal Bugle	flowering plant
Lesser Water-plantain	flowering plant
Narrow-fruited Water-starwort	flowering plant
Meadow Saffron	flowering plant
Mezereon	flowering plant
Petty Whin	flowering plant
Field Gentian	flowering plant
Opposite-leaved Pondweed	flowering plant
Hawkweed	flowering plant
Pale St John's-wort	flowering plant
Lesser Butterfly-orchid	flowering plant
Glaucous Meadow-grass	flowering plant
Allseed	flowering plant
Downy Willow	flowering plant
Alpine Catchfly	flowering plant
Intermediate Bladderwort	flowering plant
Oblong Woodsia	fern

Species	Taxonomic Group
White-clawed crayfish	crustacean

Table 7. Species that rely on important habitats for wildlife which are not classed as priority habitats

Species	Taxonomic Group
Mountain Ringlet	insect - butterfly
Barn owl	bird
Grey Partridge	bird
House Sparrow	bird
Swift	bird
Tree Sparrow	bird
Yellow Wagtail	bird
Yellowhammer	bird
European Water Vole	terrestrial mammal
Brandt's Bat	terrestrial mammal
Whiskered Bat	terrestrial mammal
Eurasian Red Squirrel	terrestrial mammal
Common Cudweed	flowering plant
Small Water-pepper	flowering plant
Monk's-rhubarb	flowering plant

12 Annex 3

12.1 Initial 30x30 scenario assessment

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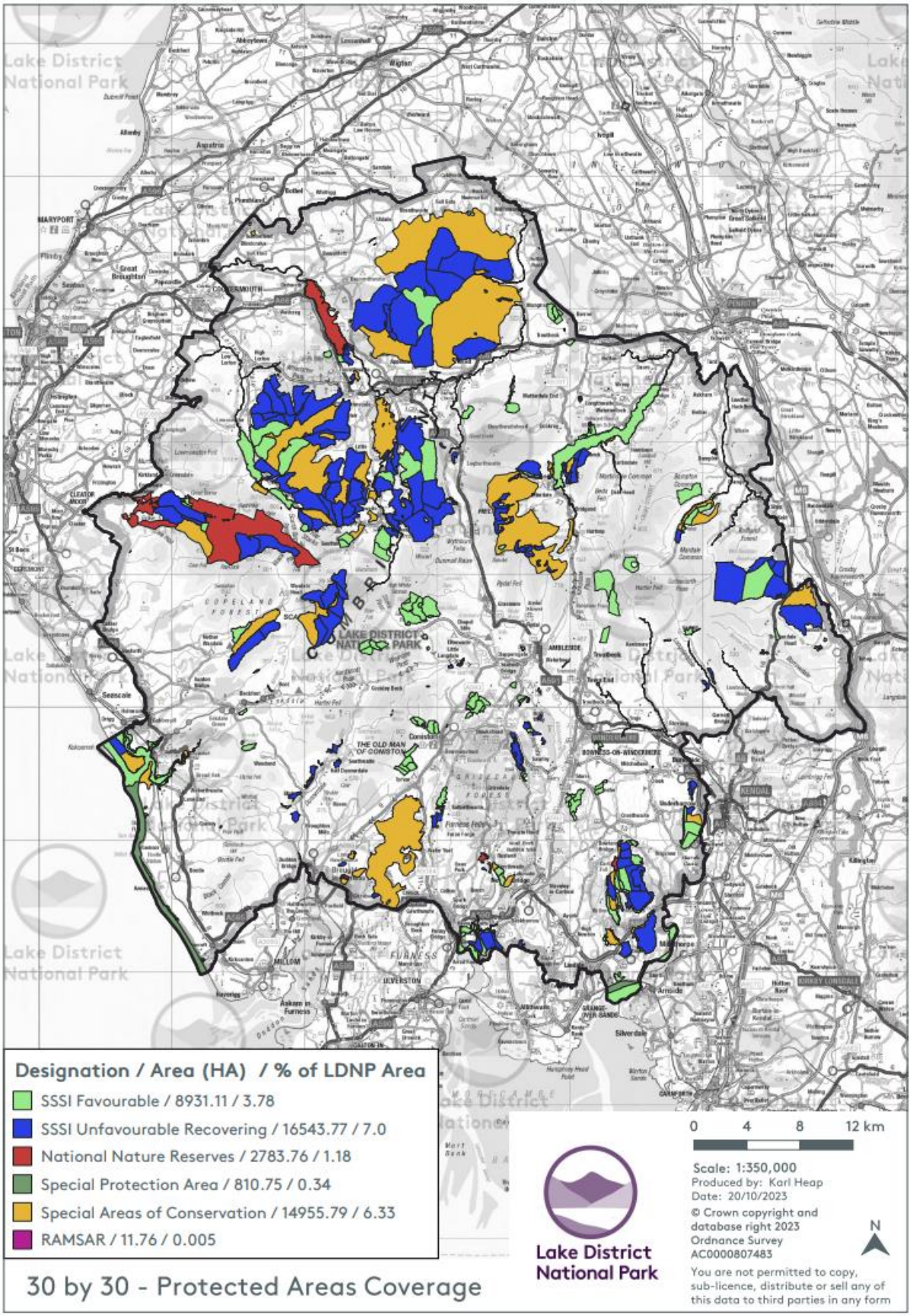

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