

## Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report presents our progress establishing three apportioned targets for the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF).

<b>Recommendation that a you:</b>	<b>Note the progress made on developing the Lake District National Park Partnership’s apportionment for the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework targets 1, 7 and 8 (Annex 2), and that these provisional targets will be published on our website.</b>
	<b>b Note that the final targets will be included within the Partnership’s Plan 2026-2031.</b>

### 2. Background

- 2.1. Government have set ambitious outcomes for all protected landscapes to make a contribution towards three goals from the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP23). These are: Goal 1, Thriving plants and wildlife; Goal 7, Mitigating and adapting to climate change; and Goal 10, Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.
- 2.2. PLTOF achieves this by setting out the outcomes and targets for protected landscapes (for information see Annex 1) to prioritise action and focus partners efforts. Targets are set by Natural England who have worked with Defra and Protected Landscape representatives to understand the environmental potential of each protected landscape. They are relevant to statutory purposes, take an evidence-led approach, and utilise the best and most up to date data that is available for monitoring and reporting by Natural England. It is intended they will influence the delivery of actions to achieve the EIP23 goals through statutory management plans.
- 2.3. Three targets need to be apportioned for each protected landscape individually. We have now received the apportionment targets for the Lake District, as shown in Annex 2. The current LDNPP Plan targets for peat restoration (target 7) and tree and woodland establishment (target 8) align with the apportionment proposed by Natural England. The creation of wildlife rich habitat outside of protected sites (target 1) is not in the current LDNPP Plan monitoring framework. As such, it will be added for the remainder of the Plan period 2020 – 2025. All targets will be included in the Partnership Plan Review.
- 2.4. All Protected Landscapes are expected to incorporate these targets into their management plans and publish the apportioned targets by July 2025 on their website. The agreements we have reached for setting these and progress towards agreeing targets for the next LDNPP Plan are set out in Annex 2.

### 3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The EIP23 reviewed the progress of the 25 Year Environment Plan and proposed how recommendation three (strengthened management plans) from the

Protected Landscapes Review will be implemented by creating a Protected Landscapes targets and outcomes framework.

- 3.2. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act created the Protected Landscape Duty, which strengthens how relevant authorities must seek to further the purposes for which Protected Landscapes were designated and help develop and implement management plans. PLTOF will guide the targets for these and provide the context for relevant LDNPP partner organisations to actively help deliver the next Plan.

#### **4. Options**

- 4.1. a) Members note the progress made to set provisional apportioned targets and that the final targets will be included within the Partnership's Plan 2026-2031.  
  
b) Members propose an alternative approach.

#### **5. Proposals**

- 5.1. Option a) is recommended. This meets Defra's requirement of publishing provisional targets within 18 months of the PLTOF Policy Paper. Targets will be finalised and agreed as part of the preparation of the Partnership's Plan in accordance with Defra's policy paper.

#### **6. Stakeholder Consultation**

- 6.1. We have been working with colleagues from Natural England, in an online Upland/Upland Fringe and Coastal workshop to understand and develop our approach to setting the apportioned targets.
- 6.2. We have followed this up with the Forestry, Farming, Nature and Climate Key Outcome Group of the LDNPP, seeking their feedback. And reviewed the data with the Lake District Natural England team, Cumbria Peat Partnership, Forestry Commission and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy team to develop these targets for the Lake District National Park.
- 6.3. A PLOTf briefing was included in the Nature Deep Dive at Members away hour on 11 June 2024.

#### **7. Demonstrating Best Value**

- a) Challenged – we have tested the assumptions of the original apportionment with partners to assess deliverability
- b) Compared – we have established how existing relevant LDNPP Plan targets are aligned or exceed the original apportionment
- c) Consulted – we have engaged specialist expertise from within the LDNPP to understand the data and incorporate their views on the achievability of the targets
- d) Compete – not relevant

#### **8 Finance Considerations**

- 8.1. There are no significant financial issues arising from this report.

## 9 Risk

### 9.1

No.	Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
R1	Members do not agree with the provisional apportioned targets	The provisional targets are revised	An achievable and realistic target has been set in agreement with the best available data and evidence, agreed by expert LDNPP input
R2	Members give feedback to modify the provisional apportionment targets for the purposes of the LDNPP Plan 2026 - 2031	The provisional targets are published but revised for the production of the LDNPP Plan 2026 - 2031	There is opportunity during the development of the LDNPP Plan 2026 – 2031 to modify the targets
R3	The apportioned targets exceed the Partnership's ability to resource and deliver the necessary actions achieve them	The targets are not met and the Partnership Plan is unable to achieve its objectives	The targets are modelled on existing pipelines of deliverability and extensions of current targets

## 10 Legal Considerations

10.1 PLOTf targets are non-statutory and non-binding.

## 11 Human Resources

11.1 Development and agreement of the targets will be delivered within existing resources as the LDNPP Plan 2026 – 2031 is prepared.

## 12 Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no diversity implications arising from this report.

## 13 Sustainability

13.1 In itself, there are no significant environmental, economic and social effect arising from this paper.

Background Papers	Annex 1: PLOTf targets Annex 2: PLOTf apportionment targets
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Date Written	20 May 2025

## Annex 1: PLOTF targets

Target	Indicator
<p><b>Target 1</b>                      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).</p>	<p>Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites</p>
<p><b>Target 2</b>                      Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.</p>	<p>Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition</p>
<p><b>Target 3</b>                      For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.</p>	<p>Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition</p>
<p><b>Target 4</b>                      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.</p>	<p>Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes</p>
<p><b>Target 5</b>                      Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030</p>	<p>Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land</p>
<p><b>Target 6</b>                      Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.</p>	<p>The level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes</p>
<p><b>Target 7</b>                      Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.</p>	<p>Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes</p>

Target	Indicator
<p><b>Target 8</b>                      Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).</p>	<p>Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes</p>
<p><b>Target 9</b>                      Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.</p>	<p>Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path</li> <li>• Number of accessible toilets and rest stops</li> <li>• Number of disability accessible parking spaces</li> <li>• Number of accessible gates and gaps</li> <li>• Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment</li> <li>• Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary</li> <li>• Number of volunteer days</li> <li>• Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved</li> <li>• Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 10</b>                      Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.</p>	<p>Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk. To separately cover the categories of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled monuments</li> <li>• Registered parks and gardens</li> <li>• Registered battlefields</li> <li>• Listed buildings (grade I or II*)</li> <li>• Protected wreck sites</li> </ul>

## Annex 2: PLOTF apportionment targets

Apportionment Target	Apportioned target from Natural England for the LDNP	Provisional target for LDNPP Plan 2020 – 2025	Progress for Plan targets 2026 – 2031
<p><b>Target 1</b> 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)</p>	<p>932.34 ha per year  (18,646.84 ha by 2042)</p>	<p>This a new target, progress so far indicates:  212 ha per year</p>	<p>We are working with agri-environment scheme agreement data from Natural England, to provide a possible indicator for the area of grassland habitat restored and created on an annual basis. This will help us assess how achievable the apportionment target is. Action delivering targets 7 and 8 can contribute to target 1</p>
<p><b>Target 7</b> Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050</p>	<p>468.68 ha per year  (13,123.04 ha by 2050)</p>	<p>Currently agreed (Lake District Nature Recovery Plan) with Cumbria Peat Partnership to retain current target of:  500 ha per year</p>	<p>The current peat restoration pipeline is for 5562 ha up to 2035 and provides sufficient capacity for retaining the 500 ha per year target until then</p>
<p><b>Target 8</b> Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline)</p>	<p>252.95 ha per year  (7082.62 ha by 2050)</p>	<p>Currently agreed (Lake District Nature Recovery Plan) high target set at:  250 ha per year</p>	<p>This is aligned with Forestry Commission opportunity mapping on which the LDNPP Nature Recovery Plan is based, and well within the woodland creation opportunity identified as part of the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy</p>