

BUSINESS PLAN 2018-2021

2019-20 Work Programme – Q4 (1 January to 31 March 2020)

Protect

We will endeavour to ensure the qualities that make the National Park a unique and special place are conserved, enhanced and resilient.

Protect Priority 1: Protecting and growing the natural capital across the New Forest National Park landscape, connecting with surrounding areas to ensure habitats and wildlife are sustainable

- Provide clear advice, guidance and training to deliver the Landscape Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan and Cultural Heritage Plan
- Lead a co-ordinated approach to strengthen natural capital¹ and ecological networks within and beyond the National Park boundary, supporting Government's ambition for a 'Nature Recovery Network'
- Deliver landscape enhancement in the National Park and maintain and enhance the ecosystem services² on which the Park depends
- Identify the key evidence and data requirements and sources needed to inform the conservation of the National Park's special qualities

¹ Natural capital is the world's stocks of natural assets or resources (including geology, soils, air, water and all living organisms) which have a value.

² Ecosystem services can be described as the benefits people obtain from the environment, ranging from physical benefits such as clean air, water and food to aesthetic and cultural benefits that improve our quality of life.

Outcome	Senior Responsible Owner	Objectives/priorities/actions	Quarterly RAG status	Overall RAG	Action to regain (if either RAG Amber or Red)
Landscape Action Plan objectives delivered	Sarah Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a leaflet and website advice on good quality external lighting which reduces light pollution by Q4 			Leaflet not produced in this financial year. Remains a target for completion in 20/21 Expert advice required from a professional lighting engineering consultancy to ensure accurate and up to date advice is given in a leaflet/website page.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work collaboratively with partners to develop a 'Special by Design' initiative looking at man-made infrastructure, such as signage, and whether it fulfils its potential to be in keeping with local distinctiveness and reinforce the special qualities. Recommendations due end 2019 / early 2020. 			Although good progress has been made on agreeing strong storylines, materials for signage etc., the visual language strand may need to be scaled back. Funding partners will meet to agree next steps.
Legacy plan for the Restoring Lost Landscapes strand of the Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme produced	Rachael Gallagher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NFLAS and other partners to investigate ways of continuing and developing Working Woodlands, Better Boundaries, Nature's Stepping Stones and Rural Skills Projects into the future. 			Management plans are being prepared for all landowners of the sites included in the RLL projects to ensure continued management for conservation. Mitigation measures to address delays resulting from Covid19 will be discussed at the OPOF Board mtg on 22 May. Work is ongoing through the funding group to consider future projects including the role of Working Woodlands, Better Boundaries, Nature's Stepping Stones and Rural Skills

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A programme of land management support, advice and training is provided	Julie Melin-Stubbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 100 landowners, farmers and commoners receiving training and advice through the New Forest Land Advice Service. • Work towards bringing 50 hectares of privately-owned land into better management with multiple benefits including for wildlife and commoning. 			
Deliver the NPA/FC Accord locally	Paul Walton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with the Forestry Commission to deliver the NPA/FC Accord locally. • Agree priority actions by Quarter 1 and bring a 6 monthly progress report to RAPC (Quarter 2 and Quarter 4) 			C19 has halted work on developing an Integrated Plan which had begun in early March. Will be picked up later in 2020
Deliver improved water quality through the New Forest Catchment Partnership	Ian Barker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of Quarter 3 the partnership has agreed a delivery framework to improve the water quality at Hatchet Pond • Celebrate and present the outcomes of work that is being delivered for freshwater habitats through the Partnership, particularly in the Beaulieu Catchment e.g. through the New Forest Show and an exhibition at the Motor Museum • Work with partners and camping providers at a minimum of 6 campsites to promote 'clean water camping' in order to reduce impacts on water quality 			

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Secure a new scheme/s for the New Forest SSSI from March 2020	Paul Walton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Forest Farming Group (FFG) towards securing a new scheme/s for the New Forest SSSI from March 2020 in order to ensure that land management and rural development is funded following the end of the existing HLS agreement. • Explore how this could be extended across the broader National Park landscape and beyond so that natural capital benefits are available across a wider area 			
The Landscape Enhancement Initiative is progressed	Sarah Kelly	Work with local communities and organisations to progress the Landscape Enhancement Initiative in 3 locations to enhance landscape character where high voltage transmission lines impose on the landscape.			

Protect Priority 2: Ensuring new development is sympathetic and in keeping with the National Park, promoting high quality design and environmental net gain

- Provide a long-term planning vision for the National Park informed by the special qualities
- Deliver a high quality, proactive planning service that is focussed on securing the best possible outcomes for the National Park and its communities
- Work with neighbouring authorities in the development and implementation of their planning policies and proposals that may affect the National Park, taking forward the principle of environmental net gain³ in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan

³ The environmental net gain principle expands on the net gain approach used for biodiversity to include wider natural capital benefits, such as flood protection, recreation and improved water and air quality.

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Adoption of the new Local Plan to guide future development in the National Park	David Illsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plan Examination concluded Consult on any main modifications to the draft Plan arising from the Inspectors' report (Q1) Present final Plan to Authority meeting for formal adoption (Q2) 			
New development is sympathetic and in keeping with the National Park	Steve Avery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of establishing a local design review panel to inform and support well designed, high quality buildings (Q2) Co-ordinate the local design awards scheme to recognise and promote exemplary development in the National Park (Q4) Review newly completed developments through the annual Planning Tour (Q2) 			<p>Local Design Awards announced in February 2020.</p> <p>Planning Tour had been scheduled for 24/10/19 but was postponed to find a date when more Members could attend. Lockdown has prevented the Tour being re-arranged this Spring (Q4).</p> <p>Design review panel to be set up to inform update of the Design Guide SPD.</p>
Planning applications are submitted with all the relevant supporting information	Natalie Walter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the Local List Requirements to improve the quality of planning application submissions (Q1) Convene agents' meeting (Q2) 			<p>Agents' meeting held 09/10/19.</p> <p>Updated local list published 17/03/20.</p> <p>Monitoring number of invalid applications</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the number of invalid applications received (currently 45%) to no more than 35% (by Q4) 			received post publication of revised local requirements.

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Western Escarpment Conservation Area Action Plan supported	David Illsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Western Escarpment Conservation Area Action Plan by working with Parish Councils in delivering the actions identified in the Plan, to include feasibility of making an Article 4 Direction to address harmful, small scale changes to the local distinctiveness of the area. 			
Enhanced monitoring programme for new development	David Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise and implement an enhanced monitoring programme for new development to secure greater compliance with planning consents. 			Redistribution of internal resources necessary to implement further enhanced compliance checking.
National Park planning policies and practice widely understood by local town and parish councils	Steve Avery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following local council elections, run a series of planning workshops for parish and town councils (Q2). Provide regular updates at parish quadrant and NFALC meetings 			

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<p>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) reviewed</p>	<p>Holger Schiller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-examine the merits of introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for new development in the National Park 	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p>Final CIL viability report submitted by Three Dragons. However, due to the current economic conditions, recommended CIL rates may no longer be 'fair and reasonable' and this may have to be revisited.</p>

Protect Priority 3: Conserving the historic and built heritage; supporting local culture with continued focus on commoning

- Direct the management of scheduled and unscheduled monuments to bring them into good condition
- Work with property owners to improve the condition of historic buildings and heritage features by encouraging repair and renovation, re-use and appropriate management
- Foster greater knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage of the National Park
- Provide advice and support to secure resources for community-led projects that promote local distinctiveness and commoning way of life

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Cultural Heritage Strategy and Action Plan reviewed	Paul Walton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the 2013 Cultural Heritage Strategy and the Cultural Heritage Action Plan to feed into the Partnership Plan review 	Amber	Amber	Staff changes has meant this work has been delayed – recruitment to both the Archaeology and Community Archaeology post will provide the resource needed.
Volunteer and local resident involvement in the local heritage, history and archaeology encouraged	Paul Walton/ Lawrence Shaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the OPOF and HLS schemes deliver a range of projects to encourage volunteer and local resident involvement in the local heritage, history and archaeology of the New Forest. Aim to involve 250 volunteers and hold two meetings of the Community Heritage Forum. 	Red	Green	The Community Archaeologist post has been vacant since December so work in this quarter had slowed, and stopped completely with the C19 lockdown. Planning to recruit to new post in May / June.
Traditional building skills training delivered	David Illsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a programme of training in traditional building skills as part of OPOF, with 175 people participating in 8 courses (5 professional and 3 householder) 	Green	Green	

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Scheduled and unscheduled ancient monuments managed	Lawrence Shaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,130ha of Lidar analysis and survey work to be completed by the end of 2019. Improve the condition of at least 10 sites on the Crown Lands and the rest of the Open Forest. Sites to be selected by the end of Q1 			
Guidance for non-designated heritage assets published	David Illsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish updated guidance to better identify and protect non-designated heritage assets in the National Park 			Planning Committee approved a report setting out the programme for this work in February 2020. Updated guidance is due to be published in Q1 - 2 of the 2020/21 reporting year.