

RAPC 568/25

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 2 June 2025

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

Report by: John Stride, Net Zero with Nature Programme Manager

1 Summary

- 1.1 In 2024 the [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK](#) was Published by Government. The 10 targets are for the Protected Landscapes as places (the geographic area covered by the designation, rather than an individual body or organisation); and action will be coordinated through the statutory Management/Partnership Plan. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders, partners and land managers in the area to support their delivery.
- 1.2 Protected Landscape partnerships were asked by Natural England to calculate their local contributions to three of the targets. These apportioned targets must be agreed by July 2025.
- 1.3 This paper seeks agreement from members to the apportionment of the three targets and the publication of the targets for the New Forest National Park.

Recommendation:

Members are requested to approve:

- i) **the proposals for the 3 targets which can be apportioned by individual Protected Landscapes as set out in Section 4**
- ii) **the publication on the NPA website of the 12 targets set out in Annex 1 by July 2025**

2 Background to the proposal

- 2.1 Published in 2024 the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) establishes ambitious targets for National Parks and National Landscapes. It recognises the crucial role these nationally important landscapes play in achieving positive change for nature, climate, people and place. The targets are for the place and will be delivered through the statutory management plan.
- 2.2 The targets set the ambition for how three outcomes from the UK Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 will be achieved in Protected Landscapes:
 - Goal 1 Thriving plants & wildlife;
 - Goal 7 Climate change mitigation & adaptation
 - Goal 10 Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

2.3 While many of the national targets and measures are standardised across all Protected Landscapes (see Annex 1), Natural England has proposed apportioned area targets for 3 of the 12 targets. These have been apportioned according to a consistent methodology across each Protected Landscape and relate to the following national targets:

- 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 1
- Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050 – Target 7
- Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline) – Target 8

2.4 The table below shows the proposed Natural England apportionments for the New Forest National Park for the 3 targets.

PLTOF Target	NE Proposed target for NFNP (hectares by target year)	NE Proposed annualised target for NFNP (hectares per year, based on 2022 baseline)
Create or restore wildlife-rich habitat	4461.6 hectares by 2042 (2022 baseline)	223.08
Peat restoration (deep peat)	21 hectares by 2050 (2022 baseline)	0.75
Increase woodland cover (new woodland)	1694.56 hectares by 2050	60.52

3 Consultation

- 3.1 In considering these apportioned targets the NFNPA consulted with the Partnership Plan Officers Group and the Partnership Plan Leaders' Panel. These groups are made up of representatives of key bodies in the New Forest including local authorities (New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council, statutory bodies (including Natural England) and other key partners (e.g. the Verderers of the New Forest, Forestry Commission and Forestry England)
- 3.2 To facilitate these discussions, we collated evidence from a number of sources to provide context and validity to any proposal made.

4 Proposed area targets for the New Forest National Park

- 4.1 Following evidence analysis and consultation, the following area targets are proposed for the New Forest National Park for each of the 3 apportioned targets.

PLTOF Target	Proposed target for NFNP (hectares by target year)	Average annualised proposed target for NFNP (hectares per year, 2025 to target year)
Create or restore wildlife-rich habitat	4000 hectares by 2042 (2022 baseline)	~235 hectares per year
Peat restoration (deep peat)	20 hectares by 2050 (2022 baseline)	0.8 hectares per year
Increase woodland cover (new woodland)	550 hectares by 2050	22 hectares per year

5 Reasons for deviating from original NE proposed target ambitions

- Create or restore wildlife-rich habitat: Rounded to enable a more practical figure. Evidence for viability of the ambition can be found in annex 1.
- Peat restoration (deep peat): Rounded to enable a more practical figure. Evidence for viability of the ambition can be found in annex 1.
- Increase woodland cover (new woodland): Reduced based on evidence acquired through bespoke woodland opportunity mapping and other analysis. Rounded to enable a more practical figure. Evidence for the viability of the ambition can be found in annex 1.

6 Publishing our target

- 6.1 By July 2025, all Protected Landscapes must have either incorporated the targets and measures of the Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework into revised Management/Partnership Plans or else have published on their website.
- 6.2 As we are part way through our current Management/Partnership Plan, due for renewal in 2027, we will be publishing targets for the New Forest on our website.
- 6.3 These targets and outcomes must form the bedrock of the next iteration of our Partnership Plan, with the Government's aim being to have greater consistency across protected landscape management plans and a clearer focus on meeting national objectives.
- 6.4 The targets we are committing to are long-term targets. Annualised figures are provided to show the level of ongoing achievement needed on a regular basis for context.
- 6.5 The Natural England proposals that were shared with protected landscapes, allied to the variety of evidence the proposals were based on, led to some irregularities in the targets. The National Park Authority has been invited to provide feedback on the three locally apportioned targets, based on the local evidence and information held specific to the New Forest. We have rounded the targets to make them more practical.
- 6.6 The Natural England proposals are calculated from a 2022 baseline, so we have corrected the annualised figures to show what this means from 2025 onwards, rather than the originally proposed annualised figures which were from 2022.

7 How our existing work programme supports delivery of the PLTOF

- 7.1 As set out in our published work programme we are already undertaking and developing work streams to deliver on these targets. Annex 2 provides an illustration of how our current Partnership Plan links to these targets as well as the UK Government's five missions: Growing the economy, An NHS fit for the future, Safer streets, Opportunity for all, Making Britain a clean energy superpower.
- 7.2 The PLTOF builds on Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 that strengthens how relevant authorities must seek to further the purposes for which Protected Landscapes were designated and help develop and implement management plans.
- 7.3 The PLTOF also aligns with our work on identifying land suitable for contributing to 30by30 commitments (30% of land and sea to be conserved for biodiversity by 2030); implementation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 7.4 We will incorporate the Targets in the next iteration of the Partnership Plan due n 2027.

Recommendation

Members are requested to approve:

- i) **the proposals for the 3 targets which can be apportioned by individual Protected Landscapes as set out in Section 5**
- ii) **the publication on the NPA website of the 12 targets set out in Annex 1 by July 2025**

Contact:

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ANNEX 1 PLTOF apportionment

1 Background

- 1.1 In January 2024 the Government announced the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. This provided more detail on how Government expects Protected Landscapes to achieve 3 goals of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023:
- Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife
 - Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change
 - Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment
- 1.2 The framework provides a mechanism for measuring progress towards the outcomes.
- 1.3 The targets are for the Protected Landscapes as places (the geographic area covered by the designation). Action will be coordinated by Protected Landscape bodies through their statutory management plan. It will be the responsibility of all stakeholders, partners and land managers in the area to support their delivery. Some targets are action focused, while others set a clear numerical area target for individual Protected Landscapes to contribute to the national targets.

2 Targets and Outcomes – for the 44 Protected Landscapes as a collective

2.1 Thriving Plants & Wildlife

- 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).
- Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.
- For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
- 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.
- Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

2.2 Mitigating and adapting to climate change targets

- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.
- Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.
- Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).
- Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment targets
- Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.

2.3 Decrease number of heritage assets 'At Risk'

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

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

3 Indicators and New Forest National Park Baseline Data

The targets above will be measured using the following indicators, shown here alongside available baseline data for the New Forest National Park.

3.2 Thriving Plants & Wildlife

Indicator	NFNP Current	Apportioned PLTOF NFNP Target	Target Date
Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites	N/A	4000ha*	2042
Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition	24.2%	80%	2042
Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition	10.6%	60%	2028
Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment	Unknown	Increase	2042
Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land	57%	65%	2030

3.3 Mitigating and adapting to climate change

Indicator	NFNP Current	PLTOF NFNP Target	Target Date
Net greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes (territorial emissions reported through DESNZ)	225,733 TCO ₂ e/yr	0 TCO ₂ e/yr	2050
Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes	N/A	20ha*	2050
Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes	36%	550ha* (37%)	2050

*Locally apportioned target

3.4 Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

Indicator	NFNP Current	PLTOF NFNP Target	Target Date
Metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path	Unknown ¹	Increase	2042

¹ 300m of new accessible path installed at Knightwood Oak, funded via Access for All (2024/25)

Number of accessible toilets and rest stops	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of disability accessible parking spaces	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of accessible gates and gaps	5 (New, installed 2024/25)	Increase	2042
Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment	1,000 PEDALL visits ²	Increase	2042
Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary	3,900 ³ (no. of young people)	Increase	2042
Number of volunteer days	1,222 (2024/25)	Increase	2042
Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved	2 (2024/25)	Increase	2042
Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers	New Forest Voices ⁴		
Scheduled monuments 'At Risk'	4	<4	2042
Registered parks and gardens 'At Risk'	0	0	2042
Registered battlefields 'At Risk'	0	0	2042
Listed buildings (grade I or II*) 'At Risk'	1	0	2042
Protected wreck sites 'At Risk'	0	0	2042

4 Apportioned Targets

4.1 Three of the PLTOF Targets have been apportioned to each Protected Landscape by Natural England. All Protected Landscapes were given the opportunity to propose a revised target using locally derived data.

- **Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes outside protected sites by 2042**

Natural England Proposed apportionment for the New Forest National Park: 223.08 ha per year, based on a pro-rata'd methodology. Wildlife-rich habitats are defined in the Natural England publication, [Environment Act Habitat Target –Definitions and Descriptions](#)

- **Restore approximately 130,000 ha of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050**

Natural England Proposed apportionment for the New Forest: 0.75 ha per year based on a pro-rata'd methodology considering the existing (known/mapped) area of deep peat within the New Forest National Park.

² Access for All Funding enabled purchase of inclusive cycle equipment that has boosted visits by 20% (1000 extra rides) and volunteering by a similar amount (2024/25)

³ Numbers are young people not schools, boosted by Generation Green 2 project

⁴ Extensive EDI work under our New Forest Voices programme incorporating 3 workstreams: Understanding, Experience and Ways of working.

- **Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050**

Natural England Proposed apportionment for the New Forest National Park: 60.52 ha per year based on total area of the New Forest.

5 Evidence for Amending Apportioned Targets

- 5.1 Officers have considered data and evidence from local sources and concluded that the target for restoration of wildlife rich habitats and peat restoration are appropriate but the woodland canopy and cover target should be amended to take account of specific New Forest requirements.
- 5.2 A key source of evidence is the emissions baseline report provided by Small World Consulting (SWC) which provides land-use change targets to support emissions reductions and increase nature-based sequestration and storage of unavoidable emissions. Woodland opportunity mapping by SWC, commissioned by the NFNPA has identified a range between 21.5ha/yr and 32.2ha /yr. This lower ambition compared to Natural England's original proposal takes account of the need to avoid planting trees on priority habitats, SSSI open habitat and sites of importance for migratory wading birds. Land will also need to be available for back up grazing for commoners livestock.
- 5.3 Consequently, we propose using the figure of 22ha/yr as the target for increased tree canopy and woodland cover, approximately 1% of the National Park area, rather than the 60.52ha/yr, 3% of the National Park area, proposed by Natural England. 21.5ha per year is calculated to as the target area available to support the achievement of net-zero as measured by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

New Forest National Park Delivering Government Priorities

Background

This document summarises the direct links between the objectives we are working towards within the New Forest National Park and key UK government priorities such as the 5 Missions and the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework from the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.

New Forest National Park Action

Our vision: The vision for the New Forest is to be a national beacon for a sustainable future, where nature and people flourish.

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2: Nature Recovery

2.1 Make more space for nature

2.2 Enhance natural capital

2.3 Harness ELM

2.4 Harness opportunities through development

2.5 Mitigate recreational pressure

3: Inclusive Forest

3.1 Promote health & wellbeing

3.2 Connect people with nature & landscape

3.3 Leadership in inclusive place-making

3.4 Celebrate natural beauty

3.5 Safeguard cultural heritage

4: Thriving Forest

4.1 Increase green skills & jobs

4.2 Support sustainable land management

4.3 Champion New Forest Commoning

4.4 Support business & green tourism

4.5 Increase availability of affordable housing

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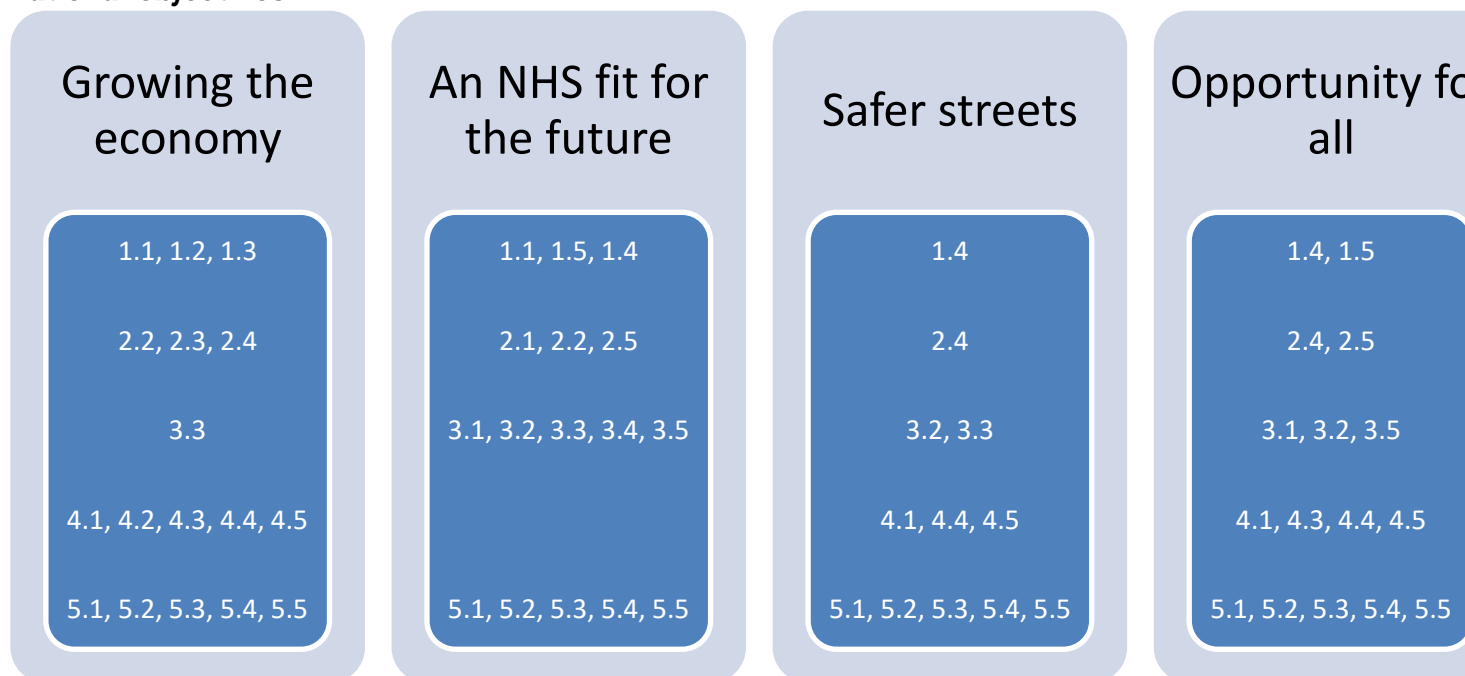
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UK Government 5 Key Missions

[UK Government Plan for Change](#) sets out 5 key missions. Here we illustrate how Re:New Forest, the New Forest National Park Partnership Plan objectives (referenced above), will support the delivery of these missions. The New Forest National Park Partnership Plan chapters closely reflect the priorities the Government has given nationally protected landscapes. The Plan illustrates how – working together under the Section 245 ‘duty to seek to further’ – relevant bodies in the New Forest are delivering against these important national objectives.



Protected Landscapes Targets & Outcomes Framework

In January 2024 the Government announced the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. This provided more detail on how Government expects Protected Landscapes to achieve 3 goals of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023:

Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife

Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change

Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

The framework provides a mechanism for measuring progress and delivery towards the outcomes.

The targets are for the Protected Landscapes as places (the geographic area covered by the designation). Action will be coordinated by Protected Landscape bodies through their statutory management plan. It will be the responsibility of all stakeholders, partners and land managers in the area to support their delivery.

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Targets and Outcomes – for the 44 Protected Landscapes as a collective

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Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment targets

- Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.
- Decrease number of heritage assets 'At Risk'
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Indicators and New Forest National Park Baseline Data

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Thriving Plants & Wildlife Indicators	NFNP Current	PLTOF NFNP Target	Target Date	Principally delivered through
Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites	Apportioned target, see below			1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition	24.2%	80%	2042	
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Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes	Apportioned target, see below			3.5, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5,
Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes	36%	To be apportioned, please see below	2050	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5

Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment Indicators	NFNP Current	PLTOF NFNP Target	Target Date	Principally delivered through
Metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path	Unknown ⁵	Increase	2042	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Number of accessible toilets and rest stops	TBC	Increase	2042	
Number of disability accessible parking spaces	TBC	Increase	2042	
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