



NPA/25/030

## Dartmoor National Park Authority

5 September 2025

# Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Report of the Report of the Director of Conservation and Communities and the Partnership Plan and Climate Officer

Recommendation: **That Members:**

- (i) **Note the targets for Protected Landscapes established through the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)**
- (ii) **That Members approve the addition of the PLTOF targets as an addendum to the Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021–2026**

## 1 Background

- 1.1 The [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) (PLTOF) published in January 2024 established 10 ambitious targets for Protected Landscapes (National Parks and National Landscapes).
- 1.2 The targets are non-statutory and create a shared ambition for all 44 of England's Protected Landscapes and are designed to support them in meeting their potential for nature, climate, people and place. The targets are for the Protected Landscapes as places (the geographic area covered by the designation), rather than an individual body or organisation.
- 1.3 Action should be coordinated by Protected Landscape bodies through their statutory Management Plans. It will be the responsibility of all stakeholders, partners and land managers in the area to support their delivery.
- 1.4 The targets set the ambition for how Protected Landscapes are expected to achieve 3 outcomes from 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.

## 2 PLTOF Targets

- 2.1 The 10 targets outlined in Appendix A include three that must be apportioned across all Protected Landscapes. These three targets have been apportioned by Natural England and Land Use Consultants PLC (LUC) using a consistent framework applied to each Protected Landscape.
- 2.2 Each Protected Landscape must assess its own contribution towards these apportioned targets and determine whether the proposed figures are achievable, taking into account local factors and specific circumstances. This apportionment process should result in the establishment of both long-term and short-term targets, which are to be integrated into the next Management Plan cycle.
- 2.3 The targets to be apportioned are:

**Target 1:** Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes outside protected sites by 2042

For Dartmoor National Park this means that 7,548ha of wildlife rich habitats are restored or created by 2042.

**Target 7:** Restore approximately 130,000 ha of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050

For Dartmoor National Park this means that 8,030ha peatland will be under restoration by 2050.

**Target 8:** Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

For Dartmoor National Park this means that 2,867ha of tree canopy and woodland cover would be created by 2050.

## 3 Publishing the Targets

- 3.1 All Protected Landscapes are required to incorporate or link these targets (as an addendum) to their statutory Management Plans by July 2025.
- 3.2 As we are reviewing our Management Plan ([the Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021–2026](#)), we will publish provisional targets as an addendum on the [Your Dartmoor](#) website. For the initial publication, we will adopt the apportioned figures provided by Natural England and LUC (listed above), we have also outlined how the current Dartmoor Partnership Plan contributes to delivering all ten targets, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Throughout the review process, we will work closely with partners and stakeholders to develop long and short-term targets that are ambitious yet achievable for Dartmoor. These collaboratively agreed targets will be embedded within the updated Dartmoor Partnership Plan and the Vision for Dartmoor.

## **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Like the Management Plan, the targets are for Dartmoor as a place, and not the sole responsibility of the National Park Authority to deliver. Delivery will be supported by the Dartmoor Partnership Plan in coordinating partners. There are no direct financial implications associated with PLTOF, successful delivery of the targets will be dependent on strong partnership working and seeking funding to deliver.

## **5 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework establishes ambitious targets for National Parks and National Landscapes. It recognises the crucial role that Protected Landscapes play in achieving positive changes for nature, climate, people and place.
- 5.2 The targets are for the 'place' and must be delivered by a range of partners through statutory management plans.
- 5.3 Apportioned targets must be agreed between individual Protected Landscapes and Natural England within 18 months of publication of the Targets and Outcomes Framework. Where a new management plan is not due to be published within the 18-month window, Protected Landscape bodies should set provisional targets, published on their website.
- 5.4 It is recommended that Members approve the addition of the PLTOF targets as an addendum to the Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021–2026.

RICHARD DRYSDALE and JEN MANNING

## Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework Targets. Addendum to the Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021-2026

PLTOF Target	Dartmoor Partnership Plan Target (short term target)	Long Term Targets/ taken from PLTOF targets (provisional)	Target indicator
<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).	No target in 2021-2026 Partnership Plan.	7,548ha by 2042 (apportioned figure)	Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites (in development)
<b>Target 2</b> Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.	By 2026 SSSIs will have achieved favourable or recovering status if still feasible	80% by 2042	Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition
<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.	No target in 2021-2026 Partnership Plan	60% by 2028	Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition
<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.	By 2026 identify opportunities with landowners and land managers to restore fragmented priority habitats that contributes to landscape scale change  By 2024 work with farmers, their advisors and other partners to help inform ELMS development and secure the funding required to create and maintain these habitats on the ground.	100% of priority habitat and newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment in under management by 2042	Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes

<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.	No target in 2021-2026 Plan	At least 65% of land managers have adopted nature-friendly farming on at least 10% of their land by 2030.	Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land.
<b>Target 6</b> Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.	Carbon negative by 2045	Carbon negative by 2045	The level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes
<b>Target 7</b> Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.	Restore an additional minimum of 1000ha of priority blanket bog by 2026.	8,030ha peatland restored by 2050 (apportioned figure)	Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes
<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).	By 2026 facilitate and fund the establishment of at least 500ha of new valley native broadleaf woodland	2,867ha of tree canopy and woodland cover created by 2050 (apportioned figure)	Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes
<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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the end of 2025 improve up to 20 Miles without Stiles routes</li> <li>• By the end of 2025 increase the proportion of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) defined as easy to use to 90%</li> <li>• From 2022 collaborate with existing and new partners to remove barriers, encouraging and enabling more young people to explore and enjoy Dartmoor outside of a formal setting</li> <li>• Design and pilot a new include and progressive approach to school visits aiming at to build a long lasting connecting to with Dartmoor for all children in Devon</li> </ul>	Long term target not established	Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in the Access for All programme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2022 work in partnership to develop and seek funding for an annual programme of volunteering and apprenticeship opportunities so that anyone in communities within or outside National Park has the opportunity to engage in caring for and managing Dartmoor and shaping its future.</li> </ul>		
<b>Target 10</b> Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.	Remove 40 at risk scheduled monuments from the heritage at risk register by 2025	Long term target not established	Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk. To separately cover the categories of: <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>



NPA/25/031

## Dartmoor National Park Authority

05 September 2025

### Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Consultation

Report of the Director of Conservation and Communities

Recommendation: **That Members:**

- (i) **Note the requirement to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and for the strategy to go out to public consultation; and**
- (ii) **Authorise the Chief Executive (NPO) to make suggested minor final changes and corrections to the strategy, in our role as a Supporting Authority, to the strategy following public consultation.**

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Environment Act 2021, 48 responsible authorities across England have been tasked with producing Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) to collectively address the decline in nature, based on county boundaries. Devon County Council (DCC) is the responsible authority that cover Dartmoor, producing an LNRS for Devon. Dartmoor National Park Authority is a Supporting Authority (SA) and a formal consultee for the LNRS, alongside Natural England. DNPA officers have liaised with DCC to ensure the plan is relevant and accurately reflects Dartmoor.
- 1.2 The LNRS gives guidance as to what action is needed within a county for nature to recover and where actions are likely to be most beneficial. It will be published online and will include interactive mapping.
- 1.3 This paper sets out the background to the LNRS, DNPA's role as a Supporting Authority and the timetable for the public consultation and adoption of the LNRS.
- 1.4 LNRSs are statutory strategies, the format is set by Defra and must include:
  - 1.4.1 A description of the county's wildlife, including opportunities and pressures, as well as priorities for habitats and species (to prevent extinctions and increase abundance, following the Lawton principles of Better, Bigger, More, Joined up).

- 1.4.2 Actions needed to achieve the priorities, as well as actions for nature restoration that will help to meet other priorities such as carbon sequestration, flood control, better water quality, health and wellbeing.
- 1.4.3 Maps showing:
- (a) designated sites and irreplaceable habitats;
  - (b) places where we most need to focus action.
- 1.4.4 They must be user friendly, produced in collaboration, set out opportunities and will influence funding (ELM, BNG, HLF, etc.). They are not about new designations or restrictions. However, Local Planning Authorities must have regard for them (see Section 3).
- 1.5 They are part of a 'nested suite' of nature strategies at a range of scales. The LNRS sets out priorities at the county level and what we need to do to help meet relevant national targets. In turn it informs nature strategies on Dartmoor recognising the local priorities.
- 1.6 Statutory 'Supporting Authorities' must be involved (Local Authorities, including National Park Authorities, and Natural England) and be given a 28-day formal consultation period prior to public consultation and post public consultation.
- 1.7 In our role as Supporting Authority, DNPA have worked with DCC and partners to prepare the LNRS for its public consultation.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 As a Supporting Authority DNPA has provided input on LNRS recommendations (such as areas requiring additional protection due to their particular importance) within Dartmoor. However, consent for changes in land use and management, such as planning permission, do not need to be in place for their inclusion in the LNRS.
- 2.2 The development of the Devon LNRS has been undertaken by DCC in partnership with a wide range of local stakeholders and through a series of workshops, surveys and events.
- 2.3 Dartmoor is one of the most ecologically and culturally rich landscapes in the UK. The LNRS helps protect and enhance this by:

**Identifying Priority Habitats and Species:** Dartmoor's moorlands, woodlands, and rivers host rare species and habitats as previously identified in documents such as Living Dartmoor. The LNRS maps these and sets restoration targets.

**Supporting Sustainable Land Management:** It guides farmers, landowners, and conservationists in practices that benefit both nature and livelihoods.

**Integration:** The strategy links nature recovery with goals like **clean water, carbon sequestration, flood control, and public health.**



**Collaboration:** Dartmoor's inclusion ensures its unique needs and opportunities are considered in county-wide conservation efforts.

### **3 Strategic Outcomes for Dartmoor**

- 3.1 Better data and mapping to inform **planning decisions** and **heritage conservation**.
- 3.2 A unified approach to tackling challenges like **climate change**, **habitat fragmentation**, and **visitor pressure**.

### **4 Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Planning System**

- 4.1 One of Dartmoor National Park Authority's statutory purposes is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and as such must 'have regard' to the LNRS. As a Local Planning Authority (LPA), DNPA will need to consider how LNRS priorities, actions and mapping are reflected in our Local Plan and development management decisions, including biodiversity net gain (BNG).
- 4.2 The government has made it clear that LNRSs are not intended to act as a barrier to development or place new restrictions on developing land or making land use changes. LNRSs provide guidance and an evidence base to inform Local Plans and decision making. Planning decisions at both the plan making and planning application stage need to consider all material considerations and the LNRS will be one consideration amongst many.
- 4.3 As an LPA, DNPA must 'have regard' to LNRSs but it is our responsibility to decide how the Authority has regard for the LNRS in the Local Plan and when making planning decisions.

### **5 Equality and Sustainability Impact**

- 5.1 The draft LNRS has engaged a wide range of stakeholders, and the public consultation will ensure the opportunity is offered wider. The LNRS includes priorities for habitats and species and follows the Lawton principles of Better, Bigger, More and Joined up.
- 5.2 Furthermore, LNRSs are all about opportunity rather than restriction and as such have been identified as **low risk strategies**. The explanatory note of The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 notes *"A full impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sectors is foreseen."*

### **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 LNRSs are funded by Defra and as such there are no direct financial implications to the Authority associated with the consultation of the draft LNRS plan. There is officer time associated with being a Supporting Authority and working on the Supporting Authority Officers Working Group.

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1 Members will note that as a Supporting Authority, Dartmoor National Park Authority has been engaged in the production of the Devon LNRS and through the Officers Working Group have agreed the draft strategy to go out to public consultation.
- 7.2 It is expected that DCC (as Responsible Authority) will publish the consultation draft Devon LNRS for a public consultation in late September/October 2025. Following the public consultation, expected to be in the region of five weeks, and any amendments being made to the draft LNRS, there will be a further formal 28-day period when the 13 Supporting Authorities will be consulted before the strategy is finalised.
- 7.3 Members are asked to authorise that any suggested minor final changes can be made on behalf of DNPA, as a Supporting Authority, by the Chief Executive(NPO).
- 7.4 Once the final LNRS has been approved by the Supporting Authorities, DCC must then notify the Secretary of State of its intention to publish the strategy. When the Secretary of State has given approval DCC can then publish the strategy and make hard copies available. Thereafter there will be duty for the Responsible Authority (DCC) to undertake a review of the final LNRS following notification from the Secretary of State there is a need to do so.

RICHARD DRYSDALE

**Attachments: Appendix 1 - Supporting Authority Factsheet**

20250905 RD LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy)

# Local Nature Recovery Strategies: your role as a 'supporting authority'

May 2024

All local authorities have a key role to play in preparing and delivering [Local Nature Recovery Strategies](#) (LNRS), even if they are not a 'responsible authority'. Through LNRS, all local authorities, as place leaders for their area, have an opportunity to shape the future of the natural environment right now. This factsheet provides information about the role of 'supporting authorities' in LNRS and why they are important.

## What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

LNRSs are a new system of spatial strategies for nature recovery, legislated for in the Environment Act 2021. The Defra Secretary of State has appointed 48 [responsible authorities](#) (in most cases county or combined authorities) to lead the preparation of the strategies over the coming year. Each strategy will agree priorities for nature recovery and the wider environment and propose actions in the locations where they would have the most impact in helping to deliver those priorities.

The current rollout of LNRSs across England presents an opportunity for all local authorities to help shape and implement the vision for nature in their area now.



View towards side pike from Blea Tarn, the Lake District

## The supporting authority role for LNRS:

Every local authority has an important role to play in their LNRS. The LNRS legislation requires that responsible authorities involve all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), including National Park Authorities, and Natural England (collectively termed 'supporting authorities') in the preparation process.

This is so that key users are able to shape content and to ensure ambition and a degree of national consistency across the 48 LNRSs.

## What does the supporting authority role entail?

As a supporting authority for your LNRS, you have the opportunity to:

- **Work closely with the responsible authority** and other supporting authorities in your area to help shape your LNRS so that it aligns with your organisation's needs and priorities.
- **Provide local data and input information from other relevant strategies**, such as Trees and Woodland Strategies and National Park and National Landscape Management Plans. Where this information is sensitive or contains commercial value, the responsible authority should work with you to establish how it could be used for LNRS preparation without the information itself being made more widely available.
- **Periodically review and agree drafts of the LNRS.** The Regulations provide all supporting authorities with the opportunity to review and agree drafts ahead of public consultation and publication to ensure widespread agreement on the content and approach.<sup>1</sup> Considering how your organisation will review your LNRS early on will help to avoid delays down the line.

## How could supporting authorities use their LNRS?

It's important to get involved with your relevant LNRS early on to ensure you are happy with its direction and content. This is because supporting authorities will be key users of LNRSs, and because what's included in the strategies will help you deliver other organisational objectives more effectively:

For example, the relevant LNRS for your area will...

- **Inform the rollout of Biodiversity Net Gain**, by helping to guide where offsite habitat is created and enhanced.
- **Provide important evidence that you will need to consider when making your Local Plans.**

<sup>1</sup> The [Regulations](#) set out the procedure for handling disagreements where supporting authorities are not content with the draft copies of the strategies.

- **Be considered as part of your statutory duty to take action, consistent with your functions, to conserve and enhance biodiversity<sup>2</sup>.**
- **Inform future National Park and National Landscape Management Plans.**
- **Inform how future funding and investment in nature recovery is targeted**, e.g. via initiatives like the [Water Restoration Fund](#).

As LNRs become available, Government will continue to explore join-up between elements of Environmental Land Management schemes and LNRs, as committed to in the [January 2024 Agricultural Transition Plan](#).



River Dee, Chester

### **LNRs and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG):**

BNG has now gone [live](#), meaning all developments in England, including small sites, will need to deliver net gains for biodiversity. LNRs, once published, will be used to guide BNG offsite habitat creation and enhancement into strategic locations for nature. Specifically, the BNG metric includes a 15% “strategic significance” uplift in biodiversity units per hectare for delivering LNR proposals in the locations mapped by the LNR.

By engaging early with your LNR you can ensure you have a say on the location and type of projects delivered through BNG so that they meet the needs of residents in your area. For more information on how LNR and BNG will work together, see our recent post on the [Defra Environment Blog](#).

### **LNRs and local plan-making:**

Getting involved with LNR preparation will help to ensure its priorities and proposals align with your own local planning objectives.

Defra and DLUHC are currently working on guidance for how LPAs should “have regard” to LNRs.

This will clarify how having regard to LNRs will work alongside existing requirements in the NPPF to consider nature recovery in Local Plans<sup>3</sup>.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act will also introduce a new duty to “take account” of LNRs in the plan-making process as part of wider reforms to the planning system. Planners will need to consider specific parts of their LNRs, such as the proposed locations to restore or enhance nature.

### **When is it best to engage with LNRs?**

As the preparation of LNRs is already progressing across England, now is the best time to get involved. Ideally, you should already be working with your responsible authority to develop the LNR for your area. The responsible authority for your area should have also invited you to participate in steering and other relevant governance groups. Contributing as early as possible by sharing your views and providing information to responsible authorities will help to make sure every LNR is ambitious and deliverable.

There are several points in the preparation process when supporting authority input will be especially valuable. These include:

- **Agreeing priorities and actions** – by ensuring these align with your organisation’s objectives and existing strategies;
- **Mapping ‘areas of particular importance for biodiversity’** – by providing useful data to your area’s responsible authority;
- **Ahead of public consultation and publication** – when you have 28 days to provide comments, raise concerns, and agree to proceed with consultation and publication. You could also help to raise awareness of the public consultation to ensure the LNR represents the views of residents, businesses and other organisations in your area.

### **Links to further resources:**

- LNR policy paper ([GOV.UK](#))
- LNR regulations ([GOV.UK](#))
- LNR statutory guidance ([GOV.UK](#))
- LNR explainer blog ([GOV.UK](#))
- Explainer blog on how LNR and BNG will work together ([GOV.UK](#))

<sup>2</sup> For more information on complying with the Biodiversity Duty, see ([GOV.UK](#))

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 185, [National Planning Policy Framework](#)