

# Cannock Chase National Landscape an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## Cannock Chase National Landscape Team Business Plan 2025-2026 (draft)



**Cannock  
Chase**  
National  
Landscape

## Introduction

This Business Plan sets out the priorities for the Cannock Chase National Landscape Team for 2025-2026, showing how we will deliver our part of the [AONB Management Plan 2025-2030](#) and respond proactively to the challenges and opportunities affecting the National Landscape.

The priorities that we have included will need to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances and external influences. Many activities depend on collaborative working with partners, organisations and community groups and may be subject to change, often at short notice.

## Our functions

Our primary purpose is to *‘conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the National Landscape’*.

In pursuing this primary purpose, we must also take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met in so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

## Context for the year ahead

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, the five local authorities that comprise the Joint Committee of Cannock Chase National Landscape adopted the latest edition of our AONB Management Plan. This statutory document sets out our shared ambitions for the future of Cannock Chase for the period 2025-2030, and was developed through research and insight, collaborative work with our partners, the Government’s outcomes and targets for England’s protected landscapes, as well as public consultation. As such it blends national and local priorities.

We want Cannock Chase to be ***“a wild and beautiful place, distinctive, thriving, resilient and welcoming”***. To deliver our vision over the lifetime of the Management Plan we will focus on four integrated strategic aims under the themes of nature, climate, people and place. The themes reinforce the Government’s ambitions for Protected Landscapes in England to be distinctive cultural landscapes that support the nation’s health and wellbeing, tackle climate change and restore nature.



Our Business Plan is structured around these themes and the numbered actions included in the AONB Management Plan. As well as delivering these activities we will strive to be effective, offer value for money, and provide an excellent level of service through our governance.

## **Resources**

### ***Core funding***

Our core funding comes from central Government (75%) and our five constituent local authorities (25%).

Our core funding for 2025/26 is £221,950. The agreed allocation of the core funding is as follows:

- £196,800 (staff and associated costs, partnership running costs, print and publicity, volunteer costs, national liaison, annual conference, monitoring and community involvement)
- £10,000 (Sustainable Development Fund)
- £15,150 (AONB projects)

Appendix 1 describes the Funded Activities which Defra expects National Landscapes (AONBs) to carry out to comply with their obligations. Appendix 2 summaries the purpose of the Sustainable Development Fund.

2025/26 will be the third year running that our budget has operated at a shortfall due to flat-rate funding settlements not keeping up with cost-of-living increases. Previous years' shortfalls have been met by drawing down from Reserves. For 2025/26, however, the shortfall has been met by freezing recruitment into the vacant position of Landscape Planning Officer. Consequently, the National Landscape is currently unable to advise local planning authorities on the impacts of proposed developments on the National Landscape.

### ***Capital uplift***

In addition to our core grant-in-aid funding, Defra has allocated us a capital uplift of £151,176 for 2025/26 to be spent on activities that contribute towards:

- Innovation, investing-to-save, and income generation
- Delivery of 30by30.

### ***Externally funded programmes***

Cannock Chase National Landscape also receives additional Defra funding for two programmes, the allocations for 2025/26 are:

- Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) – £552,889
- Access for All – £115,786

Appendices 3 and 4 summarise the two programmes.

### ***Collaboration***

Wherever possible we will aim to invest beyond the resources provided by national and local government by collaborating with our partners and seeking additional funds from a wide variety of sources. The National Landscape Team is small (currently down to 2.5FTE employees), does not own land or any other assets, nor does it have powers to compel others to deliver the outcomes it is seeking from the

Management Plan. As always, therefore, working in partnership to deliver change will be at the heart of our work.

## **Strategic priorities for 2025/26**

Each year we identify a number of strategic projects to help us target resources and make the most of partnership working and any external funding opportunities.

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 we will have delivered the following key outcomes (darker coloured rows on the Business Plan activities below):

### *Outcomes for Nature*

- Researched the potential sites for 30by30 target (Action No. 1) and the feasibility of a super National Nature Reserve (Action No. 9)
- Prepared species action plans for 5 Champion species (Action No. 4)
- Published the Deer Management strategy and agreed implementation plans (Action No. 6)

### *Outcomes for Climate*

- Mapped the extent and depth of peatlands, and carried out field surveys and paleoenvironmental analysis (Action No. 18)
- Assessed the potential, opportunities and costs for increasing carbon sequestration and capture through land use change (Action nos. 17, 18 and 45)

### *Outcomes for People*

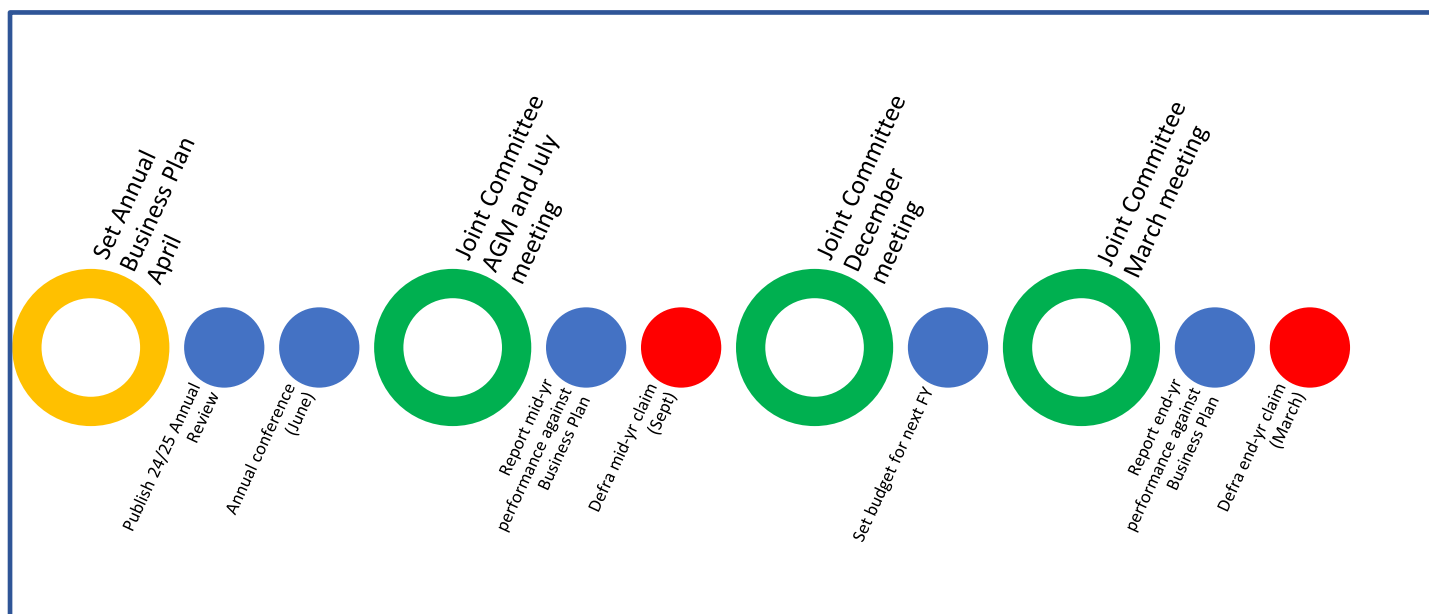
- Published a Recreation Management Strategy (Action No. 22)
- Assessed the condition of all PRoW in the National Landscape, and prepared a cost programme of investment (Action Nos 29 and 30)
- Researched road and welcome signage and prepared costed options for investment (Action No. 33)
- Launched the Cannock Chase Charitable Fund (Action No. 40)
- Developed pedestrian gateways for the Staffordshire Way (Action No. (Action No. 33), and other accessibility improvements through the Access for All Fund (multiple actions)

### *Outcomes for Place*

- Published an updated Guide for highways improvement and management (Action No. 49)
- Developed an expression of interest and full application for a powerline undergrounding scheme at Haywood Park Farm (Action No. 50)
- Published an Historic Environment Strategy (Action No. 60)
- Delivered environmental outcomes through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme (multiple actions for Nature, Climate, People and Place)

## Monitoring and reporting performance

The diagram below sets out our annual timeline for governance. Performance against our Business Plan will be reported to Defra twice yearly – in September and March.



## Risk register

The National Landscape Partnership prepares a corporate risk register which is reviewed annually, and incorporated within the Business Plan (Appendix 5). This serves as a central repository for capturing and evaluating the key strategic risks we face, their likelihood, potential impact and corresponding countermeasures. Maintaining a comprehensive risk register helps us to proactively manage uncertainties, support our decision-making processes, and mitigate potential harm to our operations.

## Business Plan activities

Business Plan activities are arranged by the four strategic aims for Nature, Climate, People and Place as set out in the Management Plan. The table below shows the agreed Management Plan actions (and numbers) in the first column, priority activities in the second column, resources in the third column, and then our proposed measure of success metrics in the final column.

Rows marked in darker colours and with bold font are identified as our strategic priorities for 2025/2026.

The AONB Management Plan includes 60 actions in total. Where an action is not included in our Business Plan this either means that other partners are leading or developing it, rather than the National Landscape Team, or that the action is scheduled later in the lifetime of the Management Plan. We will keep an overview of delivery against all 60 actions with our role to convene partners to progress the Management Plan, and report this annually.

Organisational objectives are considered separately, and follow-on from the Business Plan activities.

Management Plan Action	Priority activities for 2025-26	Resources	Proposed measures of success
<b>Priorities for Nature</b>			
<b>1. Secure long-term protection for nature conservation and favourable management of protected sites through legal or other effective means.</b>	<b>Research the state of readiness of sites that could count to meeting 30by30 criteria.</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>Baseline established, and priorities identified where improvements are needed for purpose, protection and management.</b>
2. Re-introduce livestock grazing to key sites to support sustainable management.	Support partners with grazing management.	FiPL programme	Hectares of habitat under grazing management.
3. Deliver programmes for the restoration and creation of priority and other locally important habitats (outside SSSI)	Support partners to deliver large-scale nature recovery projects	FiPL programme, CCNL core budget	Hectares of priority habitats restored / created.
<b>4. Publish Species Action Plans for 10 Champion Species for the National Landscape, and deliver targeted action where required:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly</li> <li>○ Adder</li> <li>○ Nightjar</li> <li>○ Solitary wasp species of bare ground (TBC)</li> <li>○ Ancient oak trees</li> <li>○ White-clawed crayfish</li> <li>○ Otter</li> <li>○ Common redstart</li> <li>○ Welsh Clearwing</li> <li>○ Brown hare</li> </ul>	<b>With stakeholders, prepare species action plans for 5 Champion species.</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>Measures for recovery of Champion species identified.</b>
	Support recovery measures for individual species.	FiPL programme, CCNL core budget	Number of species and projects supported.
5. Monitor invasive species and deliver-collaborative and targeted management to address them where required.	With partners, agree target species and support control measures.	CCNL staff time, FiPL programme	Number of control projects.
<b>6. Draw up and deliver a strategy and action plan for monitoring and managing the deer population in the Chase as well as engaging and informing the public about the need to manage the deer population.</b>	<b>Work with landowners to agree and publish a Deer Management Statement.</b>	<b>CCNL core budget.</b>	<b>A common approach to deer management agreed.</b>
8. Support the Purple Horizons Nature Recovery Project to connect Cannock Chase with Sutton Park to deliver greater resilience for nature.	Support preparations for the National Heathland Conference 2026, taking place on Cannock Chase.	CCNL staff time	Conference on track and Cannock Chase and work of CCNL Partnership showcased.

Management Plan Action	Priority activities for 2025-26	Resources	Proposed measures of success
<b>9. Explore the potential and feasibility to establish a 'super National Nature Reserve' to protect wildlife and help tackle climate change by restoring and improving priority habitats.</b>	<b>Research, with key landowners, the feasibility, process, costs and benefits of establishing a super NNR.</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>Feasibility and next steps established.</b>
12. Develop buffer zones around watercourses to protect the water environment and sensitive wetland habitats.	Support landowners and land managers to protect and improve habitat quality within and alongside watercourses.	CCNL staff time, FiPL programme	Number of projects delivered, number of farmers supported, hectares improved.
<b>Priorities for Climate</b>			
15. Provide information and additional facilities, such as secure bicycle parking and EV charging points to encourage visitors to arrive by more sustainable means of transport	Explore opportunities for investment, for example, through the Staffordshire Local Transport Plan.	CCNL staff time	Number of projects identified.
16. Work with relevant bodies to improve nearby bus and rail services, and design and provide safe, connected cycle and pedestrian routes into the National Landscape.	Develop potential schemes for investment, for example, through the Staffordshire Local Transport Plan and community initiatives.	CCNL staff time / Access for All	Numbers of projects delivered.
<b>17. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover.</b>	<b>Research the potential for sequestering and storing more carbon through tree planting, peatland restoration, regenerative agriculture and other land use change.</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>Hectares of potential land identified / calculated potential carbon sequestration. Investment opportunities and sources.</b>
<b>18. Improve understanding about the extent, depth and condition of our peatlands, and use that information to improve their protection and restoration.</b>	<b>Research to confirm presence, extent and condition of peat deposits and paleoenvironmental analysis.</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>Peat stores identified, safeguarded and positively managed.</b>
19. Develop and deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Trent and Sow catchments.	Supporting partners with project delivery.	FiPL programme	Number / hectares of projects developed.
20. Prepare and embed within the Management Plan a climate change adaptation plan.	Research understanding of climate change adaptation, and potential scope and content of plan.	CCNL staff time	Draft approach established.

Management Plan Action	Priority activities for 2025-26	Resources	Proposed measures of success
<b>Priorities for People</b>			
<b>22. Prepare a Recreation Management Strategy for the National Landscape, building on the foundations set out in the SAC Detailed Implementation Plans.</b>	<b>Research and develop the Strategy with partners and stakeholders.</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>A common and strategic approach to the management of recreation on the Chase.</b>
23. Educate organisers of events and group visits to the National Landscape, and in particular the SAC, to be aware of its national importance and the wealth of wildlife and sensitive habitats in the area, their role in conserving it, and the need to seek any necessary permissions before visiting.	Liaise with partners and respond to enquiries as they arise.	CCNL staff time	Numbers of events and groups informed.
24. Improve the quality, consistency and availability of information and interpretation about the special qualities of the National Landscape, including their significance and conservation requirements.	Research potential for increasing opportunities and engagement with communities and businesses in fostering place attachment.	CCNL core budget	A common approach to messages and materials. Number of businesses engaged.
	Work with landowners, partners, and communities to develop/refresh interpretation materials as opportunities arise.	Access for All, iPL programme	Number of interpretation panels installed/updated.
27. Use appropriate and proportionate responses and enforcement to deter illegal activities on the National Landscape such as wildlife and heritage crime, and anti-social behaviour.	Support partners to respond to issues as they arise.	CCNL staff time	Number of cases supported.
<b>29. Maintain the public rights of way and permissive routes so that they are usable and navigable.</b>	<b>Research the condition of PRow in the National Landscape.</b>	<b>Access for All</b>	<b>Priorities for capital investment in the PRow infrastructure identified.</b>
<b>30. Increase the provision of easy access trails and accessible information, interpretation and signage to maximise inclusivity.</b>	<b>Support landowners to improve the surfaces of key trails.</b>	<b>Access for All</b>	<b>Length of trails improved. Number of interventions realised.</b>
	<b>Work with landowners, partners, and communities to develop/refresh interpretation materials as opportunities arise.</b>	<b>Access for All</b>	<b>Number of interpretation panels installed/updated.</b>
32. Create and promote circular routes from main car parks and gateway train stations to improve the visitor welcome and experience and	Explore opportunities for investment on train gateway stations, for example, through the Staffordshire Local Transport Plan.	CCNL staff time	Number of projects identified for improvement.



Management Plan Action	Priority activities for 2025-26	Resources	Proposed measures of success
protect sensitive ecological sites.			
<b>33. Develop and deliver an investment programme of improvements to key infrastructure, for example, the main gateways to the National Landscape, signage and waymarking, key car park improvements and easy access trails.</b>	<b>Research road and welcome signage on and around the National Landscape and options for capital investment.</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>Costed, capital investment programme for new signage prepared.</b>
	<b>With partners, deliver pedestrian gateways where the Staffordshire Way enters Cannock Chase on the Shugborough Estate and on the A34 at Bednall.</b>	<b>Access for All</b>	<b>Improved welcome at key pedestrian gateway onto the Chase.</b>
34. Develop a new National Landscape discovery centre with enhanced visitor facilities at Cannock Chase Country Park.	Support Staffordshire County Council with the development of feasibility study and options appraisal.	CCNL staff time	Consensus reached for preferred option.
35. Develop and promote activity and wellbeing programmes suitable for different groups, based on key visitor sites.	Support community-led projects that enable people to benefit from improved mental and physical health through engagement with the special qualities of the National Landscape.	Sustainable Development Fund	Number of projects supported. Projected number of participants.
36. Commission art experiences that explore and celebrate the National Landscape and help to break down barriers to engagement through collaboration with artists, art producers and local communities.	Work with partners and the artistic community to share the stories of Cannock Chase and make them accessible to all, particularly with under-served communities in and around the National Landscape.	CCNL core budget, Access for All	Number of projects delivered.
37. Develop closer working relationships with local businesses in and around the National Landscape to support the special qualities of the National Landscape.	Research potential for increasing opportunities and engagement with communities and businesses in fostering place attachment.	CCNL core budget	A common approach to messages and materials. Number of businesses engaged.
38. Explore ways to promote, recruit and effectively support volunteers, and improve coordination between partner organisations.	Explore the potential for greater promotion of our volunteer offer through volunteering platforms, eg, Support Staffordshire.	CCNL staff time	Number of volunteers. Number of volunteer hours.
39. Enable communities to deliver projects that enhance their local area and the National Landscape through advice, support and funding.	Support community-led projects.	Sustainable Development Fund	Number of projects supported. Outputs achieved.
<b>40. Establish a Cannock Chase Charitable Fund for voluntary and business giving, that can then be used to grant-aid community works.</b>	<b>Agree MoU with Staffordshire and Shropshire Community Foundation, and launch Charitable Fund.</b>	<b>CCNL staff time</b>	<b>MoU signed. Fund launched. Panel set up.</b>

Management Plan Action	Priority activities for 2025-26	Resources	Proposed measures of success
41. Better understand the numbers of people employed in the local rural economy, and any support that they require.	Research the local rural economy within the National Landscape to understand the businesses and their relationship with the designated area, the numbers employed and any skills shortages.	CCNL core budget	Review of the rural local economy identifies opportunities for support.
42. Promote a unified and distinctive identity for the National Landscape by adopting the Cannock Chase National Landscape brand and key messages.	With partners, promote and use the brand as opportunities arise	CCNL staff time, CCNL core budget	Consistent approach to messaging, imagery and branding.
<b>Priorities for Place</b>			
45. Promote the benefits of nature-friendly and regenerative farming, and support farmers and smallholders to take-up the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes.	Support landowners and land managers to transition to nature-friendly and regenerative farming practices.	FiPL programme	Number of projects delivered, number of farmers supported, hectares improved.
46. Support rural non-farming and non-woodland landowners to help conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Landscape through advice, support and funding.	Provide support and advice as opportunities arise	CCNL staff time, FiPL programme	Number of cases of advice provided.
47. Plan for future land use changes ensuring that opportunities are maximised to support and enhance the special qualities of the National Landscape, for example, on mineral sites.	Provide support and advice as opportunities arise.	CCNL staff time	Number of initiatives advised.
48. Explore with relevant bodies, and put in place, practical steps to reduce traffic and highway management impacts through the National Landscape	Research, with SCC Highways, the feasibility, process, costs and benefits of establishing an area-wide 40 mph zone across the National Landscape.	CCNL core budget	Feasibility and next steps established.
<b>49. Use the National Landscape's 'Highways Design Guide' to inform highway schemes, management and decision-making.</b>	<b>Prepare updated Highways Design Guide</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>Updated guide published and adopted by CCNL Joint Committee, SCC Highways, Amey, and district councils.</b>
<b>50. Work with landowners to identify and deliver opportunities to put existing powerlines underground.</b>	<b>With National Trust develop EOI and full application for undergrounding scheme at Haywood Park Farm</b>	<b>CCNL staff time, (Western Power)</b>	<b>Application submitted and approved.</b>

Management Plan Action	Priority activities for 2025-26	Resources	Proposed measures of success
51. Work with landowners to identify and deliver investment opportunities for the Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI).	Work with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to develop a new application for Gentleshaw Common.	CCNL staff time, (National Grid)	Application submitted and approved.
52. Promote enjoyment of the National Landscape's night skies.	With CPRE Staffordshire organise Dark skies community events.	CCNL core budget	Number of events held. Number of participating children.
55. Identify and promote projects that enhance the landscape connectivity, biodiversity resilience and heritage value of countryside and public open space around the Chase.	Research potential for landscape-scale projects as part of the Midlands Forest Network.	CCNL staff time	Number of schemes identified.
58. Deliver sustainable management regimes for heritage assets by providing support and guidance and seeking investment.	Support owners and managers of assets to develop and implement conservation and enhancement measures.	FiPL programme	Number of projects delivered.
	Develop land management guidance for owners of heritage assets.	CCNL core budget	Guidance published.
59. Develop and deliver projects that celebrate the National Landscape's cultural heritage, connecting the Chase with surrounding towns and villages, and involving local communities in historic environment citizen science activities.	Work with landowners, partners and visitor hubs/centres to celebrate the National Landscape's cultural heritage, including through improved access and interpretation.	Access for All, FiPL programme, Sustainable Development Fund	Number of projects delivered.
<b>60. Prepare an Historic Environment Strategy for the National Landscape that will conserve, enhance and celebrate the area's rich and diverse historic environment.</b>	<b>Work with partners to agree and publish an Historic Environment Strategy</b>	<b>CCNL core budget</b>	<b>A common approach to safeguarding the National Landscape's historic environment.</b>

## Organisational objectives – achieving excellence

Objective	Priority activities for 2025-26	Proposed measures of success
Ensure effective governance and management of the National Landscape Partnership.	Organise and support meetings of the Joint Committee, Officer Working Group and Task and Finish Groups.	Members and Partners involved in decision-making and feel well informed of progress and pressures.
	New Members, partners and staff are welcomed into the Partnership and familiarised with induction materials, e.g., Essential Guide to Cannock Chase.	New Members, staff and partners feel welcome and informed.
Maximising resources and using them efficiently and effectively.	Provide timely claims to Defra, with appropriate supporting information.	Maintain strong support within Defra for National Landscapes through clear communication of our delivery, and demonstration of our effectiveness and value for money.
Effective performance management	Introduce a robust performance management system to check how well the Partnership is performing in the delivery of the Management Plan.	The Partnership understands whether the outputs and outcomes in the Management Plan are being achieved, and identifies any areas that are of concern and require attention and remedial measures are put in place.
Foster collaboration across the National Landscape family to develop and share skills, knowledge and experience.	Contribute to the activities of the National Landscapes' Association including annual conference, Chairmen's conference and Lead Officer and Communication Officer and FiPL officer meetings as appropriate.	The National Landscape plays an active role in National Landscape family activity, keeps informed, and learns from best practice.
Deliver high-quality services through a capable and motivated staff team.	Continue to support and develop our staff.	Staff feel fully supported, and are clear in their requirements and roles within the team and the wider National Landscape Partnership.
Communicate our value and impact to raise our profile and what we do.	Hold an Annual conference. Publish Annual Review. Publish e-newsletters. Promote our work on social media. Update our website. Ensure consistent use of branding throughout the National Landscape.	Our work is transparent and open to scrutiny. Members, partners, wider stakeholders and the public are informed about what we do and the positive outcomes we are achieving for the National Landscape.
Organisational and financial resilience.	Work with partners and wider stakeholders to leverage further resources so that we can deliver at scale	Identify opportunities where we might strengthen our relationships with grants and trusts and corporate sponsors.
Develop an approach to equality, diversity and inclusion that embeds good practice into our work and organisation.	Continue to seek to involve additional voices in our governance and activities.	Our governance structure and activities better represent society.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1. DEFRA-AONB (National Landscape) funded activities

### Background/purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the Grant is to enable the Grant Recipient, pursuant to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and other applicable legislation to initiate and carry out activities (including any specific projects or programmes) that are consistent with its statutory duties and reasonably required to achieve its statutory purposes and in the exercise of its relevant powers and functions, taking into account the following: Part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides for the adoption, publication and review of AONB management plans and other types of plan the purpose of which is to define how the purposes and functions of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are to be achieved. The Defra grant to AONB partnerships and Conservation Boards is a financial contribution to projects, programmes and other activities in support of, *inter alia*, the defined purposes of the AONB designation, the provisions of the CRoW Act, the defined functions of an AONB Team, the defined statutory purposes and duties of the Conservation Boards and the locally determined priorities for the AONB as described in the AONB Management Plan, supporting documents and as determined by the Local Joint Advisory, Joint Committee or Conservation Board.

### Funded Activities

The Funded Activities are activities which enable the Grant Recipient to comply with its obligations in accordance with the law, including supporting the purposes for which the AONB was designated, the statutory purposes and duty given to the Conservation Boards and the activities and policies set out in the Management Plan, supporting documents and as determined by the Local Joint Advisory, Joint Committee or Conservation Board from time to time.

Core functions of an AONB staff unit
a) Developing reviewing, preparing and publishing the AONB vision and the CRoW Act AONB Management Plan
b) Promoting the AONB vision and management plan to help distinguish the AONB from adjacent countryside
c) Advising upon, facilitating and co-ordinating implementation by others of the Management Plan
d) Advising Local Authorities on their activities within AONBs, to encourage them to go beyond normal levels of service (attain the highest possible standards) in countryside management
e) Monitoring and reporting on progress against AONB Management Plan targets
f) Monitoring AONB landscape condition
g) Accessing resources for management activities
h) Working with and contributing to the NAAONB activities, sharing advice and best practice nationally and regionally
i) Providing a management role to co-ordinate AONB protection through the actions of the AONB Team, the AONB partnership and other partners at a local and strategic level
j) Developing an involvement by the community in the management of the AONB
k) Providing landscape related planning advice

## **Appendix 2. Sustainable Development Fund – programme summary**

Cannock Chase National Landscape operates a grant fund, the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), to support projects delivered by local communities, organisations, businesses and individuals that help to conserve and enhance the special qualities of Cannock Chase.

Expressions of interest to the Fund are announced annually (sometimes biannually), and applications are assessed by an Assessment Panel drawn from the Joint Committee and representatives from the local community. The National Landscape Team carries out all administration for the Fund as well as providing the secretariat for meetings and the work of the Panel.

## **Appendix 3. Farming in Protected Landscapes - programme summary**

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is part of Defra's Agricultural Transition Plan. It offers funding to farmers and land managers in England's National Landscapes (AONB) and National Parks for projects that:

- Support nature recovery
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- Protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place.

The programme is open to all farmers and land managers within National Landscapes and National Parks, as well as outside if there is a benefit to the Protected Landscape and its objectives.

The programme opened in July 2021, and has been extended for a 5<sup>th</sup> year until 31 March 2026.

The programme is administered and delivered locally through the National Landscape Team. Applicants with an eligible project are invited to complete an application form that is then presented to a Local Assessment Panel for determination. Programme management and reporting to Defra is undertaken by the Farming in Protected Landscapes Officers.

## **Appendix 4. Access for All - programme summary**

The Access for All funding programme (2022-26) improves access to green and blue spaces across the country. It is part of Defra's commitment to make targeted access improvements in our protected landscapes, national trails, forests and the wider countryside to help bring the benefits of spending time in nature to everyone.

Funding will pay for infrastructure improvements to make protected landscapes more accessible for people of all ages, abilities and needs such as: new gates; walking routes; inclusive cycles, E-trikes, bikes or wheelchairs; volunteer equipment and accessible visitor facilities. The additional funding is for capital spend only, and can include both physical and digital infrastructure improvements.

The Access for All programme was developed in response to the Landscapes Review which called on the government to open up our national landscapes to a more diverse audience. The programme also delivers

on commitments in the 25 Year Environment Plan and the Environmental Improvement Plan to encourage more people to spend time in nature to benefit their health and wellbeing.

## Appendix 5. Corporate risk register

Topic	Risk event	Implications	Countermeasures	Remaining Risk
Statutory purpose	Failure to deliver targets and outcomes to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the National Landscape	Diminished special qualities which define the National Landscape. Perception that the local authorities and partners are failing in their statutory duty.	Responsibility for delivery of the Management Plan is shared amongst a range of partners, thus spreading the risk. Work with partners to address any shortfalls. Keep Defra informed.	Medium
Partnership	Loss of partner support.	Impact on delivery of programme as Management Plan delivery hinges on positive relations and input from others	Involve partners in programme planning and delivery, governance meetings, and internal and external communications to create sense of 'ownership'. Increase partners' accountability through annual reporting requirement.	Medium
Staffing	Loss of capacity due to long term ill health.	Insufficient capacity to deliver on all priorities. Increased stress on remaining staff.	Risk assessments in place including stress risk; staff support measures in place; resilience training available; absence management policy in place.	Medium
	Failure / delay in recruiting new posts.	Impact on delivery of priorities.	Adverts widely promoted; temporary cover sought during the recruitment process to ensure continuity of service delivery.	Low
Funding / finances	Loss of core funding for Team.	Potential impacts on staff posts which could have financial implications e.g. redundancy costs. Insufficient capacity to deliver on all priorities.	Utilisation of AONB Reserves to pay for redundancy costs. Approach local authority partners to increase contributions.	High
	Funding shortfall in budget.	Failure to match resources and workloads. Resources not available to deliver on all priorities.	Budget always balanced for current financial year. Utilise AONB Reserves to meet funding shortfall (but this is only a temporary measure); request increase in local authority contributions; freeze recruitment.	High
	Failure to secure wider funding for delivery.	Impact on ability to deliver on all priorities.	Establishment of Cannock Chase Charitable Fund will, over time, broaden our funding	Medium

Topic	Risk event	Implications	Countermeasures	Remaining Risk
			base. Identify opportunities where we might strengthen our relationships with grants and trusts and corporate sponsors.	
	Financial mismanagement.	Loss of funds. Failure to comply with grant requirements. Penalties.	Systems, procedures and training in place via host authority	Low
External funding programmes	Failure to find projects.	Inability to fully spend funding allocations and having to return unspent monies to Defra. Loss of investment opportunity. Reputational risk for the National Landscape.	Programmes widely promoted with target audiences and partners.	Medium
	Introduction of new programmes places strains on existing capacity.	Impact on staff to deliver existing priorities in addition to managing new programmes. Increased stresses on staff.	Secure additional capacity through the funding programme, if allowed. Re-align the Business Plan to accommodate new programmes. Keep Joint Committee informed to manage expectations.	Medium
Volunteers	Inability to recruit/retain volunteers.	Impact on delivery of some priorities.	Volunteer roles widely promoted. National Landscape activities communicated widely. Other volunteer platforms utilised.	Medium
AONB road tourist signs and wooden gateway signs	Signs are damaged/fall into repair/become outdated.	Purposes of signage for navigation and information, and creating sense of arrival becomes diminished.	Condition and purpose of signs periodically reviewed, and replaced/repared as necessary.	Low
Health and safety	Accident or incident involving staff, volunteers, visitors.	Breach of statutory duties, possible litigation and costs against the host authority.	Health and safety policies, support and advice from host authority. Separate risk assessments in place for Great War Hut, Milford Hut and Fixed Point Photography volunteers, and regularly reviewed.	Low
Information and Data Management	Breach of the Data Protection Act, the Freedom of Information Act and/or the Environmental Information Regulations. Non-compliance with the	Unauthorised disclosure of personal and sensitive data, i.e. through an IT breach, website or human error, resulting in failure to meet statutory obligations,	Sensitive data is minimal for National Landscape work. Systems, procedures and training in place via host authority.	Low



Topic	Risk event	Implications	Countermeasures	Remaining Risk
	General Data Protection Regulations.	fines being imposed, loss of reputation.		
	Loss of data.	Impact on delivery.	Backup systems in place to minimise risks.	Low
Major incidents	Significant disruption due to major incident, such as, fire to premises and/or failure of ICT systems.	Impacts on National Landscape staff's operational ability, performance and effectiveness. Financial impacts due to loss of materials in store.	Host authority procedures in place for business continuity to recover from major incidents. Office safety procedures in place to reduce risks; flexible working in place so that staff can work from home, different offices and touch-down centres; systems backed up.	Medium
Reputation	Reputation of the National Landscape damaged through negative public perception, poor performance, decisions and behaviour.	Loss of confidence and trust in the National Landscape. Perceived as setting poor standards of leadership and stewardship. Use of public funds called into question.	Policy of openness, transparency and accountability. Maintain joint working with partners and stakeholders with clearly defined targets and outcomes. Build on communication and involvement with local communities.	Low

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