



Cannock Chase National Landscape

Cannock Chase National Landscape AONB Management Plan 2025-2030

Year 1 Progress Report 2025-26

Context

The [AONB Management Plan 2025-2030](#) for Cannock Chase National Landscape was approved by the Joint Committee at the meeting on 10th March 2025, and adopted from 1st April 2025. The Plan is for the National Landscape and sets out all the relevant outcomes to be delivered by 2030 by the key organisations within the area. The Plan is structured around four Strategic Aims:

1. Nature
2. Climate
3. People
4. Place

Eighteen objectives and 39 Policy topics underpin these aims, and 60 cascading actions create a five-year Delivery Plan for the National Landscape Team and partners.

With the start of a new Management Plan, we have tried to improve our performance reporting and have asked partners to tell us what they have delivered against the actions in the Delivery Plan.

Delivery progress

Each action has a progress commentary together with a RAG status which provides an indication of progress against the Delivery Plan, as follows:

Red - Little or no progress

Amber – Some progress

Light Green – On course

Dark Green – Achieved

Grey - Information not available

Strategic aim	Number of actions	Little / no progress	Some progress	On course	Achieved	Info not available
Nature	14	0	2	9	1	2
Climate	7	3	0	4	0	0
People	21	4	2	14	0	1
Place	18	3	3	8	1	3
Total	60	10 (17%)	7 (12%)	35 (58%)	2 (3%)	6 (10%)

Actions for Nature	Key partners (lead partner in bold)	Progress commentary	
		Delivery progress status	On course
1. Secure long-term protection for nature conservation and favourable management of protected sites through legal or other effective means.	NL Team, SCC, FE, SWT, NT, CCC, SSC, landowners, land managers, NE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defra’s 30by30 assessment tool has been published. The National Landscape Team will meet landowners of potential sites to go through the criteria. The National Landscape has supported landowning partners to purchase equipment or undertake works that will improve the ecological condition of a number of protected (potentially 30x30) sites including: Gentleshaw Common, George’s Hayes and Pigot’s Bottom, Connecting Cannock Chase Corridors, Wolseley Bridge, Bleak House, Castle Ring, Hazelslade, Hednesford Hills, Fair Lady Coppice, Stile Cop. Cannock Chase Council has prepared a new management plan for Nunswell Park, near Cannock Wood. Just to the south of the National Landscape, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has secured a new 30 year lease of Bleak House and Cuckoo Bank SSSI, enabling them to continue the restoration of this heathland nature reserve. The Trust has also secured a DEFRA Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier agreement to fund heathland works on the SSSI over the next 10 years. 	

2. Re-introduce livestock grazing to key sites to support sustainable management.	SCC and NT, SWT, Cemex	Delivery progress status	On course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Wildlife Trust returned cattle grazing to the heathland corridor connecting the Sherbrook Valley with Brindley Heath, on land leased from Forestry England. Elsewhere, cattle grazing continues on the National Trust land on the Shugborough Estate parkland and Sherbrook valley woodpasture, on Cemex heathland adjoining Rugeley Quarry, at the Moors Gorse grazing trial area in Cannock Chase Country Park, at Cannock Chase Council’s Hazelslade Local Nature Reserve (where livestock fencing has been completely renewed) and Hednesford Hills Local Nature Reserve. Natural England has funded 21 virtual cattle collars for Staffordshire County Council to enable better conservation grazing of Cannock Chase SSSI.
3. Deliver programmes for the restoration and creation of priority and other locally important habitats.	NL Team, SCC, FE, SWT, NT, CCC, landowners	Delivery progress status	On course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FiPL projects are supporting wetland restoration work on the River Trent floodplain, and other projects aimed at restoring/creating habitats, including several projects focusing on heathland and focussed habitat creation (hibernacula, bare earth scrapes, wetland features etc.). 1 x FiPL project has removed 1,100m² of Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel (invasive / exotic species)
4. Publish Species Action Plans for 10 Champion Species for the National Landscape, and deliver targeted action where required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly Adder Nightjar Solitary wasp species of bare ground (TBC) Ancient oak trees White-clawed crayfish Otter Common redstart Welsh Clearwing Brown hare 	NL Team, landowners, NGOs, species expert groups	Delivery progress status	On course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species Action Plan leads have been agreed for the following five Champion specie, and templates for the plans have been circulated: Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly – Greg Williamson, National Trust Adder – Cathy Taylor, Staffordshire County Council Nightjar –Paul Hopwood, West Midland Ringing Group Solitary wasp species of bare ground – Jeff Sim, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust White-clawed crayfish – Jeff Sim, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Officers and volunteers from multiple partner organisations have been surveying and building up a picture of the whereabouts of both the adult small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies and the marsh violet. The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) is developing a model to help us predict the suitability of habitats on the Chase for both adults and larvae so we can explore the butterfly’s potential to colonise new areas. The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme has funded the introduction of 4,600 marsh violet plug plants along the Sher Brook and neighbouring wetlands, helping to increase the potential for the butterfly to move across the landscape. Conservation efforts by partners for adders this year included the creation of hibernacula on multiple reserves and farms to aid overwintering (funded by FiPL), and the removal of trees from adder habitat on Mining Remediation Authority land, organised by the Amphibian and Reptile (ARG) UK Group. A new film to celebrate the adder and the issues it faces was launched titled

		<p>“Beneath our feet, an Adders’ Eye view”. A PhD study on the effects of recreational disturbance on adders is underway by Kevin Palmer at the University of Chester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second year of surveying for nightjar nests using a drone equipped with a thermal mounted camera has been completed. This technology allows more extensive areas to be surveyed than traditional walking survey techniques. • White-clawed crayfish. 40 crayfish refugia traps for monitoring white-clawed crayfish and invasive signal crayfish have been installed at three locations on the Chase. FiPL funding has supported wetland projects along lengths of the Stony Brook that have included conservation measures such as woody debris dams to encourage this aquatic invertebrate. • Common redstart. The West Midlands Ringing Group has installed 30 nest boxes suitable for redstarts along Sherbrook Valley, with funding from the National Landscape’s Sustainable Development Fund. • Solitary wasp species of bare ground. Farming in Protected Landscapes funding has helped landowners create 30 bare earth scrapes on heathlands to encourage a range of rare invertebrate and reptile species. • Ancient oak trees. FiPL funding has also supported succession planting at a number of sites across the Chase of both the pedunculate and sessile oak to eventually replace ancient trees as they age. The veteran oaks at Brocton Coppice are being protected by halo thinning, and restocking the woodland with native oaks raised from acorns collected on site. • Welsh clearwing moth. In recent years monitoring for this moth has focused on dispersal ecology. Both negative and positive results have been collected from over one hundred survey points in and around the National Landscape, with particular attention on the south of the area to investigate potential links to the Chasewater heaths and <i>Betula</i> woodland extending into the West Midlands. The condition and growth stages of <i>Betula</i> stands are also being mapped to feed into modelling work aimed at predicting future distribution and abundance over the next 30-40 years. FiPL projects have funded the replacement of successional birch trees in key habitats with known populations of the moth. <p>Other achievements relevant to this Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few small colonies of the rare Red Wood Ant survive on Cannock Chase, but are vulnerable to disturbance. The ant is known for its large, conspicuous nests of twigs and conifer needles in forests. Thanks to the efforts of Andy Jukes of Conops Entomology, the landowner - Staffordshire County Council, and Cannock Chase National Landscape 3 nests have been translocated to safer locations and measures have been put in place to protect those that have been left in situ.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats are being given a helping hand at various sites across the Chase with the installation of over 30 individual, colony and maternity roosting boxes. To improve the knowledge of bat populations and behaviours on their various sites, Cannock Chase District Council Countryside Team has purchased bat detectors with National Landscape funding. The detectors will also be used for bat guided walk events. Meanwhile, Farming in Protected Landscape-funding has supported the installation of 5 ultrasonic bat detectors across Cannock Chase Country Park, that will provide clues to the behaviour and presence of different bat species. FiPL funding has also supported: ring-barking trees at Slitting Mill to create standing deadwood habitat for lesser spotted woodpecker; planting male and female black poplar trees at Little Haywood (one of Britain's most endangered native tree species); creating woody debris dams in woodland streams for the vulnerable Log Jammer Hoverfly; the creation of a 180m butterfly corridor with glades, and planting 700 wildflower plug plants and 3kg of wildflower seeds to increase connectivity and expansion between known Dingy Skipper populations. 				
5. Monitor invasive species and deliver collaborative and targeted management to address them where required.	NL Team, landowners, species expert groups	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land managers are working hard to control or eradicate a number of problematic species such as, Himalayan balsam, Spanish bluebell and Japanese knotweed. Staffordshire County Council rangers removed an impressive 1,100m² of rhododendron and cherry laurel at RAF Hednesford in Cannock Chase Country Park with funding through the FiPL programme. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has set up a programme of bracken rolling and bruising across some 40 hectares of its reserves as part of a long-term control programme. 1 x FiPL project to provide a bracken roller for sustained management of heathland in a SSSI. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land managers are working hard to control or eradicate a number of problematic species such as, Himalayan balsam, Spanish bluebell and Japanese knotweed. Staffordshire County Council rangers removed an impressive 1,100m² of rhododendron and cherry laurel at RAF Hednesford in Cannock Chase Country Park with funding through the FiPL programme. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has set up a programme of bracken rolling and bruising across some 40 hectares of its reserves as part of a long-term control programme. 1 x FiPL project to provide a bracken roller for sustained management of heathland in a SSSI. 	
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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.	NL Team, FE, FC, SCC, NT, landowners, farmers	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>Achieved</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Deer Management Framework has been agreed between the National Landscape, Staffordshire County Council, National Trust, Forestry England and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust that promotes the welfare and sound management of wild deer, in balance with their habitat, through a collaborative and co-ordinated approach. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Deer Management Framework has been agreed between the National Landscape, Staffordshire County Council, National Trust, Forestry England and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust that promotes the welfare and sound management of wild deer, in balance with their habitat, through a collaborative and co-ordinated approach. 	
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7. Increase awareness and appreciation of Local Geological Sites within the National Landscape amongst land managers and the public and identify ways to coordinate their monitoring and management.	NL Team, NT, FE, SCC, SWT	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>Some progress</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural England has provided specialist geological advice on the management of Milford Quarry SSSI. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Some progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural England has provided specialist geological advice on the management of Milford Quarry SSSI. 	
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<p>8. Support the Purple Horizons Nature Recovery Project to connect Cannock Chase with Sutton Park to deliver greater resilience for nature.</p>	<p>NE, NL Team, NGOs, landowners</p>	<p>Delivery progress status</p>	<p>On course</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations for National Heathland Conference on Cannock Chase 8-10 September 2026. • The Purple Horizons Nature Recovery Project has evolved into the Purple Horizons Nature Partnership, which has held workshops to co-create an updated vision, outcomes and message houses. The vision is: “From Cannock Chase to Sutton Park, there will be a thriving landscape where heathland and associated habitats are connected, restored and valued by the community.” • The Purple Horizons Nature Partnership is financially supporting research into the genomics of Common Lizard led by Matt Armes (University of Bangor), to better understand the impacts of habitat fragmentation on local lizard populations from Cannock Chase to Sutton Park and inform efforts to restore connectivity. • NE is supporting Birmingham and the Black Country Wildlife Trust with the development of Wild Walsall, a project funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore habitats including heathland and connect people to nature. • NE is supporting Walsall Council with their Nature Towns and Cities grant to develop Walsall’s Nature and Heath Strategy, which will include a green infrastructure strategy and community action for nature. • The Purple Horizons Nature Partnership has concluded the three-year Pollinator Project supported by NE’s Species Recovery Programme, in partnership with researcher Aaron Bhabra (University of Birmingham). • NE have supported RSPB to install 100 swift boxes, create 7 urban wildflower patches and connect over 300 people swifts through events and activities, using a ‘train the trainer’ approach with community group leaders in Walsall and north Birmingham. 	
<p>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.</p>	<p>NL Team, SCC, FE, NT, SWT, Cemex, NE</p>	<p>Delivery progress status</p>	<p>Some progress</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England has prepared a scoping report for the National Landscape team and Staffordshire County Council to help them explore the potential and feasibility of establishing a ‘super National Nature Reserve’ as a way of delivering integrated land management at a landscape-scale. 	
<p>10. Encourage and support programmes to improve water quality in watercourses that feed into and intersect with the National Landscape.</p>	<p>Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, South Staffordshire Water, NL Team, NFU,</p>	<p>Delivery progress status</p>	<p>On course</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) pods have been installed by Staffordshire County Council Flood Risk Management team at 14 properties in the catchment of Cannock Chase, with National Landscape funding. • Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has led the transformation of the Trent floodplain at Duck Covert on the National Trust’s Shugborough Estate, creating a healthier wetland habitat and increasing the area’s capacity to store water. The restoration was funded jointly by the HS2 Environmental Enhancement Fund, Environment Agency and FiPL Programme, with the agreement and support 	

	landowners, farmers.	<p>of the National Trust. The project involved widening the river channel, softening the steep riverbanks, and creating shallow scrapes and pools within the floodplain. These improvements will provide vital benefits for wildlife, supporting fish, insects, birds, and mammals such as, otters. It will also help the habitat be more effective at storing carbon and slowing the flow of the River Trent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project lies adjacent to land downstream at Navigation Farm, Little Haywood where Farming in Protected Landscape funding supported another wetland restoration scheme, and near to floodplain enhancement works at Weston and Rugeley – providing landscape-scale action to address the impacts of climate change. 				
11. Monitor licences for the abstraction of water from surface waters and aquifers to ensure that volumes of water abstracted are sustainable and do not impact negatively on wetland habitats.	Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, South Staffordshire Water, NL Team	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>Info not available</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Info not available		
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12. Develop buffer zones around watercourses to protect the water environment and sensitive wetland habitats.	NL Team, FE, SCC, NT, landowners	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of FiPL projects relating to the water environment have been approved that will protect and improve habitat quality within and alongside water courses and create new wetland habitat. These range from creating buffer zones by fencing to exclude grazing, to creating wetlands and scrapes, as well as restoring/enhancing flood plain re-wetting schemes. FiPL projects are also enhancing alternative water provision (through installation of 12 piped drinking troughs) to prevent watercourse use by cattle, goats and horses. 1 x FiPL project has planted 5,000 plants using 5 species of Sphagnum moss to restore mire habitat near vulnerable watercourses. 2 x FiPL projects have planted 4,600 Marsh Violet plug plants along SSSI and non-SSSI water courses to restore buffer zones and rebalance floral species. Forestry England implements existing policy for the protection of watercourses which includes buffer zones of at least 10m. Waterbodies are routinely eDNA tested for GCN. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of FiPL projects relating to the water environment have been approved that will protect and improve habitat quality within and alongside water courses and create new wetland habitat. These range from creating buffer zones by fencing to exclude grazing, to creating wetlands and scrapes, as well as restoring/enhancing flood plain re-wetting schemes. FiPL projects are also enhancing alternative water provision (through installation of 12 piped drinking troughs) to prevent watercourse use by cattle, goats and horses. 1 x FiPL project has planted 5,000 plants using 5 species of Sphagnum moss to restore mire habitat near vulnerable watercourses. 2 x FiPL projects have planted 4,600 Marsh Violet plug plants along SSSI and non-SSSI water courses to restore buffer zones and rebalance floral species. Forestry England implements existing policy for the protection of watercourses which includes buffer zones of at least 10m. Waterbodies are routinely eDNA tested for GCN. 	
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13. Work with the farming community within and surrounding the National Landscape to adopt practices that reduce ammonia emissions that affect sensitive habitats.	NE, Severn Trent Water, District Councils	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>Info not available</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Info not available		
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14. Raise awareness of the negative, nutrient-enriching, impacts of dog fouling on sensitive ecological sites, including the SAC.	SAC Team, SCC, FE, NT, SWT, CCC, SSC, local authority community and civil enforcement teams	Delivery progress status	On course <ul style="list-style-type: none">An ongoing dog campaign led by the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership includes messaging to 'bag & bin at home'. Three temporary banners were out on site during the summer encouraging visitors to clean up after their dog. Dog calendars reinforcing the message that dogs should be kept on leads to protect wildlife during the breeding season were also handed out to owners.
Actions for Climate	Key partners (lead partner in bold)	Progress commentary	
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	NL Team, SCC, visitor hubs/centres	Delivery progress status	Little / no progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommendations were made for inclusion in the Draft Local Transport Plan in October 2025, but no projects were progressed in the year.
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.	NL Team, SCC, local authorities, FE	Delivery progress status	Little / no progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommendations were made for inclusion in the Draft Local Transport Plan in October 2025, but no projects were progressed in the year.
17. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover.	NL Team, Forestry Commission, Forest of Mercia, Midlands Forest Network, local authorities, landowners, NGOs	Delivery progress status	On course <ul style="list-style-type: none">This year the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme supported farmers and landowners to restore or plant 3.5 kms of hedgerows, and plant nearly 650 trees.Cannock Chase Council planted 315 standard-sized trees into Council-owned sites, whilst at Cannock Chase Country Park a 4 hectare site destroyed by fire has been replanted with 100 trees, supported by the Forest of Mercia.The National Trust has created a 2 acre orchard at Shugborough.33 native fruit trees have been planted at RAF Hednesford - where hazel planting is ongoing to develop a rotational hazel coppice.

<p>18. Improve understanding about the extent, depth and condition of our peatlands, and use that information to improve their protection and restoration.</p>	<p>NL Team, SCC Historic Environment Team, NT, FE, SWT, landowners</p>	<p>Delivery progress status</p>	<p>On course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field surveys for the presence of peat in the Trent-Sow floodplain were carried out this year following on from the desktop assessment of peatland deposits/peaty soils on the Chase completed in 2024/25. Somewhat disappointingly there appears to be little peat formation across the site, although much of the survey area remained flooded and so still may yet yield localised peat deposits when surveyed in detail in the future. At the same time, a paleoenvironmental study of known peatland in the Sherbrook Valley has been carried out. Preliminary analysis suggests the area has got wetter towards the present day, and the vegetation has changed from mixed deciduous woodland through alder carr to much more open habitat. • A small-scale peat survey was also commissioned as part of a Farming in Protected Landscapes FiPL funded project at a site within Fair Oak Valley. The subsequent report recommended that the site would benefit from further rewetting to conserve the existing peat resource and help with peat formation processes – the creation of woody dams on the site will help with this. • Staffordshire Wildlife Trust volunteers have planted 6,500 Sphagnum moss plugs to restore and protect mire habitat at Gentleshaw Common, with funding from the FiPL programme. The plants will slow and hold water flow, as well as help to suppress purple moor-grass, encouraging the spread of specialist plants like sundews and bog asphodel. FiPL funding has also supported the provision of 5 fire-fighting portable ‘water’ backpacks and drone training for reserve officers to address fires and aid land management in collaboration with the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Together with ongoing heathland restoration and the removal of 3 hectares of scrub vegetation, this combination of measures will help to improve resilience against fires that devastated the reserve in April 2025.
<p>19. Develop and deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Trent and Sow catchments.</p>	<p>NT and SWT, Environment Agency, landowners</p>	<p>Delivery progress status</p>	<p>On course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has led the transformation of the Trent floodplain at Duck Covert on the National Trust’s Shugborough Estate, creating a healthier wetland habitat and increasing the area’s capacity to store water. The restoration was funded jointly by the HS2 Environmental Enhancement Fund, Environment Agency and FiPL Programme, with the agreement and support of the National Trust. The project involved widening the river channel, softening the steep riverbanks, and creating shallow scrapes and pools within the floodplain. These improvements will provide vital benefits for wildlife, supporting fish, insects, birds, and mammals such as, otters. It will also help the habitat be more effective at storing carbon and slowing the flow of the River Trent. • This project lies adjacent to land downstream at Navigation Farm, Little Haywood where Farming in Protected Landscape funding supported another wetland restoration scheme, and near to

		floodplain enhancement works at Weston and Rugeley – providing landscape-scale action to address the impacts of climate change.	
20. Prepare and embed within the Management Plan a climate change adaptation plan.	NL Team, local authorities, landowners	Delivery progress status	Little / no progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preparation of a climate change adaptation plan is not due until 2028. In preparation, National Landscape Officers attended Carbon Literacy Training October 2025 and a Climate Smart Adaptive Management Workshop 18-19 March 2026. 	
21. Diversify woodland species and stand structures to help mitigate rapid climate change.	FE, woodland managers	Delivery progress status	On course
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry England continued to implement the Cannock Chase Forest Plan 2024 – 34 which includes objectives to diversify woodland species and stand structure. 	
Actions for People	Key partners (lead partner in bold)	Progress commentary	
22. Prepare a Recreation Management Strategy for the National Landscape, building on the foundations set out in the SAC Detailed Implementation Plans.	NL Team, SAC Team, visitor hubs/centres, landowners, SCC, Enjoy Staffordshire, NGOs	Delivery progress status	Some progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A partner Steering Group has met to discuss the scope of the Strategy. Evidence base and stakeholder matrix have been prepared. 	
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.	SAC Team and NL Team, SCC, FE, BHS, SR, British Cycling	Delivery progress status	On course
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners have continue to check proposed events, checking routes against sensitive sites, and inform event organisers of the importance of the National Landscape. 	
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.	NL Team and SAC Team, landowners, visitor hubs/centres, Enjoy Staffordshire,	Delivery progress status	On course
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access for All funding has supported new interpretation panels and noticeboards on Cannock Chase Council countryside sites at Hednesford Hills (4 panels) and Hazelslade (1 panel), and at Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre, where 9 new panels bring to life the history of Beaudesert Hall and grounds. The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has supported 2 new panels focused on farming and the environment at Navigation Farm in the Trent Valley, a panel on woodland birds 	

	NGOs, BHS, SR	on the RAF Hednesford Trail, and 4 waymarker signs and 3 information boards at Gentleshaw Common SSSI promoting a new accessible route on the site.				
25. Inspire more young people by increasing the uptake of the Future Guardians programme and providing additional supporting resources for local schools.	NL Team and SAC Team, Staffordshire Scouts, Girlguiding Staffordshire, DofE, local schools, libraries	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape's Sustainable Development Fund supported the Take the Lead: Guardians of Cannock Chase project run by The Friends of Hednesford Park. The project worked with 4 different Scout groups in the Chase District to get their first Future Guardians of Cannock Chase (FGoCC) Badge. Scout and Youth Group Leaders were also shown how to deliver the project in 4 workshops, using the work produced to display a community art project that promoted the Cannock Chase Code and the Future Guardians initiative. The Future Guardians programme and resources continue to be promoted by Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Operation Officers with DofE Licensed Organisations and DofE Managers across the Midlands, encouraging the use of Cannock Chase for activities. Approximately 100 young members of Girlguiding Staffordshire completed the challenge pack in the past year. Two training days to scout leaders and DofE staff were delivered by SAC officers. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape's Sustainable Development Fund supported the Take the Lead: Guardians of Cannock Chase project run by The Friends of Hednesford Park. The project worked with 4 different Scout groups in the Chase District to get their first Future Guardians of Cannock Chase (FGoCC) Badge. Scout and Youth Group Leaders were also shown how to deliver the project in 4 workshops, using the work produced to display a community art project that promoted the Cannock Chase Code and the Future Guardians initiative. The Future Guardians programme and resources continue to be promoted by Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Operation Officers with DofE Licensed Organisations and DofE Managers across the Midlands, encouraging the use of Cannock Chase for activities. Approximately 100 young members of Girlguiding Staffordshire completed the challenge pack in the past year. Two training days to scout leaders and DofE staff were delivered by SAC officers. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape's Sustainable Development Fund supported the Take the Lead: Guardians of Cannock Chase project run by The Friends of Hednesford Park. The project worked with 4 different Scout groups in the Chase District to get their first Future Guardians of Cannock Chase (FGoCC) Badge. Scout and Youth Group Leaders were also shown how to deliver the project in 4 workshops, using the work produced to display a community art project that promoted the Cannock Chase Code and the Future Guardians initiative. The Future Guardians programme and resources continue to be promoted by Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Operation Officers with DofE Licensed Organisations and DofE Managers across the Midlands, encouraging the use of Cannock Chase for activities. Approximately 100 young members of Girlguiding Staffordshire completed the challenge pack in the past year. Two training days to scout leaders and DofE staff were delivered by SAC officers. 						
26. Continue face-to-face engagement with visitors to help them enjoy and learn about the National Landscape.	SAC Team, NL Team, SCC, FE, NT, SWT, CCC, SSC	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Engagement Wardens were out and about on the Chase again in the spring and summer meeting and greeting walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The SAC Team also attended over 70 engagement events during the year, including school assemblies and activities. Partners have encouraged more participation by families, individuals and children at a range of different events during the year including Heath Week, World Ranger Day, Insectfest, a Mini Bio-Blitz, wellbeing walks, and fungi, dawn chorus, bat and other guided walks. FiPL funding also enabled 12 farm visits by 10 schools from with the National Landscape and the wider region. These have supported creative arts and farm-and-food related lessons for children who don't have access to green spaces or have additional learning or complex medical needs that require support. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Engagement Wardens were out and about on the Chase again in the spring and summer meeting and greeting walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The SAC Team also attended over 70 engagement events during the year, including school assemblies and activities. Partners have encouraged more participation by families, individuals and children at a range of different events during the year including Heath Week, World Ranger Day, Insectfest, a Mini Bio-Blitz, wellbeing walks, and fungi, dawn chorus, bat and other guided walks. FiPL funding also enabled 12 farm visits by 10 schools from with the National Landscape and the wider region. These have supported creative arts and farm-and-food related lessons for children who don't have access to green spaces or have additional learning or complex medical needs that require support. 	
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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.	Staffordshire Police, NE, NE, NL Team, SAC Team, landowners	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural England took enforcement action to prevent damage to fungi caused by unauthorised mushroom harvesting in the National Landscape. Staffordshire Police issued a Police Community Protection Warning to an individual who was taking Great War artefacts from the Chase and selling them on the internet. Discussions have taken place with Staffordshire Police and Historic England to establish a Heritage Watch Scheme on the Chase to help prevent crimes against heritage assets. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural England took enforcement action to prevent damage to fungi caused by unauthorised mushroom harvesting in the National Landscape. Staffordshire Police issued a Police Community Protection Warning to an individual who was taking Great War artefacts from the Chase and selling them on the internet. Discussions have taken place with Staffordshire Police and Historic England to establish a Heritage Watch Scheme on the Chase to help prevent crimes against heritage assets. 	
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28. Identify opportunities to improve local access to greenspace for	Local authorities,	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>Info not available</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Info not available		
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communities around the National Landscape	community groups					
29. Maintain the public rights of way and permissive routes so that they are usable and navigable.	SCC and NL Team, landowners, BHS, SR, volunteers	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Ramblers have installed footpath marker posts and waymarking disks (60-75 in the last 12 months), whilst ensuring that the routes are cleared of undergrowth and low tree branches. The group also undertook 30 yards of path re-surfacing at Colwich and Brindley Heath. A total of 14 issues on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the National Landscape have been resolved during the past year by Staffordshire County Council's PRoW team, Staffordshire Ramblers and landowners. The issues included obstructions, missing waymarking, and poor condition of surfaces and fingerposts. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Ramblers have installed footpath marker posts and waymarking disks (60-75 in the last 12 months), whilst ensuring that the routes are cleared of undergrowth and low tree branches. The group also undertook 30 yards of path re-surfacing at Colwich and Brindley Heath. A total of 14 issues on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the National Landscape have been resolved during the past year by Staffordshire County Council's PRoW team, Staffordshire Ramblers and landowners. The issues included obstructions, missing waymarking, and poor condition of surfaces and fingerposts. 	
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30. Increase the provision of easy access trails and accessible information, interpretation and signage to maximise inclusivity.	NL Team, SAC Team, Sustrans, landowners, SR	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defra's Access for All programme has supported landowners to remove barriers and make their sites more accessible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurfacing 77 metres of the RAF Hednesford Trail at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre Installation of steps at Milford Common Replacing a pedestrian bridge at the Wolseley Centre Accessible demonstration beds, signage and interpretation and a viewing bench in the new Arcadia Forest Garden on the National Trust's Shugborough Estate Purchase of a spotting scope and binoculars for ranger-led guided walks at Cannock Chase Country Park. The National Trust has increased the number of accessible gates and benches across the Shugborough Estate, including a marked step-free route in the gardens. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, with-funding from the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has improved waymarking and accessibility along a 1.1 km route on its Gentleshaw Common reserve, with a bench providing views of the reserve half-way round. Cannock Chase Council alongside partners Together Active, Hednesford Town Council and Staffordshire County Council have continued to deliver the Cannock Chase Wayfinding project to encourage people's connections with nature through physical path improvements between Hednesford and Cannock Chase Visitor Centre, wayfinding tools and enhanced digital content. The route includes a number of rest stops due to be installed in 2026. Community groups have been involved in co-producing the content for a series of digital trails accessed through QR codes on the Cannock Chase Can app that include – Nature and Wildlife, Mining Heritage, Military Heritage and Wellbeing. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defra's Access for All programme has supported landowners to remove barriers and make their sites more accessible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurfacing 77 metres of the RAF Hednesford Trail at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre Installation of steps at Milford Common Replacing a pedestrian bridge at the Wolseley Centre Accessible demonstration beds, signage and interpretation and a viewing bench in the new Arcadia Forest Garden on the National Trust's Shugborough Estate Purchase of a spotting scope and binoculars for ranger-led guided walks at Cannock Chase Country Park. The National Trust has increased the number of accessible gates and benches across the Shugborough Estate, including a marked step-free route in the gardens. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, with-funding from the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has improved waymarking and accessibility along a 1.1 km route on its Gentleshaw Common reserve, with a bench providing views of the reserve half-way round. Cannock Chase Council alongside partners Together Active, Hednesford Town Council and Staffordshire County Council have continued to deliver the Cannock Chase Wayfinding project to encourage people's connections with nature through physical path improvements between Hednesford and Cannock Chase Visitor Centre, wayfinding tools and enhanced digital content. The route includes a number of rest stops due to be installed in 2026. Community groups have been involved in co-producing the content for a series of digital trails accessed through QR codes on the Cannock Chase Can app that include – Nature and Wildlife, Mining Heritage, Military Heritage and Wellbeing. 	
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31. Rationalise the path/trail network on the Chase to reduce habitat fragmentation and wildlife disturbance.	SAC Team, SCC, landowners	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>Little / no progress</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">No progress has been made against this action.</td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Little / no progress	No progress has been made against this action.	
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32. Create and promote circular routes from main car parks and gateway train stations to improve the visitor welcome and experience and protect sensitive ecological sites.	SAC Team and NL Team, BHS, SR, SCC, train operating companies	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="880 97 1205 132">Delivery progress status</th> <th data-bbox="1205 97 2087 132">On course</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="880 132 2087 312"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannock Chase SAC Partnership and the National Landscape have been working with Staffordshire County Council to design new welcome and information panels at 10 car parks across Cannock Chase Country Park, including short circular walks. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannock Chase SAC Partnership and the National Landscape have been working with Staffordshire County Council to design new welcome and information panels at 10 car parks across Cannock Chase Country Park, including short circular walks. 	
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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.	SAC Team and NL Team, SCC, landowners, visitor hubs/centres, BHS, SR	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="880 312 1205 347">Delivery progress status</th> <th data-bbox="1205 312 2087 347">On course</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="880 347 2087 564"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new design for new road gateway signs at strategic access points on the Chase has been developed to provide a clear and consistent welcome, benefitting our wonderful nationally protected landscape, and reminding people that it should be enjoyed with care and respect. • The National Landscape and Cannock Chase SAC Partnership have supported Staffordshire County Council to replace entrance signage at 10 car parks across Cannock Chase Country Park. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new design for new road gateway signs at strategic access points on the Chase has been developed to provide a clear and consistent welcome, benefitting our wonderful nationally protected landscape, and reminding people that it should be enjoyed with care and respect. • The National Landscape and Cannock Chase SAC Partnership have supported Staffordshire County Council to replace entrance signage at 10 car parks across Cannock Chase Country Park. 	
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34. Develop a new National Landscape discovery centre with enhanced visitor facilities at Cannock Chase Country Park.	SCC, NL and SAC Teams	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="880 564 1205 600">Delivery progress status</th> <th data-bbox="1205 564 2087 600">On course</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="880 600 2087 676">Engagement responses from the public and stakeholders have been used to inform the development of early design ideas for Discovery Centre proposals.</td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	Engagement responses from the public and stakeholders have been used to inform the development of early design ideas for Discovery Centre proposals.	
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35. Develop and promote activity and wellbeing programmes suitable for different groups, based on key visitor sites.	Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Active Forest Programme, British Cycling, healthcare providers	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="880 676 1205 711">Delivery progress status</th> <th data-bbox="1205 676 2087 711">On course</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="880 711 2087 1082"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannock Chase Council alongside partners Together Active, Hednesford Town Council and Staffordshire County Council have continued to deliver the Cannock Chase Wayfinding project to encourage people's connections with nature through physical path improvements between Hednesford and Cannock Chase Visitor Centre, wayfinding tools and enhanced digital content. The route includes a number of rest stops due to be installed in 2026. • Cannock Chase Council has continued delivering inclusive biking sessions at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre for schoolchildren with inclusive needs. • Cannock Chase Council is also taking the Chase to those children and adults who can't get out and about through its innovative 'Pedal power' project which enables them to cycle indoors along to videos of the Chase with pop-ups of animals and facts about the area. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannock Chase Council alongside partners Together Active, Hednesford Town Council and Staffordshire County Council have continued to deliver the Cannock Chase Wayfinding project to encourage people's connections with nature through physical path improvements between Hednesford and Cannock Chase Visitor Centre, wayfinding tools and enhanced digital content. The route includes a number of rest stops due to be installed in 2026. • Cannock Chase Council has continued delivering inclusive biking sessions at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre for schoolchildren with inclusive needs. • Cannock Chase Council is also taking the Chase to those children and adults who can't get out and about through its innovative 'Pedal power' project which enables them to cycle indoors along to videos of the Chase with pop-ups of animals and facts about the area. 	
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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.	NL Team, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, SCC, landowners	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="880 1082 1205 1117">Delivery progress status</th> <th data-bbox="1205 1082 2087 1117">Some progress</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="880 1117 2087 1299"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The art installation created by local artist Jennifer Collier at our 2025 Annual Conference has been on display at various venues around the Chase including the Cannock Chase Visitor centre at Marquis Drive and local libraries. The paper trees convey in words, maps and images what a 'wild and beautiful, distinctive, thriving, resilient and welcoming National Landscape' looked like to the conference delegates </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Some progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The art installation created by local artist Jennifer Collier at our 2025 Annual Conference has been on display at various venues around the Chase including the Cannock Chase Visitor centre at Marquis Drive and local libraries. The paper trees convey in words, maps and images what a 'wild and beautiful, distinctive, thriving, resilient and welcoming National Landscape' looked like to the conference delegates 	
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37. Develop closer working relationships with local businesses in and around the	NL Team, Chambers of Commerce	<table border="1"> <tr> <th data-bbox="880 1299 1205 1334">Delivery progress status</th> <th data-bbox="1205 1299 2087 1334">Little / no progress</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="880 1334 2087 1407"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress has been made against this action. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Little / no progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress has been made against this action. 	
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National Landscape to support the special qualities of the National Landscape.				
38. Explore ways to promote, recruit and effectively support volunteers, and improve coordination between partner organisations.	NL Team, SCC, NT, FE, SWT, CCC, Friends of Cannock Chase, SR	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Delivery progress status</td> <td style="background-color: #92d050;">On course</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering opportunities in the National Landscape are promoted through the National Landscape website, enewsletter and social media. • Staffordshire County Council has taken over co-ordinating the Milford Hut volunteers. • Refresher training, promoted via social media, for Fixed Point Photography volunteers took place 21 August 2025. • Over 5,000 hours have been clocked up by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust volunteers this year helping with heathland restoration on Gentleshaw Common, and at the Wolseley Centre. Volunteers have also played an important role in habitat restoration work on a number of projects supported through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, for example, with the National Trust at Haywood Park Farm and Staffordshire Countryside Rangers at Cannock Chase Country Park. • Volunteers on Cannock Chase Council countryside sites have contributed another 710 hours. Volunteers at the Great War Hut contributed a total of 1047 volunteer hours opening the Hut all year round and providing a warm welcome to all visitors, sharing information about Cannock Chase during the Great War. • HART, the National Trust’s Heritage and Archaeology Rangers Team, is an exciting volunteer initiative the National Trust has set up this year on the Shugborough Estate to help improve understanding of the archaeology sites in its care. • Cannock Chase Council has been encouraging the next generation of conservation land managers, with work experience students and students from Walsall College working alongside countryside staff on their various sites, and investing over 300 hours whilst learning ecological and management skills. 	Delivery progress status	On course
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39. Enable communities to deliver projects that enhance their local area and the National Landscape through advice, support and funding.	NL Team	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Delivery progress status</td> <td style="background-color: #92d050;">On course</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 churches have been supported to help achieve eco-church status with the Diocese of Lichfield. • National Landscape and SAC Partnership Officers are supporting the Friends of Hednesford Park and Cannock Chase District Council to expand the Guardians of Cannock Chase programme to reach more young people. • Cannock Chase Sustainable Development fund has funded 3 projects. (£500 awarded towards a project led by The Friends of Hednesford Park & others) to work with a range of community partners to deliver activities from the ‘Future Guardians of Cannock Chase’ Scout program and encourage the children, leaders, parents and the public to ‘Take the Lead’ in looking after the National Landscape. 	Delivery progress status	On course
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		£870 awarded to Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase Team to deliver the Cannock Chase Redstart Nest box and Ringing Project. £743.37 awarded to Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase Team to deliver replacement Bat Boxes at Brocton Quarry/Old Acre Lane.
40. Establish a Cannock Chase Charitable Fund for voluntary and business giving, that can then be used to grant-aid community works.	NL Team and , Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire	Delivery progress status Little / no progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal advice for the drafting of an MoU between Staffordshire County Council and the Community Foundation is still awaited.
41. Better understand the numbers of people employed in the local rural economy, and any support that they require.	NL Team	Delivery progress status Little / no progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress has been made against this action.
42. Promote a unified and distinctive identity for the National Landscape by adopting the Cannock Chase National Landscape brand and key messages.	NL Team, SAC Team, visitor centres/hubs, SCC, NT, FE, SWT, CCC, SSC	Delivery progress status On course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cannock Chase National Landscape brand is being promoted with partners for use on interpretation panels. The National Landscape and Cannock Chase Country Park Teams have been working together on interpretation and information materials. The National Landscape Team, SAC Partnership and Staffordshire County Council are working together to replace entrance signs and welcome panels at 10 car parks. FiPL projects are promoting the National Landscape brand, for instance, on interpretation panels.
Actions for Place	Key partners (lead partner in bold)	Progress commentary
43. Use the National Landscape’s ‘Building Design Guide’ to inform development proposals and decision-making.	NL Team and local planning authorities	Delivery progress status Info not available The National Landscape is currently unable to regularly respond to development proposals. Guidance has been prepared and issued to local planning authorities to inform planning policies and decision-making in relation to the National Landscape and its setting. How this is used and applied is unknown.
44. Support woodland owners, managers and contractors to manage woodlands in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) for sustainable forest management.	Forestry Commission and Forestry England	Delivery progress status Some progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry England are fully compliant and inspected on a regular basis.

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.	NL Team, farmers and land managers, NGOs, NFU, CLA	Delivery progress status	On course
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2025/26 The FiPL programme allocated £379,008 of grants to 17 projects, supporting individual landowners, farms and collaborative work with multiple partners and organisations across 4,500 hectares. Outputs included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 km of new and restored hedgerows 646 trees planted 93 wildlife boxes 15 wildlife hibernacula created 15 farm education visits 7 interpretation panels 4 land manager training events 7 wetland projects 	
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.	NL Team	Delivery progress status	On course
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful outreach to farmers and landowners and tenants through FiPL. Landowners include people who keep horses, wish to enhance their land for nature conservation, and also landowners running Nurseries, Tearoom/Campsites, Golf Courses, plus local authorities. 	
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.	NL Team, SCC Minerals Planning Team, local authorities	Delivery progress status	Little / no progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Team was not consulted on any cases during the year. 	
48. Explore with relevant bodies, and put in place, practical steps to reduce traffic and highway management impacts through the National Landscape.	NL Team and SCC	Delivery progress status	Little / no progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early discussions have taken place with SCC Highways about the procedures and costs involved in establishing an area-wide mandatory 40mph zone across the National Landscape. 	
49. Use the National Landscape's 'Highways Design Guide' to inform highway schemes, management and decision-making.	NL Team and SCC	Delivery progress status	Some progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Staffordshire County Council, the National Landscape Team has updated the Guide for Highways Improvement and Management on the Chase. 	
50. Work with landowners to identify and deliver opportunities to put existing powerlines underground.	NL Team, Western Power, NT	Delivery progress status	On course
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of interests for undergrounding three overhead powerlines in the National Landscape totalling 3.3kms have been submitted to National Grid. One was deferred until the next 5-year programme, a second required further consideration, and the third was approved in principle (between Springslade Lodge westwards towards the A34). A full application will now be worked up for this section. 	

51. Work with landowners to identify and deliver investment opportunities for the Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI).	NL Team, National Grid, SWT	Delivery progress status	Little / no progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new applications are likely to be forthcoming unless National Grid can allocate funding for project development work. 	
52. Promote enjoyment of the National Landscape's night skies.	NL Team, CPRE Staffordshire and local authorities	Delivery progress status	Some progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded by the National Landscape and organised by the Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England with the help of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the 2026 Dark Skies event took place at the Wolseley Centre on 25th February. Led by "Fern and Fables", a group of Fradley Beavers enjoyed a night of creatively exploring the importance of protecting our dark skies through crafts, storytelling and exploring our landscape on a night-time walk with bat detectors. 	
53. Use the National Landscape's 'Good Lighting Guide' to inform development proposals and decision-making.	NL Team and local planning authorities	Delivery progress status	Info not available
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54. Use the National Landscape's 'Views and Setting Guide' to inform development proposals and decision-making.	NL Team and local planning authorities	Delivery progress status	Info not available
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55. Identify and promote projects that enhance the landscape connectivity, biodiversity resilience and heritage value of countryside and public open space around the Chase.	NL Team, SCC, local authorities, landowners, Midlands Forest Network, NGOs	Delivery progress status	On course
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HS2 Trent Sow Parklands and Cannock Chase AONB Group concluded its work to protect and enhance the environment along the route of HS2a and was formally wound up in December 2025. An independent evaluation of the Group's work has been prepared, which concluded that it had left a strong legacy of improved habitats, landscapes and heritage assets. Officers attended workshop with Midlands Forest Network on 22 July to ground truth a woodland creation prioritisation map. No schemes as yet identified. 	
56. Monitor the condition of designated heritage features in the National Landscape to identify management actions that will reduce their vulnerabilities.	NL Team and SCC Historic Environment Team, HE	Delivery progress status	On course
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC'S Chase Through Time volunteers have undertaken condition surveys of a number of designated heritage assets over the past year as part of the 'Check the Chase' initiative. These include the following scheduled monuments: saucer barrow at Spring Hill, Castle Ring hillfort, and the Messines Model. The condition of the Grade II listed remains of Beaudesert Hall was also included as part of this work. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HART, the National Trust’s Heritage and Archaeology Rangers Team, is an exciting volunteer initiative the National Trust has set up this year on the Shugborough Estate to help improve understanding of the archaeology sites in its care. • The National Trust has been recording a water tower from the Second World War on the Shugborough Estate. 				
57. Assess updated historic environment information on non-designated features to prioritise sites for survey, condition assessment and monitoring to inform future management.	SCC Historic Environment Team, HE, LPA Conservation Officers	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC’S Chase Through Time volunteers have undertaken condition surveys of the identified non-designated heritage assets at several locations within the CCNL, as part of ‘Check the Chase’, over the past year. These include areas including in and around Gentleshaw Common, Castle Ring, Brocton Coppice, Moors Gorse, RAF Hednesford, Beaudesert Old Park, Brocton Camp, and Milford Common </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC’S Chase Through Time volunteers have undertaken condition surveys of the identified non-designated heritage assets at several locations within the CCNL, as part of ‘Check the Chase’, over the past year. These include areas including in and around Gentleshaw Common, Castle Ring, Brocton Coppice, Moors Gorse, RAF Hednesford, Beaudesert Old Park, Brocton Camp, and Milford Common 	
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58. Deliver sustainable management regimes for heritage assets by providing support and guidance and seeking investment.	NL Team and SCC Historic Environment Team, HE, LPA Conservation Officers, owners of heritage assets	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress report</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past year SCC Historic Environment Team has liaised with HE and FE with regards to appropriate methodologies for felling and restocking works within FE land. SCCHET regularly liaises with the SCC Cannock Chase Country Park team with regards to their land management activities to ensure their work doesn’t negatively impact on heritage assets and opportunities for enhancement and improved interpretation are considered. They have also supported and enabled various FiPL projects through our advisory service. • Forestry England, with Historic England advice, has produced a Management Plan for the Great War training trench system Scheduled Monument on its land, which involves objectives to increase engagement. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress report	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past year SCC Historic Environment Team has liaised with HE and FE with regards to appropriate methodologies for felling and restocking works within FE land. SCCHET regularly liaises with the SCC Cannock Chase Country Park team with regards to their land management activities to ensure their work doesn’t negatively impact on heritage assets and opportunities for enhancement and improved interpretation are considered. They have also supported and enabled various FiPL projects through our advisory service. • Forestry England, with Historic England advice, has produced a Management Plan for the Great War training trench system Scheduled Monument on its land, which involves objectives to increase engagement. 	
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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.	NL Team, SCC Historic Environment Team, HE, MoCC, Friends of Cannock Chase, NGOs	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress report</td> <td>On course</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Historic Environment Team has further developed and implemented ‘Check the Chase’ which involves trained local volunteers carrying out condition surveys of the known heritage assets (designated and non-designated) across the Cannock Chase National Landscape. • Beaudesert Activity Centre has developed a heritage trail for Beaudesert Old Park which will be launched in May 2026. • SCCHET have also supported the development of the new Chase at War Leaflets (currently in production) and helped develop the content for the new interactive touchscreen at the Great War Hut. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress report	On course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Historic Environment Team has further developed and implemented ‘Check the Chase’ which involves trained local volunteers carrying out condition surveys of the known heritage assets (designated and non-designated) across the Cannock Chase National Landscape. • Beaudesert Activity Centre has developed a heritage trail for Beaudesert Old Park which will be launched in May 2026. • SCCHET have also supported the development of the new Chase at War Leaflets (currently in production) and helped develop the content for the new interactive touchscreen at the Great War Hut. 	
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60. Prepare an Historic Environment Strategy for the National Landscape that will conserve, enhance and celebrate the area’s rich and diverse historic environment.	NL Team, SCC Historic Environment Team, HE, MoCC, Friends of	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Delivery progress status</td> <td>Achieved</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Historic Environment Strategy for Cannock Chase National Landscape ‘<i>Chase past, present and future</i>’ was approved by Joint Committee on 16th March 2026. It was produced in association with the SCC Historic Environment Team and went out for public consultation. </td> </tr> </table>	Delivery progress status	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Historic Environment Strategy for Cannock Chase National Landscape ‘<i>Chase past, present and future</i>’ was approved by Joint Committee on 16th March 2026. It was produced in association with the SCC Historic Environment Team and went out for public consultation. 	
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**Cannock
Chase
National
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