

# BUSINESS PLAN 2018-2021

## 2018-19 Work Programme

### Protect

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

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

- Provide clear advice, guidance and training to deliver the Landscape Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan and Cultural Heritage Plan
- Lead a co-ordinated approach to strengthen natural capital<sup>1</sup> and ecological networks within and beyond the National Park boundary, supporting Government's ambition for a 'Nature Recovery Network'
- Deliver landscape enhancement in the National Park and maintain and enhance the ecosystem services<sup>1</sup> on which the Park depends
- Identify the key evidence and data requirements needed to inform the conservation of the National Park's special qualities

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

<sup>1</sup> Ecosystem services can be described as the benefits people obtain from the environment, ranging from physical benefits such as clean air, water and food to aesthetic and cultural benefits that improve our quality of life.

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation(if amber or red)
Review the key actions in the Landscape and Biodiversity Action Plans, reporting on progress against actions in Q4 to inform future project work. (LH14)				
Enhance important wildlife sites with active management delivered through 3 OPOF projects: Working Woodlands, Better Boundaries and Nature's Stepping Stones. Targets are to have 10 SINCs, 1200m of hedgerow and 40ha of woodland under active management. (LH1, LH3, LH6, LM5)				
Provide a programme of land management support, advice and training for 100 landowners, farmers and commoners. (LM1, LM2)				
With Green Halo forum leads identify and map a suite of projects that will strengthen natural capital, reporting outcomes the Green Halo Partnership conference in November 2018 (LH11, LM3)				
With partners, continue support for the delivery of landscape scale enhancement, habitat restoration and river catchment enhancement through key schemes: the Verderers HLS Scheme, New Forest Catchment Partnership and New Forest and Solent SPA (Special Protection Area) Forums. Outcomes include: providing advice to the Forestry Commission on the delivery of the programme of wetland restoration and habitat management to enhance the SAC. Review opportunities to mitigate the impacts of new development on the SPAs Support measures to engage the public in activity aimed at reducing diffuse pollution and enhancing "flagship" ponds. (LH4, LH6, LH7, LH8)				
Work with the Forest Farming Group to establish a set of agreed objectives and potential mechanisms				

<p>for achieving them, for land management and rural development in and around the New Forest following Brexit. (LM8)</p>				
<p>Safeguard the tranquillity of the National Park through reducing visual intrusion and disturbance from low flying aircraft. (ST1, ST2)</p> <p>Continue involvement with the National Grid Visual Improvement Project (VIP) – responding to proposals undergrounding at Hale Purlieu and representing National Parks on the national VIP steering group. (ST3, ST4, ST5)</p> <p>Maintain liaison with the MoD and civil aviation bodies to reduce incidence of low flying.</p>				
<p>Review the Biodiversity Action Plan actions on Data and Information to identify gaps in knowledge that will be needed to inform the preparation of an updated State of the Park Report. (LH14)</p>				

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

- Provide a long-term planning vision for the National Park informed by the special qualities
- Deliver a high quality, proactive planning service that is focussed on securing the best possible outcomes for the National Park and its communities
- Work with neighbouring authorities in the development and implementation of their planning policies and proposals that may affect the National Park, taking forward the principle of environmental net gain<sup>3</sup> in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan

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

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Secure the adoption of a new Local Plan to guide new development in the National Park	David Illsley			
Review and update the Development Control Charter	Natalie Walter			
Review standing pre-application advice on the Authority's website to assist the pre-application process and to secure the best possible planning outcomes	Steve Avery			
Co-ordinate the use and distribution of developer contributions to support habitat mitigation measures within the National Park. (LH10)	Tony Spence			
Co-ordinate the local design awards scheme to recognise and promote exemplary development in the National Park.	David Illsley			
Support the Western Escarpment Conservation Area Action Plan by working with Parish Councils in delivering the actions identified in the Plan. (LD8)	Lisa Crouch			

Devise and implement an enhanced monitoring programme for new development to secure greater compliance with planning consents	Paul Hocking			
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**Protect Priority 3:** Conserving the historic and built heritage; supporting local culture with continued focus on commoning

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

Action/Outcome	Owner	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Through the OPOF and HLS schemes deliver a range to projects to encourage volunteer involvement in the local heritage, history and archaeology of the New Forest. Aim to involve 240 volunteers and hold two meetings of the Community Heritage Forum. (LD1, LD2, LC1)	Frank Green / James Brown / Lawrence Shaw/ Building Conservation Team			
Deliver a programme of training in traditional building skills as part of OPOF, with 175 people participating in 8 courses (5 professional and 3 householder). (EW8, LD5)	Pauline Megson			
Actively manage scheduled and unscheduled ancient monuments on the Crown Lands and Open Forest. Improve the condition of at least 10 sites on the Crown Lands. (LD6)	Frank Green / Lawrence Shaw			
Undertake a review of the Historic Buildings at Risk (LD5)	Warren Lever			