

New Forest National Park Delivering Government Priorities

Background

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

New Forest National Park Action

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

1: Net Zero with Nature

1.1 Establish baseline data & evidence

1.2 Implement nature-based solutions

1.3 Support net-zero economy

1.4 Activate community climate action

1.5 Increase sustainable travel

2: Nature Recovery

2.1 Make more space for nature

2.2 Enhance natural capital

2.3 Harness ELM

2.4 Harness opportunities through development

2.5 Mitigate recreational pressure

3: Inclusive Forest

3.1 Promote health & wellbeing

3.2 Connect people with nature & landscape

3.3 Leadership in inclusive place-making

3.4 Celebrate natural beauty

3.5 Safeguard cultural heritage

4: Thriving Forest

4.1 Increase green skills & jobs

4.2 Support sustainable land management

4.3 Champion New Forest Commoning

4.4 Support business & green tourism

4.5 Increase availability of affordable housing

5: Team New Forest

5.1 Wide ranging & inclusive

5.2 Partnerships & relationships

5.3 Leading & influencing

5.4 Innovating

5.5 Centre of excellence

UK Government 5 Key Missions

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



Protected Landscapes Targets & Outcomes Framework

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

Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife

Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change

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

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

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

Some targets are action focused, while others set a clear numerical area target for individual Protected Landscapes to contribute to the national targets.

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

Thriving Plants & Wildlife

- Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).
- Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.
- For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
- Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.
- Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change targets

- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.
- Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.
- Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment targets

- Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.
- Decrease number of heritage assets 'At Risk'
- Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.
- Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

Indicators and New Forest National Park Baseline Data

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

Thriving Plants & Wildlife Indicators	New Forest National Park 2022 Baseline	PLTOF New Forest National Park Target	Target Date	Principally delivered through (Partnership Plan references from above)
Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites	N/A	4000 hectares	2042	1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition	24.2%	80%	2042	
Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition	10.6%	60%	2028	
Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment	Unknown	Increase	2042	
Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land	57%	65%	2030	

Mitigating and adapting to climate change Indicators	New Forest National Park 2022 Baseline	PLTOF New Forest National Park Target	Target Date	Principally delivered through
Net greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes (territorial emissions reported through DESNZ)	225,733 TCO ₂ e/yr	0 TCO ₂ e/yr	2050	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4,
Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes	N/A	20 hectares	2050	3.5,
Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes	36%	550 hectares (~1% increase)	2050	4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5

Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment Indicators	New Forest National Park 2022 Baseline	PLTOF New Forest National Park Target	Target Date	Principally delivered through
Metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path	TBC	Increase	2042	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Number of accessible toilets and rest stops	TBC	Increase	2042	
Number of disability accessible parking spaces	TBC	Increase	2042	
Number of accessible gates and gaps	TBC	Increase	2042	
Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment	TBC	Increase	2042	
Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary	TBC	Increase	2042	
Number of volunteer days	TBC	Increase	2042	
Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved	TBC	Increase	2042	
Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers	TBC			
Scheduled monuments 'At Risk'	4	<4	2042	
Registered parks and gardens 'At Risk'	0	0	2042	
Registered battlefields 'At Risk'	0	0	2042	
Listed buildings (grade I or II*) 'At Risk'	1	0	2042	
Protected wreck sites 'At Risk'	0	0	2042	

How will we monitor and evaluate?

The indicators will largely be monitored by bodies such as Natural England and Historic England but we will be working with partners across the New Forest to develop our own ways of knowing where we are making progress and where more support is needed to drive specific outcomes.