

Broads Climate Action Plan

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Introduction

In 2025 the Broads Authority signed up to the Race to Zero, along with the wider National Parks Family in the UK. As part of our commitment, we have pledged to create a Climate Action Plan.

This action plan addresses doing our fair share to deliver the changes called for by the Paris Climate Agreement, and to seek to halve global emissions by 2030. The plan also addresses the adaptation we must make to prepare for climate change.

With its low lying nature and habitats vulnerable to saline incursion, the Broads is at particular risk due to climate change, and needs to be an exemplar both in adaptation and mitigation.

About the Broads National Park Climate Action Plan

This document was commissioned by Broads Authority and written by National Park officers, working with National Park Authorities across Britain.

Purpose

The Action Plan is designed to strengthen the ability of everyone living, working and visiting Broads National Park to play their part in response to the climate emergency in at the scale and pace needed to align with the Paris Agreement and UK Climate Change Act goals.

Who the action plan is for

The action plan is particularly intended to be useful for public bodies, companies, landowners and civil society groups in the National Park.

It is also intended to be useful to public bodies beyond the National Park and to inform regional strategies and plans, and to potential investors.

Scope and assumptions

The scope of the framework and plan is the whole of the National Park, not just the actions and operations of the National Park Authority or public bodies. There is a focus on public body action to lead, catalyse and support National Park-wide climate action.

It addresses decarbonisation, sequestration (drawing down excess carbon from the atmosphere) and carbon storage, and adaptation.

Document structure

This document is structured in five parts.

Part one, background and context addresses: the climate, nature and social emergencies, the English context of climate action, local context; and the National Park Authority's commitments and duties in relation to climate action.

Part two, research and analysis presents new evidence commissioned to inform climate action in the National Park including: GHG emissions inventory and scenario and climate risk analysis. It also includes a literature review, gap analysis, and barrier analysis in relation to economy and governance.

Part three, goals and transformational shifts, sets out a net zero goal aligned with the Paris Agreement and becoming climate resilient. It introduces nine transformational shifts needed for the National Park to reach net zero and become climate resilient.

Part four, theory of change and strategic approach sets out a rationale for why the public sector is best placed to lead, catalyse and support county-wide climate action, and how the framework for county-wide climate action can structure an increasingly ambitious and long-term response to the climate emergency in Powys. It introduces the UN-backed Race to Zero climate leadership initiative that all UK National Parks have joined.

Part five, 2025 climate action plan sets out short term action within existing resources that the National Park Authority and partners intend to take, and the plan to scale up National Park-wide action in the medium (2-3years) and long term (by 2030).

Part one: background and context

As the world wakes up to the climate and wider environmental emergency, sustainable land management, including rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions alongside food security and nature recovery, is becoming increasingly central to local, national and international policy agendas.

The Paris Agreement, adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in 2015 set the overarching goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. In 2019, the UK Government made a legal commitment to reach net zero territorial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. The 2050 net zero commitment covers the 15 National Parks and other designated landscapes in the UK (Figure 1). It is recognised that these designated landscapes present a crucial public-sector opportunity to show leadership on decarbonisation and carbon sequestration, and are important in enabling the country to reach its climate and biodiversity goals.

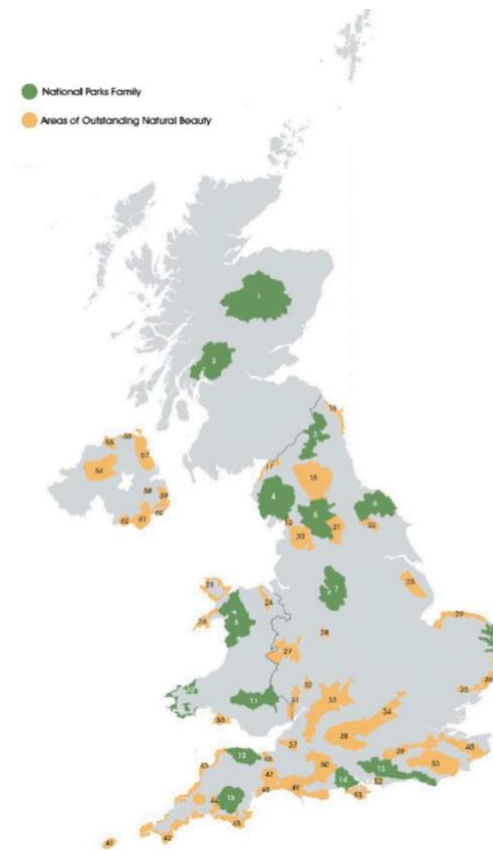


Figure 1. UK's designated landscapes. Source: www.nationalparks.uk.

Together, the UK's 15 National Parks are home to around 0.5 million residents, attract approximately 100 million visitors per year, and account for just under 10% of the UK's land area (2,324,365 ha). If these designated landscapes can become exemplars of low-carbon transition and environment-conscious land management, their national and international profiles could give them a level of influence that exceeds the scale of their own emissions.

The 15 National Parks are already working together in a partnership, which combines their individual strengths and unique placed based decision making to secure the long-term resilience and prosperity of these unique landscapes and their communities. The exciting and creative challenge for the National Parks (and for other designated landscapes know as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Landscapes, which together make up a further 8% of the UK's land area) is to find a way to cut emissions in line with current science, and be leaders in land stewardship and planning while simultaneously creating better places for people to live, work and visit.

There are considerable differences between the National Parks in terms of overall land area, types and extents of habitats, resident population sizes and demographics, numbers and types of visitors and businesses, agriculture, road traffic, and public transport. All these factors affect present-day GHG emissions as well as opportunities and priorities to reduce them, alongside increasing land-based (and, where applicable, marine) carbon sequestration.

Despite the unique sets of circumstances in each National Park and the multiple differences between them, there are nevertheless common factors and themes, creating an important opportunity for the landscapes to address the climate and ecological challenges collectively as a family. These themes include:

- Cutting energy-related emissions from buildings, traffic and industries;
- Reducing the footprints of locally consumed food and local agriculture;
- Embarking on ambitious programmes to restore or recreate semi-natural habitats, including woodlands, peatlands and wildflower meadows where appropriate;
- Engaging with the broad visitor economy sector to reduce its footprint;
- Educating the public on the role they can play in reducing their footprint.

The National Parks could also play an important role in policy advocacy, both for the UK and for the devolved nations, by engaging in large-scale trials to roll out innovative solutions to address the climate and ecological crises.

While the challenges ahead are considerable, and tackling them requires strong national and international policies, the associated opportunities are both wide-ranging and exciting. By working together to respond to the challenges the National Parks and their partners could become global leaders in addressing the joint climate and ecological crises. In doing so, they could inspire decision-makers in other parts of the UK, as well as in many landscapes and countries abroad, to pursue similarly ambitious policies, and commit to the investments and lifestyle changes that are understood to be essential for building a sustainable world for future generations.

Part two: research and analysis

Each National Park has prepared a consumption-based GHG assessment. This approach reflects the full climate impact of resident and visitor lifestyles by tracking the embedded footprint of goods and services purchased, in addition to territorial emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and electricity, and from land use. It is complemented by setting science-based targets to reduce emissions and scale up carbon sequestration consistent with keeping global warming below the “safer” 1.5°C limit in the Paris Agreement. By pursuing the consumption-based approach to GHG accounting, policymakers, businesses and citizens can take more ambitious steps to reduce emissions and become leaders in responding to the climate and wider environmental emergency.

Across the priority areas identified by the consumption-based GHG assessment, including land use, the collective total (net) GHG emissions baseline for the 15 National Parks is estimated to be around 12.7 million tCO₂e per year, as at 2019 (Figure 2). If the recommended decarbonisation and land use change targets were adopted and delivered in full for all the landscapes in 2019 with immediate effect, their collective total (net) GHG emissions should reach net zero and become net negative in mid-2030s as carbon sequestration starts to outweigh the residual emissions, eventually reaching a net negative value of roughly –7.1 million tCO₂e per year by 2050 (Figure 2).

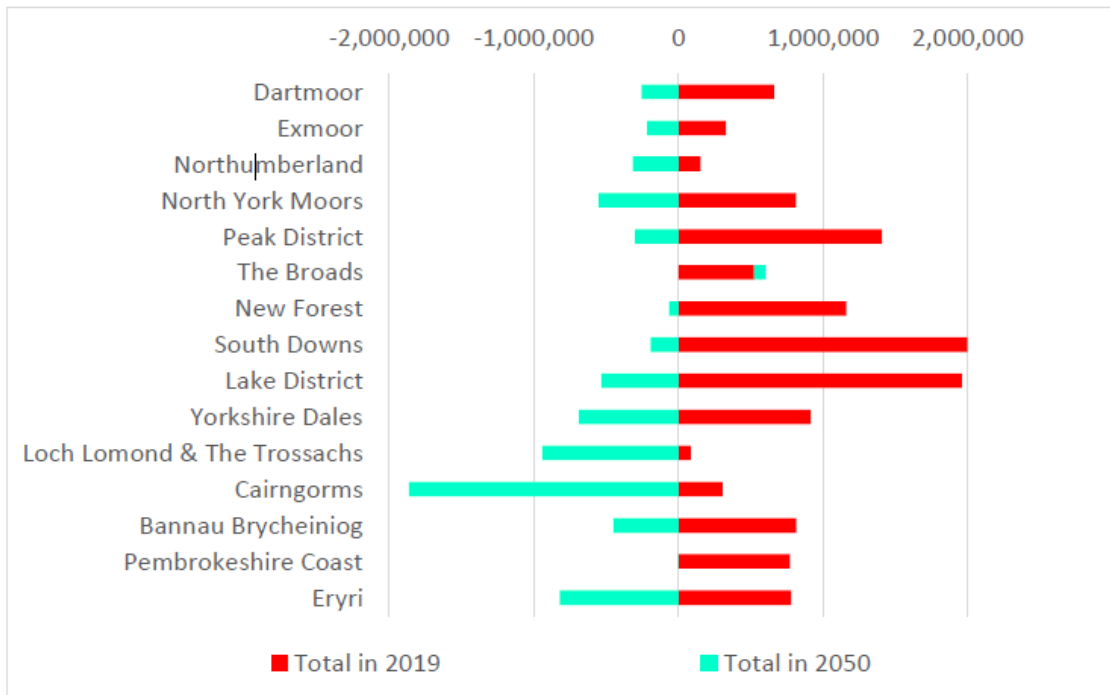


Figure 2. Estimated net GHG emissions in 2019 (baseline year) and projected net GHG emissions in 2050 for the UK National Parks. Units: tCO₂e per year.

The National Parks could therefore play an important role as net carbon sinks that will negate residual emissions from UK's cities, hard-to-decarbonise industries, and global supply chains, helping the whole country to meet its climate targets. This transition would involve:

- Creating over 9,000 ha per year of new woodland for 30 years (12% of total land area of the National Parks);
- Restoring over 12,500 ha per year of peatland for 30 years (17% of total land area of the National Parks);
- Rolling out over 12,000 ha per year of various regenerative agriculture measures⁶ for 30 years (16% of total land area of the National Parks);
- Reducing emissions from energy (buildings, transport, industrial processes) to 6% of the 2019 levels by 2050;
- Reducing emissions from visitors while travelling to and from the National Parks to 11% of the 2019 levels by 2050;
- Reducing emissions from food (both produced locally, and elsewhere in the UK and abroad) to around 40% of the 2019 levels by 2050.

Part three: Mission pledge

3.1 Pledge

The Broads Authority is committed to reducing its share of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and is taking part in the '[Race to Zero](#)', alongside other UK National Parks. This is the United Nations-backed initiative to halve global emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.

The Authority's work towards achieving net zero spans its entire operations, from decarbonising its work programme, partnership projects with farmers, landowners, local and district councils, through to working with the tourism industry and the wider public to reduce carbon emissions.

In order to achieve these goals, we have set the following targets;

- By 2030 the Broads Executive Area emissions will have fallen by 51% from the 2019 baseline.
- By 2050 Broads Executive Area emissions will be at reduced by 90%.
- By 2030 the Authority's internal emissions will have fallen by 50% from the 2020
- By 2040 the Authority's internal emissions will be Net-Zero

In setting these goals we have taken account of the limitations of the geography of the Broads National Park, which consists of narrow river valleys. This means that it will be very challenging to achieve offsets for the residual emissions of over 7 million visitors a year within our geography.

3.2 Climate Resilience Goals

Whilst making our fair contribution to meeting the Paris Climate Goals, there are already changes in our climate that are locked in as a result of historic emissions, and the emissions that will continue to occur as we progress to Net-Zero.

Climate Resilience is often described as being able to withstand or recover quickly from climate driven weather events.

In an area as diverse as the protected landscapes, there are several important characteristics which, when taken together, describe how people and places can become more resilient to flooding. For example, we can protect our natural resources so that, as far as possible, they better cope with climate shocks.

Our built environment can be designed to be more resilient to floods, heatwaves and droughts which cause material damage and negatively impact our urban and rural economies.

Our communities - who have a wide range of skills, networks and ability to influence outcomes - must be empowered to take part in making decisions and developing solutions. In these, and other ways, we can be proactive in our planning and respond

appropriately when incidents occur, so that our people and places suffer the least possible consequences and recover as quickly as possible.

Protected Landscapes have together produced the High Level Report for Adaptation Reporting Round 4 - [Protected Landscapes High Level Report for Adaptation Reporting Round 4 \(ARP4\) — National Parks England](#).

Based on this report, we have identified the following headline Resilience priorities for our landscapes.

Example 1-Build ecological resilience to the impacts of climate change through the adoption of adaptive management practices for ecosystem function, habitats and species.

Example 2 – Build adaptive capacity at a landscape scale, prepare for and accommodate land-use change that supports and enhances landscape character and related special qualities.

Example 3 – Support farming and the land-based sector to adapt and become more resilient.

Example 4 – Use our planning function to help support and develop resilience within the built environment and heritage assets.

Example 5 – Support innovation and demonstrate how we can shift to a more resilient and low-carbon future.

Example 6 – Support our local communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and become more resilient.

3.3 Transformational shifts

Nine transformational shifts have been identified as needed to reach net zero and climate resilience.

The aim of identifying these shifts is to give a tangible sense of direction to a wide range of organisations and people in the National Park and beyond.

The shifts are based on:

- Evidence and analysis developed for this Action Plan
- UK and devolved Government strategies
- Global good practice
- Feedback from stakeholders engaged in this Action Plan development

Work is already underway towards achieving each shift so the descriptions are intended to highlight contrast rather than imply no progress.

Shift	Description
1: CLIMATE SAFETY	From vulnerability to resilience and preparedness.
2: ENERGY SAVING & RENEWABLE ENERGY	From fossil fuel reliance to energy efficient clean energy.
3: SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL	From petrol and diesel car-dependence to active, public, shared, and electric transport
4: RESTORED NATURE	From depleted ecosystems to thriving, biodiverse landscapes.
5: AFFORDABLE SUSTAINABLE FOOD	From unhealthy, extractive food systems to nutritious, local, low-impact food for all
6: WELL-BEING ECONOMY & SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE	From GDP-driven extraction to circular, community-focused prosperity
7: SUSTAINABLE PLACES	From disconnected services to vibrant, accessible and connected local hubs
8: ACTIVE CITIZENS	From passive engagement to empowered, informed local action
9: JOINED UP PUBLIC SECTOR	From siloed efforts to coordinated, community-responsive leadership.

Part four: theory of change and strategic approach

Our National Parks are unique and special landscapes. Things are, and should be, done differently here to maximise the benefits that can be provided for nature, climate and people. Globally, we are facing twin crises of the climate emergency and nature loss. Both crises are happening here and now in the National Park, in fact many of the impacts are being felt even more deeply and obviously here, so it is not enough to simply do what we have always done.

The National Park Authorities are making a step change in how they responds to these crises but cannot do it alone. There are many people and organisations who have a role in securing a positive future for the National Park. Some who have been here for generations, some who are the stewards of the land, and those from within and outside the Park who will play a part over the coming years. Tackling the nature and climate crises is not separate to supporting the rural economy and our communities. In fact, working together to address these will provide a range of wider benefits for the National Park and its people, including more investment, business and employment opportunities.

To help accelerate meaningful progress towards halving global emissions by 2030 and to ensure the integrity of the campaign, Race to Zero both sets a minimum floor for robust net zero commitments and also lays out bold leadership practices for members to strive for. An independent Expert Peer Review Group reviews all Race to

Zero partners against these criteria, and partners are in turn responsible for ensuring their members meet the criteria. Race to Zero is, in parallel, developing an accountability mechanism to ensure that members who persistently fail to comply with these criteria will be removed from the Race.

Underpinning the Race to Zero campaign are the five 'starting line' criteria, known as the 'Five P's', requiring members to Pledge, Plan, Proceed, Publish and Persuade.

- **Pledge** at the head-of-organisation level to reach (net) zero GHGs as soon as possible, and by 2050 at the latest, in line with the scientific consensus on the global effort needed to limit warming to 1.5C with no or limited overshoot, recognising that this requires phasing down and out all unabated fossil fuels as part of a global, just transition. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects maximum effort toward or beyond a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO₂ by 2030. Targets must cover all greenhouse gas emissions: Including scopes 1, 2 and 3 for businesses and other organisations; 2. Including all territorial emissions for cities and regions
- Within 12 months of joining, publicly disclose a Transition Plan, City/Region **Plan**, or equivalent which outlines how all other Race to Zero criteria will be met, including what actions will be taken within the next 12 months, within 2-3 years, and by 2030
- **Proceed:** take immediate action through all available pathways toward achieving (net) zero, consistent with delivering your interim targets. Where relevant, contribute to sectoral breakthroughs.
- **Publish:** Report publicly progress against both interim and longer-term targets, as well as the actions being taken, at least annually. Report in a standardised, open format, and via platforms that feed into the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal.
- **Persuade:** Within 12 months of joining, align external policy and engagement, including membership in associations, to the goal of halving emissions by 2030 and reaching global (net) zero by 2050.

By working as a community of practice under the shared Race to Zero commitment, the UK National Parks can exchange expertise, provide peer-to-peer support, and collectively work on the campaign's core criteria. This collaborative approach enables the National Parks to accelerate towards achieving the 'Five P's' as well as forging a collective voice to demonstrate the leadership principles promoted by the Race to Zero campaign.

Part five: climate action plan

Adaptation

Support farming and the land-based sector to adapt and become more resilient.			
Ongoing Programmes/Proposed Projects/Actions	Lead organisation and Partners	Outcomes	Delivery Date
Ongoing Programme: Continue to deliver the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme	Broads Authority, FIPL Board	Farmers can use funds from FIPL for a range of projects, including developing climate resilience. The programme to date has delivered 22 projects with some link to climate resilience.	Funding is currently confirmed until March 2029.
Progress the Peat Partnership to deliver new sites for peatland restoration bids. The Peat Partnership follows up the Nature for Climate Grant Schemes, and is preparing sites for the next round of funding, which will include the Lowland Water Fund in 2026.	Broads Authority, Peat Partnership	Peatland sites ready for project delivery with the newly announced funding.	Aim to submit bids to the funds for peatland restoration outlined in the Environmental Improvement Plan in 2026.
Support Partners in the delivery of the Norfolk & Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Deliver the Broads Biodiversity Strategy	Broads Authority, LNRS Partnership	Implementation of a spatially planned nature recovery strategy	LNRS is a long term programme.

Develop & implement appropriate planning policies for climate adaptation			
Proposed action/project	Lead organisation and Partners	Outcomes	Delivery Date
Planning applications are assessed using the climate checklist in the local plan	Broads Authority Planning Dept	Development is suitable for climate altered future	Ongoing work
Future Local Plan policies will develop policies that respond to the adaptation needs of the Broad. This will likely require a particular focus on water stress and flooding.	Broads Authority	The Local Plan Policies support sustainable development	Ongoing work dependent on the Local Plan Review schedule/

Work with partners on adaptation planning			
Proposed action/project	Lead organisation and Partners	Outcomes	Delivery Date
Broadland Futures Initiative	BFI Partnership	Flood Risk Management Approach for the Broads covering short, medium and long term (2130)	2028
Working with the National Parks Climate Group on Adaptation Reporting	National Parks, National Parks England	Common approach to delivering adaptation management plans by 2028, and preparing for future Adaptation Reporting Rounds.	2028
Support the Norfolk & Suffolk Climate Change groups and their successors post LGR with adaptation Planning – inc. LAEP and Integrated Water Strategy	Norfolk CC, Suffolk CC, District Councils, Broads Authority	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) and Integrated Water Strategy to be ready for the new Combined Authority. Partnerships allow for sharing of common issues, general awareness of upcoming projects that may impact on each other.	Ongoing Activity

Prepare the Broads Authority for climate change			
Proposed action/project	Lead organisation and Partners	Outcomes	Delivery Date
Implement the mooring heights review	Broads Authority	Mooring heights are adequate to prevent overtopping during usual weather conditions during the boating season	This will be an ongoing project.
Keep Extreme weather risk assessments under review	Broads Authority	Extreme weather risk assessments are suitable for the changing conditions we are likely to encounter	This will be an ongoing project
Ensure management plans take account of potential weather issues (for instance – increased winter flooding)	Broads Authority	Management Plans factor in future climate conditions, as far as is possible.	This will be an ongoing project.

Mitigation

Reduce Land Use emissions by 60% by 2050			
Proposed action/project	Lead organisation and Partners	Outcomes	Delivery Date
Continue supporting the Peat Partnership to develop and deliver Projects	Broads Authority, Peat Partnership	Projects are brought forward to the next round of lowland peatland farming.	2027
Work with partners to deliver the Broads Biodiversity Strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Broads Authority, LNRS partnership		This will be an ongoing programme

Identify & Reduce Transport Emissions within the Broads Authority's influence			
Proposed action/project	Lead organisation and Partners	Outcomes	Delivery Date
Expand the CyclePods network – following on from the Connecting Places Catapult installation of 3 locations for ebike chargers across the Broads, we will expand the offering to further sites and promote the facilities through our communication channels.	Broads Authority, site hosts	An expanded offering, aiming to cover at least 10 locations within this plan window.	2028.
Continue to work with the Norfolk EV Group, and the upcoming LGR successor, on delivering Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funds to support provision of electric car charging for visitors.	Broads Authority, Norfolk EV Working Group	Increase in the availability of charging infrastructure for visitors.	This will be an ongoing programme

Reduce Tourism Impact			
Proposed action/project	Lead organisation and Partners	Outcomes	Delivery Date
Implement the Broads Sustainable Tourism Strategy	Broads Authority	Delivery of the actions set out in Part 4 of the Strategy	2029
Continue to work on Electric Infrastructure for boats, and see funding for wider electrification, building on the previously funded Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition project.	Broads Authority, other navigation authorities, private business partners	Increase the use of electric and alternative zero emission fuelled boats in the Broads.	2030

Communication and Engagement

Communication and Engagement			
Proposed action/project	Lead organisation and Partners	Outcomes	Delivery Date
Include Climate Messaging and information about the actions we are taking in the Broads Social Media output	Broads Authority	Public are aware of the action we are taking, and how they can make environmentally conscious visits to the Broads	Ongoing activity
Include climate themed stands within the Norfolk Show and other events	Broads Authority	Public are aware of the action we are taking, and how they can make environmentally conscious visits to the Broads	Ongoing activity
Engage with civil society through events and direct conversations with the relevant people in the organisations.	Broads Authority	We are able to take wider public views into account when preparing the next plans.	2028