

# Broads Authority

10 May 2024

Agenda item number 9

## National Park Grant and Outcomes Framework

Report by Chief Executive and Director of Finance

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### Purpose

The report updates the Authority on recent decisions by Defra on National Park funding.

### Broads Plan context

All strategic actions within the plan.

### Recommended decision

Support the draft plans for the expenditure of the additional National Park funding.

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## 1. National Park Grant

- 1.1. On 28 March 2024 Defra informed the Authority of its Grant Funding for 2024/25. The total annual grant award of £3,996,929 is allocated as follows:

Core Grant Funding	£3,414,078
Core 24/25 Uplift Capital Funding	£ 250,000
Core 24/25 Uplift Revenue Funding	£ 250,000
Access for All Capital Funding	£ 82,851

- 1.2. This allocation will be formally confirmed via a Change Control Notice (CCN) which at the time of writing we are still awaiting.

1.3. In addition, the Authority has been allocated £480,320 for the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme in the following manner.

**Table 1**

Broads Authority FiPL Allocation 2024/25

Area	Revenue	Capital	Total	% of Total Allocation
Project Delivery minimum allowance (£)	£260,705	£120,080	£380,785	79.3%
Advice & Guidance max allowance (£)	£62,670	-	£62,670	13.0%
Admin max allowance (£)	£36,865	-	£36,865	7.7%
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>£360,240</b>	<b>£120,080</b>	<b>£480,320</b>	-

1.4. At the last meeting, the Authority agreed a list of capital items subject to Defra’s confirmation of a capital grant of £500,000 delegating authority to the Management Team to amend the list of items to ensure that the funding is spent before 31 March 2025. Half of the additional £500,000 funding is revenue as opposed to capital which provides more flexibility on the projects that can be funded.

1.5. It is critical that the capital funding is spent before the 31 March 2025 and therefore subject to the contents of Change Control Notice (CCN) items from the list that can be readily purchased have been identified and are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

**Draft Capital Programme 2024/25**

Item	Description	Cost	Lead Officer
Concrete pump	A concrete pump is an integral part of the Authority’s dredging operation and needs replacement. While there will be biodiversity and water quality benefits from the deployment of the concrete pump, there is a significant benefit in improved public access through the maintenance of the waterways.	£173,000	Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology
Two replacement Hilux	Replacement of vehicles at the end of their life for Rangers and Construction, Maintenance and Ecology staff	£60,000	Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology & Head of

Item	Description	Cost	Lead Officer
			Ranger Services
Dipper Arm Extension and Weed Bucket for Fen Excavator	These would facilitate on-going fen management on the Authority's own land and sites managed for third parties	£16,000	Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology
Steel welfare unit	To replace a previous wooden welfare hut and upgrade facilities for staff welfare working in remote locations in the Broads.	£8,000	Head of Construction, Maintenance & Ecology
Total		c.£257,000	

- 1.6. Members may recall that as part of the budget decision for 2024/25 it was agreed not to make contributions to the earmarked reserves following the capital grant received in 2022/23 to minimise the impact on the tolls increases. It is proposed to put the additional £250,000 National Park revenue funding in the earmarked reserves to support the purchase of the other items: the research, development and delivery of a replacement Ranger launch and the additional replacement vehicles previously identified. Other potential items for use of this funding are a finance system and costs associated with the downsizing of the Authority's occupation of Yare House. The purchase of the launch and the finance system will be subject to tender, and it will only be then that definitive costs will be known. Updates on progress will be provided by The Finance, Performance and Direction report.
- 1.7. The Access for All Capital Funding is earmarked for the redesign of the footpaths at Hoveton Riverside Park and the tenders for the piling will be significant in identifying how much of that proposal can be implemented. It is proposed that the balance of any access funding will be used to improve the path at Acle from the moorings to the village.

## 2. Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

- 2.1. On 31 January Defra published a [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework). This sets out 10 targets for National Parks and National Landscapes (formerly known as AONBs) linked to Defra's [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-2023).
- 2.2. *"The Protected Landscape targets are non-statutory and create a shared ambition for all 44 of England's Protected Landscapes. 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.”*

- 2.3. On 18 April Natural England circulated a *Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework Baseline Data Release 2024 - Guidance Note*. This provides details of the statistics that will be used to monitor the progress against the Framework. A copy is included in Appendix 1 for the Authority’s information. These targets and indicators are likely to become more significant as we go forward.

### **3. Funding for Waterways in the Broads National Park**

- 3.1. A response has been received from Rebecca Pow MP, the Defra Minister with responsibility for National Parks regarding the funding of waterways in the Broads National Park (See Appendix 2)

### **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1. Despite the Authority not receiving the CCN DEFRA has confirmed that the additional revenue can be spent as deemed necessary to deliver national park purposes. As long as that is on eligible expenditure within the funded activities of the grant agreement.
- 4.2. In the budget it was the intention that all these items (except two additional vehicles) would be funded from the earmarked reserves. Historically the Authority has not received capital grants and has funded capital purchases by making revenue contributions to the earmarked reserves. The impact of this additional funding it is likely that the earmarked reserve balances will be greater than originally predicted.

### **5. Risk implications**

- 5.1. The risk of not spending the capital funding by 31 March 2025 is now significantly reduced as half the additional funding is revenue rather than capital. Selecting items that can be readily purchased reduces that risk.

### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1. Additional funding is always welcome, and it is hoped that in the future it can be built into our base line funding.

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Date of report: 23 April 2024

Background papers: Letter from Defra dated 28 March 2024 and correspondence from Natural England dates 18 April 2024

Appendix 1 – Target indicators and supporting statistics for the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

Appendix 2 – Response from Defra Minister

# Appendix 1 – Target indicators and supporting statistics for the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework



## Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework Baseline Data Release 2024 - Guidance Note

### 1.0 Introduction

#### 1.1 Purpose

This paper provides an overview of the baseline data (in the form of statistics) that Natural England is supplying under the [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) (PLTOF) in 2024. It explains the background to the Framework; the relationship between outcomes, targets, indicators and statistics; and lists the statistics that are being supplied.

#### 1.2 Background to the Framework

To support Protected Landscapes in meeting their huge potential for nature, climate, people and place, the Government has established ambitious targets for National Parks and National Landscapes. These targets will promote the actions that are most needed to achieve positive changes. They set the ambition for how Protected Landscapes are expected to achieve three outcomes (or goals) from 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 PLTOF defines the contribution that Protected Landscapes (as areas) should make to national targets and the above EIP outcomes to guide local decision-making and prioritisation. This is a landmark step in achieving the Government's global goal to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030.

The Framework provides a mechanism for measuring progress and delivery towards the above outcomes. It will demonstrate the vital role that Protected Landscapes can play in tackling some of the most important challenges faced by society, whilst continuing to support their rural economies and local communities.

#### 1.3 Targets, indicators and statistics

The Framework contains 10 targets. Each target is accompanied by an indicator which will measure progress towards it and its related outcome, as set out in **Annex 1**. The indicator is supported by statistics generated from nationally available data. For example, for Target 2: *Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042*, the links are shown as follows:

EIP Outcome	PLTOF Target	Target Indicator	Statistic
Goal 1 Thriving plants and wildlife	2. Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042	2. Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition	TI_2* Percentage of SSSI features within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition

\*This is the statistic code – see 2.2 for further information.

Natural England has collated national statistics from a range of data providers (where available) to establish the baseline for the Framework’s indicators. Data owners include Natural England, Defra, the Forestry Commission and Historic England.

## 1.4 Additional statistics

There are no national EIP targets for landscape (including natural beauty) or the historic environment<sup>1</sup>. This is partly because these aspects are currently difficult to monitor through consistent nationally available data. However, this does not mean that they are not important, particularly as National Parks and National Landscapes share the first purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty (and National Parks’ first purpose includes cultural heritage). In recognition of this, Natural England has identified and collated a wider set of additional statistics relevant to the statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes. These statistics are listed in **Annex 2**. We also know that Protected Landscape bodies find this information helpful for ‘State of’ reporting in support of management planning, as has been the case through the previous MEOPL (Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes) data releases.

## 2.0 The Framework statistics

### 2.1 Lists of statistics

**Annex 1** lists the baseline (2024) statistics that Natural England will share with Protected Landscape bodies, Defra and the Protected Landscape Partnership and when. It also sets out the provider and the license that applies and the intended reporting cycle. **Annex 2** provides the same information for the additional statistics.

### 2.2 Naming convention

A statistic that supports a Target Indicator is named as follows:

TI\_[number]\_pltof\_[description]\_data\_[month of release]\_[year of release]

For example: ‘TI\_2\_pltof\_sssi\_condition\_data\_april\_2024’

The naming of additional statistics follows the same pattern:

Stat\_[number]\_pltof\_[description]\_data\_[month of release]\_[year of release]

For example: ‘Stat\_1\_pltof\_priority\_habitats\_data\_april\_2024’

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<sup>1</sup> Although there is no specific EIP target for heritage, the Framework includes a target relating to nationally designated heritage assets at risk. This is because nationally consistent data is available which allows an important aspect of heritage to be monitored. It also aligns with one of the EIP indicators used to monitor national progress towards the ‘Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment’ goal.

Each Target Indicator is prefaced by the associated statistic code (for example, 'TI\_1, TI\_2' etc) in Annex 1, rather than listing the full name of the statistic. This is to avoid repetition.

## **2.3 Information accompanying the statistics**

Each set of statistics has a cover note that includes important information, including a brief description of the data and contact details for questions.

Most of the statistics are accompanied by two documents:

- a) A combined metadata document that provides information about the data, such as its lineage.
- b) A combined Technical Summary document that explains the methods used to produce all the statistics.

The exceptions are:

- The greenhouse gas emissions statistics for National Landscapes, which the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is due to publish online in June 2024.
- The carbon storage statistics, which Natural England is also due to release in June 2024.

## **3.0 Ongoing work to provide statistics and monitor progress**

### **3.1 Review of Framework**

Defra will review the Framework at least every five years, linked to refreshes of the [EIP](#). Defra will adjust the targets, indicators and supporting statistics in the interim (as needed) to ensure they remain relevant and functional. Natural England will support this process and will collate and provide annual updates of statistics (where available) each April to the Protected Landscapes Partnership, Defra and Protected Landscape bodies.

### **3.2 Monitoring of progress**

Natural England will evaluate progress towards the targets and outcomes in the Framework. This will be informed by analysing trends from the annual statistics against the targets. We will produce an overall annual progress report containing headline narratives and an analysis of trends. The first report is due in summer 2025 to tie-in with the EIP annual progress report.

## **4.0 Contacts**

For further information about the individual statistics, please contact the relevant data holder - see the contact details on the cover note of each set of statistics.

For general queries on the PLTOF, contact [protectedlandscapes-tof@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:protectedlandscapes-tof@naturalengland.org.uk) or the Working Group representatives for your organisation:

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National Parks England: Gary Smith ([Gary.Smith@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:Gary.Smith@yorkshiredales.org.uk)) or Tom Hind ([t.hind@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:t.hind@northyorkmoors.org.uk))

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## Annex 1: Target indicators and supporting statistics

EIP Outcome	PLTOF Target	Target Indicator (prefaced by statistic code)	Provider	Release date	Licensing	Reporting cycle	Notes
Goal 1 Thriving plants and wildlife	1. 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).	TI_1 Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites	Natural England	April 2025 (tbc)	Tbc	Annual	Indicator is in development.
Goal 1 Thriving plants and wildlife	2. Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042	TI_2 Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition	Natural England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Goal 1 Thriving plants and wildlife	3. For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.	TI_3 Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition	Natural England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Goal 1 Thriving plants and wildlife	4. 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.	TI_4 Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes	Defra	April 2025	Tbc	Annual	Indicator is in development.
Goal 1 Thriving plants and wildlife	5. Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.	TI_5 Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land	Defra	April 2025	Tbc	Annual	Indicator is in development.
Goal 7 Mitigating and adapting to climate change	6. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.	TI_6 Level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes	DESNZ	June 2024	Tbc	Annual	Data for National Parks released <a href="#">here</a> . DESNZ are due to publish statistics for National Landscapes in June 2024.

EIP Outcome	PLTOF Target	Target Indicator (prefaced by statistic code)	Provider	Release date	Licensing	Reporting cycle	Notes
Goal 7 Mitigating and adapting to climate change	7. Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.	TI_7 Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes	Natural England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Goal 7 Mitigating and adapting to climate change	8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).	TI_8 Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes	Forestry Commission	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	Indicator is in development. Interim statistics provided for woodland cover. Statistics on extent of tree canopy to be released when available.
Goal 10 Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment	9. Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.	<p>TI_9 Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TI_9a Metres of accessible path as a % of total path</li> <li>• TI_9b Number of accessible toilets and rest stops</li> <li>• TI_9c Number of disability accessible parking spaces</li> <li>• TI_9d Number of accessible gates and gaps</li> <li>• TI_9e Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment</li> <li>• TI_9f Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary</li> </ul>	Protected Landscape bodies	Tbc	Tbc	Annual	Defra will request this information from Protected Landscapes bodies in spring 2024, as part of the annual Farming in Protected Landscapes and 'Access for All' monitoring survey/ commission.

EIP Outcome	PLTOF Target	Target Indicator (prefaced by statistic code)	Provider	Release date	Licensing	Reporting cycle	Notes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TI_9g Number of volunteer days</li> <li>• TI_9h Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved</li> <li>• TI_9i Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers</li> </ul>					
Goal 10 Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment	10. Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.	TI_10 Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk	Historic England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	Covers the categories of scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, listed buildings (grade I or II*) and protected wreck sites.

## Annex 2: Additional statistics to be made available to Protected Landscapes in 2024

Additional statistic	Provider	Release date	Licensing	Reporting cycle	Notes
Stat_1 Extent of priority habitat and other habitats within Protected Landscapes	Natural England	April 2024 (interim measure)	Open Government Licence	Annual	Statistics on 'other habitats' available in April 2025, based on updated Living England data.
Stat_2 Area of land within Protected Landscapes designated at international, national and local level for nature conservation	Natural England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_3 Area of woodland within Protected Landscapes under sustainable management	Forestry Commission	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_4 Extent of ancient woodland within Protected Landscapes	Natural England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_5 Ecological status of watercourses and water bodies within Protected Landscapes	Environment Agency	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Every three years	
Stat_6 Area, depth and percentage cover of peatland within Protected Landscapes	Natural England	April 2024 (interim measure)	Non-Commercial Government Licence	See notes	Updated evidence on the extent, depth and condition of peat will be available in April 2025. This will be based on the England Peat Map which is due to be published at the end of March 2025.
Stat_7 Estimate of the amount of carbon stored and sequestered by habitats within Protected Landscapes	Natural England	See notes	Aiming to release under Open Government Licence.	Every five years	Statistics due June 2024.
Stat_8 Length of National Trails within Protected Landscapes	Natural England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_9 Number of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes	Historic England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_10 National Character Areas which contain Protected Landscape(s), where changes to landscape and waterscape character is assessed as improving/no change/declining	Natural England	April 2025	Tbc	Every five years	
Stat_11 Length of hedgerows and other traditional field boundaries (drystone walls) within Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024 (Interim measure)	Open Government Licence	Annual	Initial figures are for the length of hedgerow. Figures will be added for the length of dry-stone walls and shared in April 2025.

Additional statistic	Provider	Release date	Licensing	Reporting cycle	Notes
Stat_12 Total area of land managed under agri-environment schemes and total value of schemes within Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_13 Area of land under different agricultural land uses within Protected Landscapes and number of livestock	Defra	Already released	Published on-line	Publication of next updates: Spring 2025, spring 2028 (tbc) and 2031.	See <a href="#">Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Stat_14 Area and distribution of main landcover types within Protected landscapes	Natural England	April 2025	Open Government Licence	Tbc	Derived from Living England data
Stat_15 Number of geological and geomorphological SSSI unit features and percentage in favourable or recovering condition	Natural England	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_16 Extent of agricultural businesses within Protected Landscapes (number and size of holdings, number of agricultural workers)	Defra	Already released	Published on-line	Publication of next updates: Spring 2025, spring 2028 (tbc) and 2031.	See <a href="#">Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Stat_17 Population estimates for Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Every 10 years	These are refined population estimates, following the draft estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics in 2023.
Stat_18 Average age of the population living in Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Every 10 years	
Stat_19 Proportion of the population within each ethnic group in Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Every 10 years	
Stat_20 Median earnings in Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_21 House price affordability ratios in Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Tbc - dependent on availability of refined data on estimated incomes	

Additional statistic	Provider	Release date	Licensing	Reporting cycle	Notes
Stat_22 Registered businesses by size and type in Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	
Stat_23 Proportion of the population living in each decile of deprivation in Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	No regular reporting cycle; potential update 2026 (tbc)	
Stat_24 Number of pupils on the school roll (against total capacity) in Protected Landscapes	Defra	April 2024	Open Government Licence	Annual	

## Appendix 2 – Response from Defra Minister



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**Rebecca Pow MP**  
**Minister for Nature**

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Your ref: BD/EG  
Our ref: PO2024/04263/MK

18 March 2024

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 20 February about public funding for the maintenance of the waterways of the Broads National Park.

Thank you for your paper on funding the waterways of the Broads. I understand that all Protected Landscapes organisations are currently facing challenging financial circumstances and we are committed to working with them to address these issues, for example through the additional £10 million announced in November last year, and by building capacity to attract green and private finance.

I read with interest the unique challenges faced by the Broads Authority. As you mention in your paper, we do recognise the need to re-examine the long-term funding model. We are actively considering how the grant funding model can be reformed and we will be working with Protected Landscapes organisations, including the Broads Authority, to progress this important work. Officials will consider your paper as part of their efforts to explore all opportunities to increase the scale and diversity of funding resources available to our Protected Landscapes.

Please be assured, the Government remains committed to supporting the vital role Protected Landscapes play in protecting our precious wildlife, and the importance they have for tourism, the regional economy, and public access. I am optimistic that we can develop a more sustainable funding model for our Protected Landscapes and this remains a priority for me.

Defra looks forward to continuing working with you to deliver on that goal.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

**REBECCA POW MP**