

Broads Authority

19 September 2025

Agenda item number 11

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

Report by Sustainability Manager

Purpose

To update members on Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF), and to ask members to endorse appending them to the Broads Plan

Broads Plan context

The PLTOF targets cover most of the areas of the Broads Plan, and the Broads specific targets are to be included in the revised Broads Plan from 2028 onwards.

Recommended decision

Note the contents of the report and approve the draft appendix for inclusion in the Broads Plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) consists of 10 targets, first published in 2024. Since then, we have been working with DEFRA and other Protected Landscapes on scoping the baselines and individual landscape targets (where relevant).
- 1.2. The 10 targets are:
 - i. **Target 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).
 - ii. **Target 2:** Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.
 - iii. **Target 3:** For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having “actions on track” to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
 - iv. **Target 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.

- v. **Target 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.
 - vi. **Target 6:** Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.
 - vii. **Target 7:** Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.
 - viii. **Target 8:** Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).
 - ix. **Target 9:** Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.
 - x. **Target 10:** Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.
- 1.3. 3 of the targets (1, 7 and 8) required local targets to be set. These targets have been collated and collectively the Protected Landscapes have set adequate local targets to achieve the national target. The Broads’ locally apportioned target was included in the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy, which was approved by members in November 2024.
- 1.4. The remainder of the targets are set as absolute figures, and so there has been no local apportionment work.
- 1.5. Progress will be reported on annually by DEFRA, with the first Progress Report Published in July 2025. [Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework progress report - GOV.UK](#)

2. Broads targets

Table 1

Apportioned Broads Targets

Target	Broads’ Apportionment
Target 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)	2,384ha
Target 7: Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050	2,000ha

Target	Broads' Apportionment
<p>Target 8: Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).</p>	<p>Zero</p>

Further detail on setting these provisional targets is set out in the [Broads Nature Recovery Strategy 2024-29](#).

The full details of the targets, including the data that is currently available for the Broads Executive Area, and commentary from officers is in Appendix 2.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. DEFRA has indicated that all Protected Landscapes are to incorporate the PLTOF targets into their management plans. As the Broads Plan is not due for replacement until 2028, this will need to be done as an appendix to the existing management plan.
- 3.2. A draft Annex is attached as Appendix 1 for approval. It is proposed to add this to the Broads Plan section of the Broads Authority website once it is approved by members.
- 3.3. This has been drafted using a model prepared by the North York Moors National Park Authority. It places each target in context by linking to the existing Broads Plan Goals.
- 3.4. When the new Broads Plan is prepared, it will need to incorporate the PLTOF targets. The exact nature of this is still pending guidance from DEFRA.

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[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: A2, A3, B3, B4, B5, D1, E1, E2, E3, E4

Appendix 1 – Draft Annex to the Broads Plan

Appendix 2 – Further details on PLTOF Targets

Appendix 1 – Draft Annex to the Broads Plan

PLTOF Target	Management Plan Objective	Target
<p>Target 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)</p>	<p>B3 - Seek biodiversity net gain and enhance areas of fen, reed bed, grazing marsh and wet woodland, to protect peatlands as carbon sinks</p>	<p>Locally Apportioned Target. Target: 2,384 by 2042</p>
<p>Target 2: Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042</p>	<p>B3 - Seek biodiversity net gain and enhance areas of fen, reed bed, grazing marsh and wet woodland, to protect peatlands as carbon sinks</p> <p>B4 - Define, implement and monitor management regimes for priority species and invasive non-native species</p> <p>B5 - Improve partnership coordination and communication of Broads biodiversity monitoring and research effort, linked to the National Biodiversity Network</p>	<p>Same Target. The 2024 baseline for the Broads is 57.8%.</p>
<p>Target 3: For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having “actions on track” to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028</p>	<p>B3 - Seek biodiversity net gain and enhance areas of fen, reed bed, grazing marsh and wet woodland, to protect peatlands as carbon sinks</p>	<p>Same Target. The 2024 baseline for the Broads is 6.9%</p>

	<p>B4 - Define, implement and monitor management regimes for priority species and invasive non-native species</p> <p>B5 - Improve partnership coordination and communication of Broads biodiversity monitoring and research effort, linked to the National Biodiversity Network</p>	
<p>Target 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</p>	<p>B3 - Seek biodiversity net gain and enhance areas of fen, reed bed, grazing marsh and wet woodland, to protect peatlands as carbon sinks</p> <p>B4 - Define, implement and monitor management regimes for priority species and invasive non-native species</p> <p>B5 - Improve partnership coordination and communication of Broads biodiversity monitoring and research effort, linked to the National Biodiversity Network</p>	Indicator and baseline TBD
<p>Target 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.</p>	<p>B3 - Seek biodiversity net gain and enhance areas of fen, reed bed, grazing marsh and wet woodland, to protect peatlands as carbon sinks</p> <p>B4 - Define, implement and monitor management regimes for priority species and invasive non-native species</p>	Indicator and baseline TBD

	B5 - Improve partnership coordination and communication of Broads biodiversity monitoring and research effort, linked to the National Biodiversity Network	
Target 6: Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.	<p>A2 - Work towards making all Broads Authority operations carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2040.</p> <p>A3 - Agree carbon reduction targets for the Broads National Park and promote action to reduce emissions.</p>	<p>Same target.</p> <p>The 2022 baseline is 404 thousand tonnes of CO2. This is a reduction of 27.5% from 2005.</p>
Target 7: Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050	<p>A3 - Agree carbon reduction targets for the Broads National Park and promote action to reduce emissions.</p> <p>B3 - Seek biodiversity net gain and enhance areas of fen, reed bed, grazing marsh and wet woodland, to protect peatlands as carbon sinks</p>	<p>Locally apportioned target.</p> <p>Target: 2,000ha by 2050</p>
Target 8: Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).	B3 - Seek biodiversity net gain and enhance areas of fen, reed bed, grazing marsh and wet woodland, to protect peatlands as carbon sinks	<p>Locally apportioned target</p> <p>Target: It has been decided to focus on other habitats in the Broads, given the special features of its open landscapes.</p>
Target 9: Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.	E1 - Improve the integrated network of access routes and points (with easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs), linked to visitor facilities	Indicator and baseline TBD

	<p>E2 - Offer a coordinated and year-round programme of visitor activities that promote a 'Broads' experience', taking measures to prevent any adverse environmental impacts</p> <p>E3 - Maintain and upgrade the range and provision of integrated multimedia interpretation about the special qualities of the Broads National Park, and 'point of need' information for visitors</p> <p>E4 - Strengthen the quality and distinctiveness of the local tourism offer, including careers and skills training</p>	
<p>Target 10: Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes</p>	<p>D1 - Record, protect and enhance local built and cultural features, archaeology, geodiversity and potential hidden heritage, including 'at risk' assets</p>	<p>Indicator and baseline TBD</p>

Appendix 2 – Further details on the PLTOF Targets

Target	Indicators	Broads data	Notes
Target 1: Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042.	Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites 57% of the Broads is counted as priority habitat.	For the Broads, the area based allocation is 2,384ha, equating to 119ha per year from 2022 to 2042.	No additional notes.
Target 2: Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.	Percentage of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) features within Protected Landscapes assessed as having favourable condition.	For the Broads, the current figure is 57.8% (2024). Total SSSI features: 204 Favourable: 118 Recovering: 36 No Change: 21 Declining: 10 Not Recorded: 19	The national figure is 40% for protected landscapes, and 41% for England as a whole. There has been a change to the way Natural England records SSSIs, with new records looking at “features” rather than the overall SSSI. This is why the wording of the indicator does not exactly match the wording of the target. Every site is currently being reassessed by NE, so these figures are expected to be updated in the near future.
Target 3: 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.	Percentage of SSSI features within Protected Landscapes assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition	For the Broads, the current figure is 6.9% (October 2024) Total SSSI features: 204 190 Negative 14 positive	The following definition of “actions on track” is given by the Natural England Technical Information Note TIN216. “The assessment of SSSIs to have “actions on track” to achieve favourable conditions is based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the feature’s current condition• the status and timing of associated management actions

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether the condition assessment is up to date <p>Features are classified as having ‘Actions on track’ if they meet the criteria above (for example, favourable condition or active, timely management). Features not meeting these criteria are classified as ‘Actions not on track’, and actions marked ‘Archived’ or ‘Not Applicable’ are excluded”</p> <p>These three criteria mean that a site can be assessed as in favourable condition, but not having actions on track to achieve favourable condition. This means the indicator for this target can show a lower baseline than for target 2.</p>
<p>Target 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.</p>	<p>Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes</p>		<p>No data has been provided for this target, with the indicator still being listed as under development.</p>
<p>Target 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</p>	<p>Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on_ a percentage of their land</p>		<p>No data has been provided for this target, with the indicator still being listed as under development.</p>

<p>Target 6: Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels</p>	<p>Level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes</p>	<p>2005 emissions: 558.2 kTCO₂e 2022 emissions: 404.5 kTCO₂e Total reduction: 27.5%</p>	<p>This has been calculated using the centrally collated DESNEZ dataset. This methodology is currently being revised. It does not use the National Parks developed methodology, which we are continuing to track separately.</p> <p>The currently available datasets only extend back to 2005.</p> <p>We are also anticipating significant revisions when the small boat emissions methodology is reviewed, as we believe it overstates emissions by around 90 kTCO₂e.</p>
<p>Target 7: Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050</p>	<p>Extent of peat committed for restoration in Protected Landscapes</p>	<p>Revised provisional target: 2,000ha (equivalent to 80ha/year from 2022–2050)</p>	<p>The UK Government’s national target is 32,000 hectares per year. For the Broads, an initial target of 4,438ha was set, though it did not account for peat already under high water tables in floodplain fen. The Broads Peat Partnership focuses on 2,000ha of drained deep peat, engaging farmers to create peat-forming habitats, measured through schemes like ‘Fen creation,’ ‘Raised water table on peat,’ and ‘Reedbed creation.’</p> <p>With no constraints, 100% of this area could be restored. However, achieving these targets depends on overcoming several site specific challenges, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing permissions • Ensuring farm viability • Managing water storage and management costs • Addressing conflicts with other land uses and infrastructure
<p>Target 8: Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total</p>	<p>Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes</p>	<p>The Broads has a target of zero</p>	<p>The Broads is known for its open priority habitats and landscapes, with limited woodland mainly in wet areas of the Ant, Waveney, and Muckfleet valleys. While woodland</p>

<p>land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).</p>			<p>adds to the landscape, it is not a defining feature. Opportunity maps show limited suitable land for planting, and most proposals are refused due to conflicts with landscape character, species conservation, priority habitats, or deep peat areas. Tree-planting schemes are already well-covered at national and county levels.</p>
<p>Target 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"> • Metres of accessible path as a % of total path • Number of accessible toilets and rest stops • Number of disability accessible parking spaces • Number of accessible gates and gaps • Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment • Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary • Number of volunteer days • Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding 		<p>We are still awaiting a target to supplement these indicators. We do not yet know how this will be apportioned among the Protected Landscapes.</p>

	<p>has been created or improved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers 		
<p>Target 10: Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes</p>	<p>Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes</p>	<p>Currently 11% of Grade I & II* listed buildings are at risk.</p> <p>The data does not include Grade II. Grade I and II* only covers 55 of the 269 listed buildings in the Broads.</p>	<p>We are still awaiting a target for this indicator – the measurement may be challenging as adding buildings to the “at risk” register does not necessarily mean that there has been any change in the level of risk, it may simply mean that it has been recorded for the first time.</p> <p>The challenges of this indicator were discussed at the Broads Authority HARG group in June 2024, including the difficulty in compelling improvements to assets the BA does not own or control.</p>