

Forest of Bowland National Landscape - Management Plan Consultation 2026

Revisions Log

Revised Page no.	Location	Amendment	Reason
4	List of partners	to be added to final Plan	not shown in draft
5	Primary audiences list	Amend to read: Arm's-Length Bodies (ALBs) i.e. Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Historic England	To include all ALBs
8	para 1, end of sent 1	Amend to: During this period the area's iconic bird, the Hen Harrier, has gone through a cycle of fortunes, peaking with 39 chicks recorded in 2022 and 40 in 2025 (38.5% of the English breeding population). Continued efforts have also been made by RSPB staff and committed landowners and farmers to support our wading birds, in particular the curlew. Volunteer surveys, nest cams, temporary fencing and careful mowing have all contributed to favourable results locally. Sadly, fledging (due to weather, predation, habitat etc) remains below the required level (0.48-0.62) of fledged chicks per pair	To correct inaccuracies in data
8	final para, 1st sent	Amend to: This focus on inclusion and providing a warm welcome.....	typo corrected

10	added new section	Status and Purpose of the Management Plan All National Landscape partnerships are required by law (CRoW Act, 2000) to produce a five yearly management plan. This is therefore a statutory document, although it does not set out or impose any new policy or legal obligations. The Management Plan is.... ☐ A Statutory document ☐ A Advisory in nature ☐ O Often used as a 'material consideration' in planning decisions ☐ U Used to offer high level outcomes, guiding 'ways of working' and a suite of measures to support delivery ☐ U Used to support other plans and funding proposals ☐ S Supported by the National Landscape partnership and adopted by the local authorities which make up the landscape area. Some of the partners have regulatory powers (eg Natural England, Environment Agency) although the partnership itself is not a regulatory body ☐ L Led by policy, law, evidence and data and aims to deliver national and local plans that align with the statutory purposes (eg Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Environmental Improvement Plan, National Adaptation Plan) ☐ E For the place and the partnership, ie not the sole responsibility of the National Landscape team ☐ A Management Plan does NOT.... ☐ S Set out new legal or planning policy, obligations or regulations ☐ C Create new thresholds or prohibitions ☐ S Substitute for national or local policy ☐ E Express an opinion regarding land management techniques ☐ S Set out delivery plans or allocate resources ☐ O Offer a spatial plan ☐ P Provide a list of projects ☐ R Restrict lawful practice or land management activities	Taken from Executive Summary, to explain the status and purpose of the Management Plan which was often misunderstood by consultees
10	National Planning Policy para 1	Amend to read: Paragraphs 189 and 190 refer specifically to National Landscapes.	Corrected to replace the term AONB

13	para 3, sent2	Through protecting these areas and their inter-connectivity, along with improving the quality of habitats through investment via agri-environment schemes, LNRSs and other conservation and enhancement programmes	include reference to LNRS
13	bullet point 1	Amend to read: Identify wildlife-rich areas, protecting them and preventing damage from drainage, pollution, pesticides, 'nature-negative' management, over-exploitation, nutrient enrichment, invasive species, disturbance, and habitat destruction, and manage them to enhance biodiversity	Amended to include 'nutrient enrichment'
14	Table: line 4 asset	Amend to read: Veteran trees and historic designed landscapes	changed to include the word designed
14	para 2, Planning reform.... sent 2	Amend to read: While the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (2025) may offer local conservation opportunities through its Nature Restoration Fund, it could also weaken protections.	Amended to show date the law was enacted
15	para Updates to UK Forestry Stnd	Add initial sent: The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the technical standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. By setting out the approach of the 4 UK governments it provides guidance for foresters on how to practice sustainable forest management	Correction and definition added

16	Local context	add new para: Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) exist for both Lancashire County Council and North Yorkshire Council. These fall under the broader Local Transport Plans. These ROWIP's manage and enhance paths for walkers, cyclists, equestrians, and people with mobility issues. They focus on creating a more connected, accessible network, often replacing stiles with gates, improving signage, and reviewing the network's legality. LCWIP's also provide a strategy for infrastructure to enable and encourage people to travel via active modes with the eventual effect of reducing congestion and improving public health. Both the ROWIP and LCWIP's are integrated into their respective Local Authorities Local Transport Plans which also cover public transport policy.	To include reference to new plans and strategies
17	para Green Finance	add new sent after the 1st: Potential support is available via Nature North and Great North Bog, however, for both peatland restoration and general nature recovery initiatives.	to reflect regional funding mechanisms available
22	para 4 Rivers	Amend to read: The Rivers Ribble, Hodder, Lune and Wyre all originate in the upland core of the Bowland Fells. The headwaters provide some of the best breeding grounds in Lancashire for Atlantic salmon, grayling, brown trout and sea trout.	Amended to include the important river Hodder and the grayling fish
24	para 4, final para	Amend to read: Designed landscapes are evident today.....	removed quotation marks from the word designed

32	Vision para 1 & 2	Amend to read: The Forest of Bowland landscape retains its sense of local distinctiveness, notably the wide-open moorland character of the Bowland Fells, undulating lowland farmland, clough woodlands, traditional buildings and the settlement patterns of its villages, hamlets and farmsteads. The landscape, and the habitats found here, are of intrinsic value and are adapting to and resilient to the impacts of climate change. They provide services and benefits that people value – carbon storage and sequestration, clean air and water, flood resilience and increased health and well-being. The restoration of our species-rich hay meadows has gathered pace, and they are the equal of anywhere in the English uplands in their beauty, diversity and extent. Our peatlands are restored and managed as wetland ecosystems. Veteran trees are cherished and woodlands are well managed, protected, extended and reconnected as the treescape of the area changes. The names of the rivers Ribble, Hodder, Lune and Wyre are synonymous with clear, naturally flowing wildlife-rich watercourses. Our breeding waders thrive and the decline in our songbirds has reversed; our raptors, including the hen harrier that is so emblematic of Bowland, breed successfully, free from the persecution of the past.	Additions to reflect a variety of inputs about landscape, peatlands, communities, access, tourism and woodlands
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32	Vision para 3 & 4	Profitable farming and sustainable land management are at the heart of nature recovery and vice versa, and they sustain natural processes and help them to flourish. The partnership-working between farmers, land managers, conservation bodies, communities and businesses is focused on delivering more for nature together. The rich cultural heritage of the area is known for being well-understood and well-managed. Like our natural heritage, our cultural heritage is helping to support a resilient and sustainable local economy as demonstrated by the presence of vibrant villages with a good provision of local services for all ages. More people, whatever their circumstances, can responsibly enjoy all that Bowland has to offer through an excellent rights of way network and vibrant regenerative tourism sector. Local people are proud to live here, whilst communities from nearby towns like Preston and Colne think of it as their special place to visit close to home.	Additions to reflect a variety of inputs about landscape, peatlands, communities, access, tourism and woodlands
33	Core Principles	Amend to read: Ways of Working This section sets out the ways in which we expect everyone to work when delivering this management plan. The ways of working form a framework to guide good practice in Bowland, promoting ecological integrity, community well-being and economic sustainability.	Substituted 'core principles' for 'ways of working' to provide clarity on the status and purpose of the Plan and for this section in particular, as it was read by some as setting new policy or enabling 'mission creep'
33	1	amend to read: Recognise that farmers and land managers play the key role in conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of Bowland.	Emphasising the role of landowners and farmers
33	3	Amend sent 1 to read: Building meaningful partnerships between farmers, land managers, conservation bodies, Government arms length bodies (ALBs), local authorities and residents is essential for achieving their future conservation and	To include ALBs to the list
33	4	Insert after sent 1: The LNRs for Lancashire and York & North Yorkshire provide excellent evidence, ecological mapping and guidance for habitat creation, management and species specific support that should be followed by partners.	To better reflect the Plan's synergy with the LNRs

33	4	Amend sent 2 to read: Some species (e.g. raptors) and habitats (e.g. hay meadows, trees and woodland and peatlands) will need targeted interventions to reverse biodiversity loss or to ensure gains of the recent past are maintained.	To include trees and woodland in the example
33	6	Amend: It is necessary to understand, promote and safeguard the services and associated benefits that the landscape provides	deleted unnecessary technical jargon
33	6	Amend to read: Landscape and biodiversity has intrinsic value. It is also necessary to understand.....	to emphasise the intrinsic value of nature and landscape as well as its value to people
33	7	To amend to add final sent: Adaptive management should be incorporated into planning and review processes	in response to request to consider adaptive management
34	8	Amend sent 2 to read: Development within this protected area must be environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable, and the actions of the Relevant Authorities under LURA (see p4) must seek to further the purpose of designation by setting and adhering to planning policy which protects and enhances the National Landscape. Wherever possible job opportunities and services for residents, including public transport, should be generated by any development	Emphasises the role of RAs and reflects the need for any development to contribute to the social and economic environment
34	10	Amend example to read: Actions which are intended as beneficial should not have perverse consequences, e.g. they must not unintentionally bring about one environmental benefit at the expense of another, such as planting trees on important grassland sites or close to known wading bird sites	To clarify unintended consequences
34	11	Amend to read: Regulation and the law in general must be followed when delivering land management activity, to ensure its intended benefits for people, places and nature are delivered	To emphasise our duty to follow the law
35	16	To amend first sent: Decision making should be evidence led and underpinned by good data	For clarity
35	16	Amend sent 2 to read: There is still a paucity of good and up-to-date data on our biodiversity and heritage, whilst.....	To reflect the importance of heritage

35	16	added to final sent: via local records centres (LERN and NEYEDC).	to provide local reference
35	new 18	Add: 18: Good project management: Partners should follow good project management when planning and delivering actions linked to this Plan. These might include: use of evidence and sharing of data; acquisition of necessary permissions, permits, licences and consents; development of project-level Habitat Regulations Assessments as appropriate; use of surveys to assess needs and opportunities and of existing ecological and heritage mapping/data; thorough consultation and collaboration with a wide range of groups and organisations; use of local seed, suppliers, materials and labour wherever possible; an assessment of the carbon/GHG impacts of the proposal and any mitigation that can be carried out; good monitoring, evaluation, review and adaptive management processes; and identification of mechanisms for adjusting management where unintended consequences arise and identification of mechanisms for adjusting management where unintended consequences arise	To cover good working and project management approaches
35	new 19	To add: Reducing conflict: Given the number of stakeholders now involved in National Landscapes, both resident and visitors, it is important that mechanisms are in place to consider how co-existence between competing interests can be achieved. In all cases we advocate a collaborative approach, and advise reference to the IUCN Guidelines for Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence	Good practice suggested by stakeholder
38	Landscape forces for change intro para	amend to read: The Forest of Bowland landscape is, and will continue to be, the result of a close interplay between natural processes and active, human management. Climate change and the biodiversity crisis will further affect the fundamental character of the Forest of Bowland landscape.	Altered to better reflect the human management of the current landscape
38	Forces for change , opps bullet 8	Amend to read: Opportunities to restructure commercial forests through phased felling and restocking and the use of native broadleaves to assist in improving landscape value, whilst retaining commerciality.	to reflect the need for financial viability of woodland

40	Forces for Change, Dev & Rec, Opportunities	Add new opportunity: Potential for renewable energy micro-generation including hydro and roof-top solar where appropriate	generated by stakeholder
41	column 2 of all tables	Amend to read: Arm's-Length Bodies (ALBs) i.e. NE, EA, FC, HE	To reflect role of Historic England
41	measure 1D	Amend to read: Use local building materials (or appropriate, agreed alternatives), methods and styles for any new build or renovation works	Added in reference to suitable alternatives due to loss of some local material sources, eg quarries closed
42	measure 1G	Amend to read: Continue sustainable grazing to facilitate a healthy, diverse mix of vegetation. Where appropriate, manage grassland grazing to enable the natural regeneration of woodland and scrub.	To clarify the potential for woodland and scrub regeneration is not on moorland
42	measure 1i	add check mark to National & Local Gov and to conservation bodies and NGOs	corrected error
42	new measure 1K	add: Continue to consider opportunities for small, well designed renewable energy installations which do not impact on landscape character	stakeholder suggestion
43	Nature Recovery para 1, end of sent 1	Add: the hen harrier, merlin and lesser black backed gull	Names included for completeness
43	para 2, add after sent 4	Add: The Forest of Bowland National Landscape Partnership is fully committed to embedding the two local nature recovery plans into decision making and to delivering actions on the grounds based on their maps and measures. Partners will also contribute to data collection and exchange at Lancashire and North Yorkshire local records centres, and the monitoring of LNRS delivery.	Recognises the importance of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies in guiding delivery based on evidence and consensus

43	final para	Add: Partners are encouraged to consider and adhere to good practice in designing and implementing nature conservation activity - both the creation and management of habitats and species. For example, following up-to-date regulations and legal requirements; utilising national guidance; and implementing local principles such as the those given in the Lancashire LNRS for management of BHS sites.	to reiterate the technical and legal guidance available
44	changes in practice, pressures bullet 5	Amend text to: Lack of availability, uncertainty and consequent lack of commitment from farmers/landowners to signing up to new or long-term agreements (CSHT and SFI) – leading to less provision for nature and no new opportunities to improve land for nature	To reflect current terms used in agri-environment schemes
44	pressures list, bullet 7	Add: potential increase in wild fires	Recognises the importance of moorland management in lowering the risk and improving control of wildfires
44	pressures list, bullet 9	Amend to read: Potential impact of increased numbers of gulls on SSSI and SPA condition, with concerns expressed by some stakeholders regarding issues for farmers, ground nesting breeding birds and nutrient enrichment of the blanket bog	To reflect the current lack of published research on numbers and impact of the gulls
45	opportunities	Add to list of opportunities: grow the use and support of regenerative agriculture techniques which support nature recovery, and support for grassland restoration and nature friendly farming	Additional issues recognised
46	Development Pressures list, bullet 5	Amend to read: Introduction of shooting tracks on moorland can cause multiple and multi-faceted issues to plants and animals and hydrological fragmentation	Additional pressures recognised, referring to all moorland areas
46	Development pressures, new bullet	Add to list of pressures: Anthelmintics (worm treatments) have an impact on soil health through their impact on invertebrates and thereby impact on wading bird food supply. Also impact soil and water quality	Additional pressure recognised

47	new 1st para to Peatlands intro section	Add: Peatlands cover 21,100 hectares (26%) of the National Landscape, so it is a very important habitat and resource for the area. The principal land uses here are for water gathering and water quality regulation and for grouse shooting. Around 75% of the peatland in Bowland is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to its important blanket bog habitat, and breeding populations of Hen Harrier, Merlin and Lesser Black Backed Gull. The area is also internationally designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for the same bird populations. Currently most of this SSSI area is classified by Natural England as being in 'unfavourable' or 'unfavourable/recovering' condition, although conditions surveys are long overdue.	Added to provide greater context to the scale and importance of the peatland SSSI; and some of the issues faced there
47	end of 2nd para, before final sent	Add: Historic degradation was caused in part by agricultural policy to drain peatland, which at the time was fully lawful.	Recognises that past and current moorland management is within the law, and follows government policy
47	end of 2nd para	Add: Restoration should be accompanied by continued, appropriate management to ensure peatlands remain in good condition once restored, and are resilient to wild fire, drought and erosion.	Recognises the importance of ongoing management
47	after para 2, new paras added	Add: The potential for increased risk of wildfire is recognised, as are likely contributing factors including climate change, visitor pressure, degraded blanket bog and increased fuel load. It is recognised that existing moorland infrastructure and active land management (and its associated workforce) play a key role in the prevention and early identification of wildfire and wildfire risks. Wildfire severity can be reduced via a variety of approaches including habitat restoration and fuel load management.	Recognises the increasing risks of wildfire in the National Landscape area, the concerns and investment made by private estates, and some approaches to mitigation
48	measure 2B	Amend to read: Restore peatlands to support a diverse mosaic of vegetation; manage this utilising responsible and legal vegetation and stock management.	Specifically includes the role of vegetation management via cutting, and where legal, the controlled burning of heather

48	measure 2D	Amend to read: Support a more targeted and practical fire severity index through the development and implementation of up to date Fire Management Plans.	Recognises the existing role of these plans by land managers
48	Measure 2E	Amend to read: Carry out condition surveys and long-term monitoring of Bowland Fells SSSI and SPA, using a county-wide standard.....	This reflects our desire to see an increased scientific base to decision making across the area
48	measure 2G	Amend to read: 2G Avoid new permanent track construction, infrastructure or any other development on deep peat which requires planning permission	To reflect the importance of conserving deep peat
50	Title, Woodlands	Amend to read: Woodland, trees and hedgerows	To reflect terminology of Nature Recovery Plan, and the importance of trees and hedgerows
50	para 2, sent 2 and para 3	Add 'hedgerows'	Reflects role of hedges in addition to trees in the landscape
50	para 4 sent 2	Add ... 'and Nature Scot guidance on woodland flora'	Specific advice recommended
50	para 4 after sent 2	Add: Plastic tree guards should always be removed for recycling where these have been necessary and the role fulfilled. When planning new tree and hedge planting, real consideration should be given to the use of non plastic alternatives and trials of a 'no guards' approach when available and appropriate	To recognise the impact of plastics on the environment
51	measure 3G	Amend to read: Improve the aftercare of planted trees and woodlands, including the responsible control of deer, grey squirrel and other pest species, including the removal of plastic guards where these have been necessary	Encourages the responsible management of pests
52	add new measure 3J	Add: Carry out woodland heritage assessments and surveys, and provide appropriate management of woodland heritage features where these exist	recognises the importance of heritage assessments and surveys, and the conservation of features where found

53	measure 4B	Amend to read: Expand and connect areas of priority grassland through bespoke restoration and enhancement, using locally sourced seed and plug plants grown by volunteers, community groups and community business; followed by appropriate management practices	To encourage the development and support of local seed gathering, germination and growth of native wildflowers, trees and other plant materials; in particular by the voluntary and community sector
54	Measure 4D	Remove check mark (tick) under 'farmers and landowners	error correction
54	measure 4G	Amend to read: Appropriately manage purple moor grass and rush pasture, together with the management of dominant molinia grassland on moorland	to reflect the issue of moliina on moorland
54	measure 4H	Amend to read: Identify, map and record flood plain meadows and CHEGD grasslands to inform the delivery of conservation and creation works	to strengthen this measure to include the delivery of meadow and grassland creation and management
53	p53- para 5 and p54 measure 4H	Amend to read: including important CHEGD grasslands (those with rare grassland fungi), to enable their protection; and in 4H: delete 'Priority Habitat'	Correction: CHEGD are not currently classed as a Priority Habitat
55	new measure 4L	To add: Work in partnership to develop at least one landscape scale nature recovery programme, attracting private investment locally and via national funding schemes.	To reflect the work required to develop plans and secure funds for major programmes
56	Additional Nature Recovery Plan Targets	Add 'hectares' to target for permanent pasture	grammatical correction
57	Rivers and water para 2	Amend to read: Our vision is that rivers and watercourses should be clean, with fewer man-made in-channel features; be allowed to follow their natural course; incorporate heritage features; and be reconnected to their floodplains wherever possible.	To include reference to heritage features
57	measure 5B	Remove check marks from Landowners and farmers, and Conservation bodies and NGOs	error correction

58	new measure 5G	Add: Contain/reduce runoff from sheep-dip use to protect upper catchment watercourses, and prevent the associated impairment of olfactory function in Atlantic salmon	To include an action specific to the Atlantic Salmon: raised by several consultees as needing to be included. Action comes from the Lancashire LNRS
59	Champion Species, final para	Amend to read: The Black Grouse is known to have bred in Bowland in 2023 and 2024, and in 2019 the Fells were identified as an area to promote expansion within, due to the proximity of lecking (breeding) sites to the east of the National Landscape	correction of text stating Black Grouse not being known to have bred in the area recently
60	measure 6E	Amend to read: Survey the black grouse population in and near to Bowland.....	correction of text stating Black Grouse not being known to have bred in the area recently
60	Measure 6H	Add check marks (ticks) for all responsible partners	no check marks showing on this measure
62	PEOPLE end of para 1	Add: The Forest of Bowland is a living, working landscape, and it is vital that we recognise and support the rural communities and workforce that sustain it	Increased recognition of resident and working people in the landscape
63	add opportunity	Expand outreach activity within the communities surrounding the National Landscape	additional opportunity identified
64	ACCESS intro para, line 3	Amend to read:the Forest of Bowland National Landscape offers some of the UK's best countryside for walking cycling, riding, wildlife-watching and stargazing.	amended to include horse riders and carriage drivers (ie riders)
65	measure 7D	Amend to read: Seek to ensure that any existing permissive access routes continue. Promote and record these routes appropriately, especially where they provide important links to wider access within Bowland.	Include the need to promote and record routes
65	measure 7F	amend to read: Promote responsible and safe access for visitors to the countryside (e.g. Drone Code, Tick Code and Countryside Code: dogs and livestock, respect for fragile habitats, advice on water safety, fire-risk)	to include Drone and Tick codes as examples of responsible and safe behaviour guidance
67	measure 8A	Amend to read: Create inviting communications that highlight the year-round opportunities of the area for both communities and visitors, while giving due regard to Bowland as a working landscape.	Increased recognition of resident and working people in the landscape

69	Learning & Skills para 3, sent 2	Amend to read: These include 'traditional' skills like drystone walling, hedge laying, moorland and woodland management,	To include moorland management skills
69	measure 9B	Amend to read: Provide support to teachers to help them develop and deliver Bowland-related programmes, including links between food and farming, in the classroom and in the field	to broaden the remit to include food and farming
70	measure 9G	Add 'forestry' to list of careers	To reflect this identified need
73	PLACE intro , final para last line	Amend to read: The challenge lies in finding solutions that enhance the social and economic well-being of communities whilst also enhancing the quality of the environment.	substituted 'preserving' with 'enhancing'
74	opportunities bullet 4	Amend to read: Diversification of farms leading to increased provision of visitor accommodation and economically viable woodland management.	Added in woodland management
74	add new opportunity	Add: Existing network of parish and town councils facilitating delivery of initiatives which conserve and enhance the National Landscape	to reflect the role played by parish and town councils
75	Heritage intro, end of para 2	add: There are currently 4 Heritage at Risk sites in the Forest of Bowland	Missing data
75	Table headings	amend column 1 heading to read: National and Local Government and Arms Length Bodies (ALBs)	to reflect the role played by national heritage bodies and ALBs
77	Regen Tourism, intro text, new para after para 1	Add new para: The market towns of Clitheroe, Whalley, Lancaster, Settle and Bentham, together with high quality accommodation providers, offer strong opportunities to encourage visitors to explore further, shop locally and extend their stays. By increasing awareness of rail and bus services and strengthening links between these gateways and the wider Forest of Bowland, visitors can more easily choose low carbon, car free holidays. Enhancing connectivity through well designed active travel routes—such as walking and cycling links from stations and key hubs—helps make sustainable travel both practical and appealing, supporting local economies while reducing transport impacts on the National Landscape.	To expand this section to better reflect the local communities, infrastructure, and aims of regenerative tourism

77	measure 12A	To amend to read: Support the development and promotion of public transport and active travel options, including promoting rail and bus opportunities as key gateways into, and sustainable travel routes around, the National Landscape.	to include reference to the importance of train travel to regenerative tourism
79	Community Intro section, 3rd para	Revise to read: Some villages may have shops, schools and access to GP surgeries, but this isn't always the case and, where residents need to travel further afield, there is a reliance on private cars. The lack of public transport can be an issue for some. Parish councils are a vital layer of local government: often absorbing pressures with no additional funding.	expanded to include the importance of schools and parish councils
80	measure 13D	revise to read: Strengthen access to, and movement within, the Forest of Bowland through enhanced public transport options, whilst also actively promoting walking, riding and other forms of active travel	amended to include the term 'riding' to refer to all forms of riding not just cycling
81	Monitoring intro para 1, final sent added	Monitoring of local indicators within the Management Plan will also generate valuable data to support the tracking and reporting of nature recovery activities across Lancashire and York & North Yorkshire	Amended to include reference to the monitoring of LNRS activity
81	Local Indicators	line 10 amended to read: km of footpath improved/better managed (including bridleways, permissive routes and Open Access Improvements)	to include a range of rights of way