



**Forest of
Bowland
National
Landscape**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Screening Statement
Management Plan 2026-2031**

**Final Screening Determination
September 2026**

Executive Summary

This statement records the outcome of the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening process for the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2026-2031. The assessment concludes that the Plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

Key screening outcomes

Assessment question	Outcome
Likely significant environmental effects?	No
Full SEA required?	No
HRA likely significant effects identified?	No
Statutory consultees support the SEA conclusion?	Yes

1. Introduction

This Screening Statement has been prepared for the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2026-2031. It records the determination made following screening and consultation under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The legal name of the designation and its statutory management plan remains “Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty”. The term “National Landscape” is used elsewhere in this statement to reflect the current identity of the place and Partnership.

2. Background

Part IV, section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires relevant local authorities to prepare and review a management plan for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at intervals of no more than five years.

The Management Plan provides a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing natural beauty and for coordinating action on landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage, climate resilience, access, communities and sustainable land management. It does not allocate land, grant development consent or directly authorise development projects.

3. SEA Screening Assessment

The screening exercise considered whether the Plan falls within the scope of the SEA Regulations and assessed the likely significance of effects against the criteria in Schedule 1. The detailed assessment is reproduced in Appendix B.

- The Plan is strategic and does not itself authorise development or allocate sites.
- Environmental protection and enhancement are integral to the Plan's purpose and intended outcomes.
- Any future site-specific project would remain subject to the relevant consent, assessment and Habitats Regulations processes.
- The assessment identified no likely significant negative, cumulative, transboundary, long-term or irreversible environmental effects.
- The overall level of significance is recorded as unlikely to exhibit negative effects on the environment.

4. Consultation with Statutory Bodies

The draft SEA Screening Report was issued to the statutory environmental bodies for consultation.

4.1 Natural England

"Natural England have reviewed the document and agree that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will not be required for the Management Plan."

Natural England response, 27 February 2026, reference 538843.

4.2 Historic England

"We would concur with your assessment that document is unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects ... [and] endorse the conclusions that it is not necessary to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the document."

Historic England response, 2 March 2026, reference PL00801018.

4.3 Environment Agency

The Environment Agency raised no issues with the content of the Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environment Agency Response, 10 March 2026. By e-mail

5. SEA Determination

Formal Determination

Having regard to the nature and purpose of the Plan, the findings of the SEA Screening Report, the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening process and the statutory consultation responses, the Forest of Bowland National Landscape Partnership determines that the Management Plan 2026-2031 is not likely to have significant environmental effects within the meaning of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. A full Strategic Environmental Assessment is therefore not required.

6. Publication and Review

This Screening Statement should be published alongside the adopted Management Plan and the supporting assessment documents. The SEA conclusion relates to the Management Plan as screened. Any materially different proposals or subsequent projects should be considered under the applicable environmental assessment and consenting requirements.

Approval

Name	Tony Lund
Position	Partnerships Manager
Signature	ALund
Date	30/09/2026

Appendix A: Statutory Consultee Responses

The following documents informed the final screening determination:

Consultee	Date	Reference	SEA position
Natural England	27 February 2026	538843	Agreed that SEA is not required.
Historic England	2 March 2026	PL00801018	Endorsed the conclusion that SEA is not required.
Environment Agency	10 March 2026	By e-mail	No contrary representation recorded.

Appendix B: Detailed SEA Screening Matrix

Assessment against the criteria in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The matrix consolidates the detailed screening findings and the final determination.

Table B1. Characteristics of the Plan or Programme

Schedule 1 criterion	Assessment	Conclusion
Framework for projects and activities	The Plan provides a strategic framework for management of the National Landscape. It does not allocate land, identify development sites, grant consent or directly authorise projects. Future schemes remain subject to applicable project-level assessment and consent procedures.	No significant effects likely
Influence on other plans and programmes	The Plan promotes conservation interests within local authority plans and policies and contributes to other plans and programmes. Its influence is expected to support, rather than displace, statutory planning and environmental frameworks.	Positive influence
Integration of environmental considerations	Sustainable development and the conservation and enhancement of the components of natural beauty are central to the vision, outcomes and measures of the Plan.	Positive effects anticipated
Environmental problems relevant to the Plan	The Plan responds to biodiversity decline, climate change, habitat condition, landscape pressures, water and soil management, cultural heritage and sustainable access.	Positive response
Relevance to environmental legislation	The Plan supports delivery relating to protected landscapes, habitats, species, heritage, climate adaptation and nature recovery. It does not remove the need for project-level legal compliance.	Positive effects anticipated

Table B2. Characteristics of the Effects and Area Likely to be Affected

Schedule 1 criterion	Assessment	Conclusion
Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility	The Plan is conservation-led and is expected primarily to generate beneficial effects. No likely significant adverse effects have been identified. Where individual projects are developed, their effects will be assessed at the appropriate stage.	No significant adverse effects
Cumulative nature of effects	The Plan is expected to work alongside landscape, biodiversity, climate and land-management initiatives. The generally positive effects are not expected to combine to create significant adverse effects.	Positive cumulative effects
Transboundary nature of effects	The Plan applies to a defined protected landscape in England. No transboundary environmental effects are anticipated.	None identified
Risks to human health or the environment	No significant risks are identified. Measures are intended to improve environmental quality, ecosystem services, responsible access and resilience.	No significant risks

Schedule 1 criterion	Assessment	Conclusion
Magnitude and spatial extent	Effects are expected principally within the National Landscape and adjoining functional areas. The Plan does not directly authorise physical development.	Limited and positive
Value and vulnerability: special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	The area contains sensitive landscapes, habitats, designated sites and heritage assets. The Plan is intended to safeguard and enhance these features and to direct appropriate management.	Positive effects anticipated
Value and vulnerability: exceeded environmental standards or limit values	The Plan does not promote activities expected to exceed environmental quality standards or limit values.	No significant effects likely
Value and vulnerability: intensive land use	The Plan does not promote intensive land use and supports sustainable, less intensive and nature-positive management approaches.	No significant effects likely
Effects on protected areas or landscapes	The Forest of Bowland is a nationally protected landscape. The Management Plan is the principal strategic mechanism for conserving and enhancing its special qualities, and its interventions are intended to enhance landscape value.	Positive effects anticipated

Screening Conclusion

Having regard to the Schedule 1 criteria, the Management Plan is not considered likely to result in significant environmental effects. The Plan does not allocate land or authorise development, its intended effects are predominantly beneficial, and statutory consultees supported the conclusion that a full SEA is not required.

Appendix C: Source Documents

- Forest of Bowland National Landscape Partnership, Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2026-2031: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report, January 2026.
- Natural England, response to consultation on the Draft Forest of Bowland National Landscape Management Plan 2026-2031, 27 February 2026, reference 538843.
- Historic England, response on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report, 2 March 2026, reference PL00801018.
- Environment Agency, e-mail response to the consultation on the Draft Forest of Bowland National Landscape Management Plan 2026-31. 10th March 2026

Document Control

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