



**Arnside &
Silverdale**
National
Landscape

Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape

**Management Plan
(Consultation Draft)**

2026 – 2031

Our Vision

Arnside & Silverdale is a unique and celebrated landscape, where an intimate mosaic of low limestone hills, woodlands and grasslands meet the open sands, marshes and vast skies of Morecambe Bay. It is valued for its rich and diverse wildlife, outstanding geology and history.

The landscape is supported by strong local communities and rural businesses. There are many and varied opportunities for people to access, enjoy and understand the landscape and participate in its conservation and management.

The landscape is managed collaboratively with involvement from partners, farmers, landowners, communities and visitors. The landscape is resilient and its natural and cultural heritage is conserved for the future.



Purpose

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of Arnside & Silverdale



Place

Conserve and enhance the landscape and seascape, our rich and diverse biodiversity and geodiversity and the social and built heritage of Arnside & Silverdale.

Build resilience for habitats and species in the face of changing climate.

People

Improve access and opportunities for people to enjoy the countryside and to engage with their landscape.

Support and encourage local communities, farmers, foresters and stakeholders to conserve and enhance their landscape.

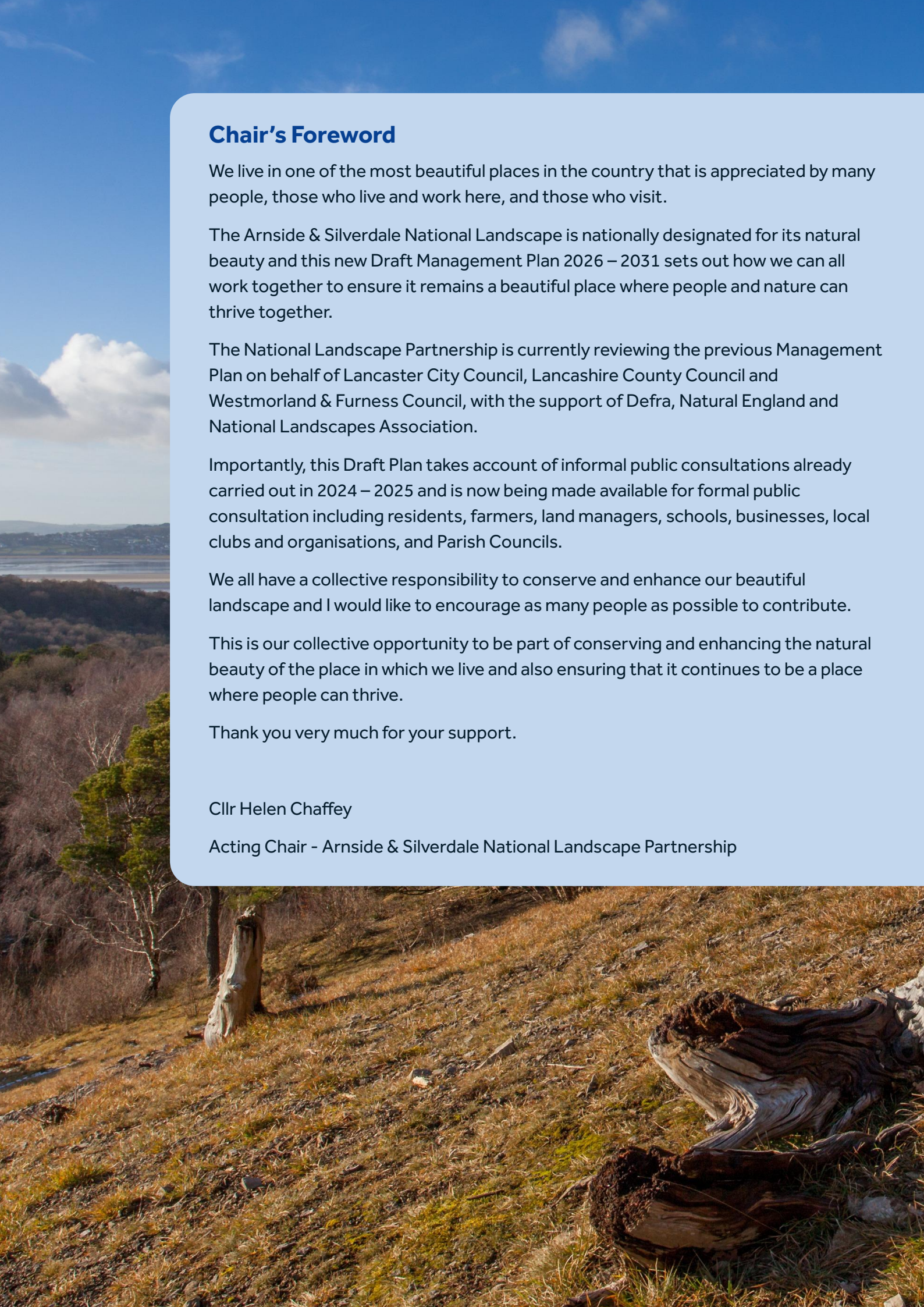


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Partnerships

Facilitate collaboration and partnerships across Arnside & Silverdale to achieve our shared ambitions for landscape

Increase capacity and resources for landscape and seascape conservation, explore innovative finance and new opportunities to support our work.



Chair's Foreword

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the country that is appreciated by many people, those who live and work here, and those who visit.

The Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape is nationally designated for its natural beauty and this new Draft Management Plan 2026 – 2031 sets out how we can all work together to ensure it remains a beautiful place where people and nature can thrive together.

The National Landscape Partnership is currently reviewing the previous Management Plan on behalf of Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and Westmorland & Furness Council, with the support of Defra, Natural England and National Landscapes Association.

Importantly, this Draft Plan takes account of informal public consultations already carried out in 2024 – 2025 and is now being made available for formal public consultation including residents, farmers, land managers, schools, businesses, local clubs and organisations, and Parish Councils.

We all have a collective responsibility to conserve and enhance our beautiful landscape and I would like to encourage as many people as possible to contribute.

This is our collective opportunity to be part of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the place in which we live and also ensuring that it continues to be a place where people can thrive.

Thank you very much for your support.

Cllr Helen Chaffey

Acting Chair - Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Partnership

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Purpose

The primary purpose of designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. Sustainable social and economic development, and enjoyment and recreation, are encouraged in ways that support the primary purpose.

The Management Plan

A Protected Landscape Management Plan is a statutory document; the responsible authorities (in this case the Local Authorities of Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and Westmorland and Furness Council) are required by law to jointly produce and review the Management Plan every five years (Part 4 S89 CROW Act 2000). Management Plans are of national importance and no major decisions that could affect the future of Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape should be taken without reference to this Management Plan.

The Management Plan establishes the joint management principles and strategic objectives of the responsible authorities. The Plan is for the geographic area of the designation and not for any one authority or body. It is an over-arching document that sets out the relevant strategic objectives, outcomes and actions for ensuring that the purpose of the designation is met.

The review of the Management Plan is a shared task and influenced by a collaborative partnership made up of local authorities, statutory agencies, farmers and land managers, businesses, community groups, residents, local and national charities and individuals.



Key Policy & Legislation Drivers and Dependencies

- Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, 2000
- Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Part 12, S245)
- Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) – see page 74
- Countryside Act 1968
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Climate Change Act 2008
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- National Planning Policy Framework 2024
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (ICUN)

Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 – Strengthened Duty

*CROW Duty: Part 4, S85 (1A) - In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty (National Landscape) in England, a relevant authority must **seek to further** the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.*

The National Landscapes Association has produced guidance for Local Planning Authorities and relevant decision makers on the application of the new duty here:

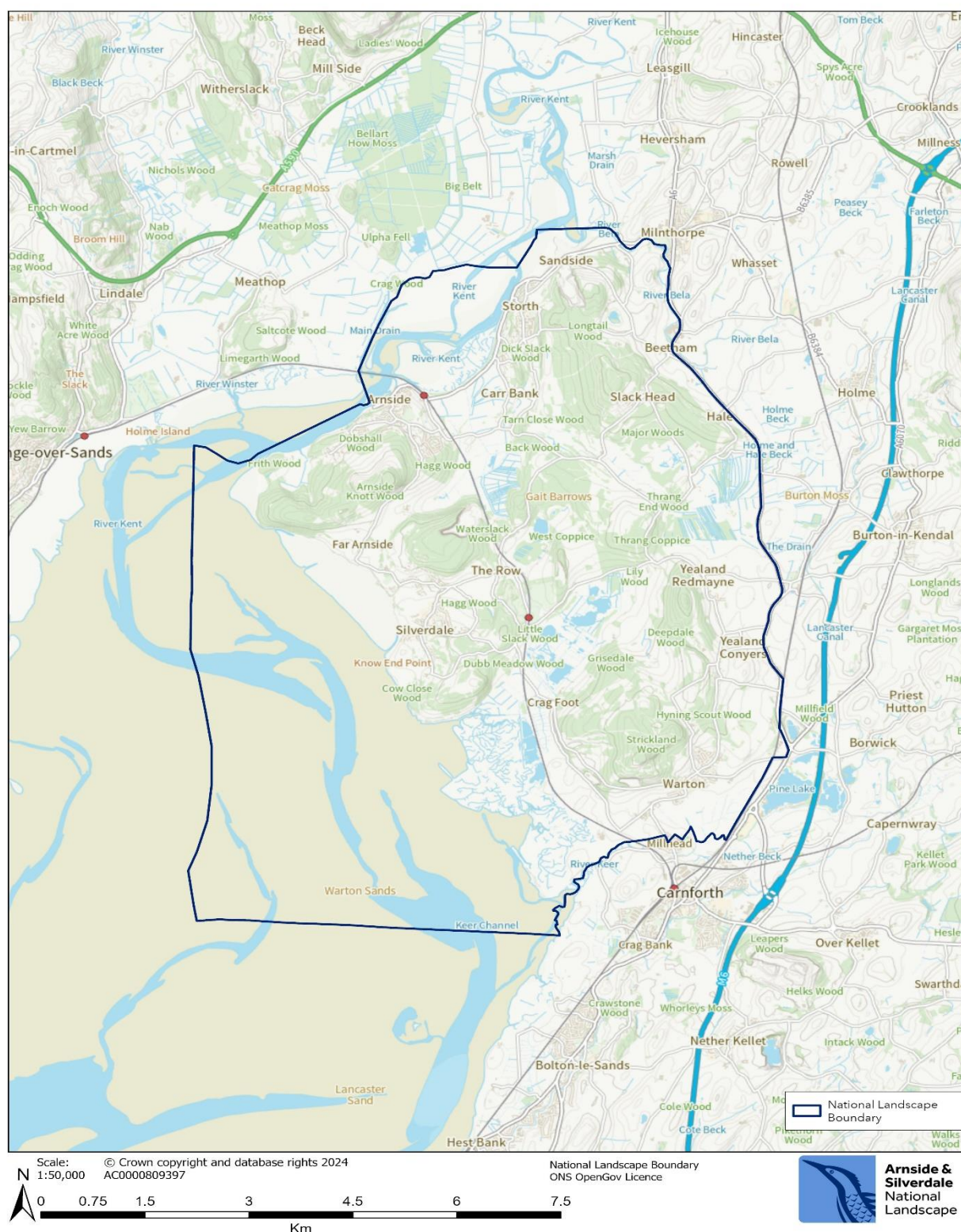
[CROW s.85 duty guidance for LPAs - NLA Briefing November 24](#) (External link)

Local Policy

- Arnsdale and Silverdale National Landscape (AONB) Development Plan Document 2019
- Lancaster City Local Plan (Climate Emergency Review) 2025
- Westmorland and Furness Local Plan (in development)
- Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
- Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) 2012 onwards

Introduction to the Landscape

Arnside & Silverdale is a unique landscape of national importance. Designated in 1972, it covers an area of approximately 75km² within south Cumbria and north Lancashire. The area is characterised by a diverse mosaic of low limestone hills, limestone pavements, woodlands, mosses, pastures and intertidal sand and mudflats along with distinctive settlements, historic buildings and heritage features. The landscape lies within the political boundaries of Westmorland and Furness, Lancashire County and Lancaster City Councils.



Special Qualities

The natural beauty of Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape is defined by its special qualities.

They describe the natural beauty of the area and are what makes the area unique and particularly distinctive. Together, the special qualities make the area nationally important and give it a strong 'sense of place'. The 2024 Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Special Qualities Report accompanies the National Landscape Management Plan; the report covers the special qualities in greater detail. They are summarised here:

Outstanding landscape and spectacular views

A highly diverse mosaic of limestone hills, woodlands, wetlands, pastures and coast, with spectacular views and an impressive setting

Unique limestone geology

Rare and distinctive Carboniferous limestone geology with extensive areas of limestone pavement, low coastal cliffs, extensive folding and faulting and notable fossil assemblages

Morecambe Bay – a stunning seascape

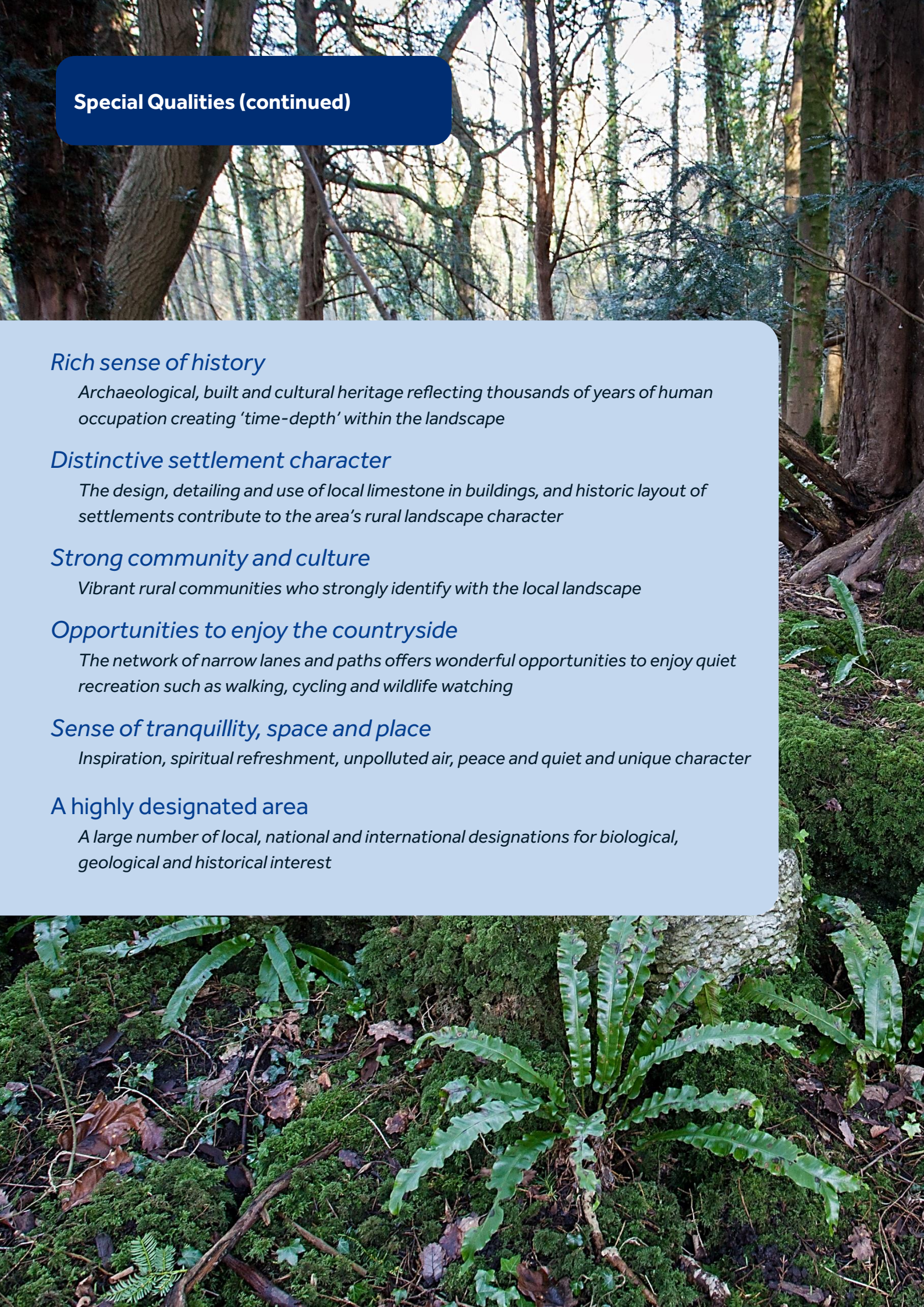
The largest intertidal area in the UK with extensive intertidal flats and saltmarshes supporting over one hundred thousand migratory waders and wildfowl over winter.

Rare and precious habitats

An outstanding number and mix of priority habitats within a small area creating a mosaic that is home to an amazing diversity of wildlife

Internationally and nationally important species

An amazing diversity of species many of which are uncommon in a national or international context



Special Qualities (continued)

Rich sense of history

Archaeological, built and cultural heritage reflecting thousands of years of human occupation creating 'time-depth' within the landscape

Distinctive settlement character

The design, detailing and use of local limestone in buildings, and historic layout of settlements contribute to the area's rural landscape character

Strong community and culture

Vibrant rural communities who strongly identify with the local landscape

Opportunities to enjoy the countryside

The network of narrow lanes and paths offers wonderful opportunities to enjoy quiet recreation such as walking, cycling and wildlife watching

Sense of tranquillity, space and place

Inspiration, spiritual refreshment, unpolluted air, peace and quiet and unique character

A highly designated area

A large number of local, national and international designations for biological, geological and historical interest

The State of The National Landscape

The requirement to monitor progress is built into every Management Plan review. The baseline data used to inform each review is collected and compiled into the State of The National Landscape Report at the end of each 5-year period. Each Strategic Objective from the 2019-2024 Management Plan has associated indicators and where data is available, results for each are given within the report. The report is not exhaustive and instead provides a snapshot of the condition of the Landscape.

Moving forwards, for the 2026-2031 Plan period, targets and indicators will align closely within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF).

A selection of headline data for Arnside & Silverdale is included in the tables below:

Spatial data is shown on the State of the National Landscape mapping portal:

[Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape](#) (External link to ESRI ArcGIS Webmap)

Headline Statistics

Landscape/Seascape Type ¹	Area (ha)
Intertidal Flats	2755
Bays, Saltmarshes and Lagoons	470
Inland pasture and parkland	950
Coastal Limestone Pasture	559
Wooded limestone hills and pavement	2108

Heritage Assets ²	
Category	Number
Scheduled monuments	10
Registered Parks & Gardens	1
Grade II	94
Grade II*	10
Grade I	6

Woodland Type ³	Area (ha)
Woodland coverage total	1560
Broadleaves	1421
Conifers	30
Felled	37
Mixed	52
Shrub	1
Young trees	20
Hedgerows	300km



¹ Arnside and Silverdale Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (LSCA) 2015

² [Search the Heritage at Risk Register | Historic England](#)

³ [Access Forestry Commission datasets - GOV.UK](#)

Ancient Woodland⁴	Area (ha)
Ancient Woodland	492
Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	164
Recorded veteran/ancient trees ⁵	122

Priority Habitat Type⁶	Area (ha)
Deciduous woodland	1381.2
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	321.6
Deciduous woodland, Limestone pavement	78.9
Lowland calcareous grassland	149
Coastal saltmarsh	483.9
Good quality semi improved grassland	132.8
Limestone pavement	14.8
Traditional orchard	5
Lowland fens	51
Lowland calcareous grassland, Limestone pavement	2.1
Maritime cliff and slope, Coastal saltmarsh	0.5
Lowland meadows	54.1
Lowland fens, Reedbeds	6.8
Mudflats	2483.7
Reedbeds	129.5
Lowland heathland	0.1
Lowland calcareous grassland, Maritime cliff and slope	1.1
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	5.7
Lakes, Lowland fens, Reedbeds	1.4
Maritime cliff and slope	1.8
Lakes	0.1
Reedbeds, Coastal saltmarsh	0.4
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, Coastal saltmarsh	0
Deciduous woodland, Maritime cliff and slope	0.2
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, Lowland meadows	0
Lakes, Lowland fens	4.5

Waterbody status ⁷		Figure
Total length of waterbodies within NL		14.57km
Total length of waterbodies by status	High	0
	Good	3.09km
	Moderate	5.67km
	Poor	0
	Bad	5.80km
% of waterbodies with high or good status		21.2%
Total number of lakes within NL		1 (bad condition)

⁴ [Ancient Woodland \(England\) - data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk)

⁵ [Woodland Trust Data](#)

⁶ [Priority Habitats Inventory \(England\) - data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk)

⁷ [England | Catchment Data Explorer](#)



Designation	Number of Sites	Area (ha)	% Coverage
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	2	3548	47%
Special Protection Area (SPA)	2	3312	43%
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	19	4079	54%
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	64	857	11%
Nature Reserves	10*	3448*	45%

Geology	Number of sites	Area
Geological SSSI	2	29.9ha
Local Geological Sites	10	443.5ha
Limestone pavement orders	16	1178ha

SSSI Feature Condition ⁸	Number of Features
Favourable	35
Unfavourable - recovering	26
Unfavourable – no change	11
Unfavourable - declining	4
Destroyed / part destroyed	0
Not recorded	43
Total Number of Features	119
% SSSI features in favourable condition	29.4%
% SSSI features with actions 'on track'	4.2%

Access⁹

Public rights of way	112.3km
Open access land	1250ha
National cycleways	32km
Tramper routes	9km

Demographics¹⁰

Population	7400
Average age	53
White	99%
Mixed, multiple ethnic groups	1%
Average monthly earning	£2100
Average housing affordability ratio	7



⁸ [Site Search](#) – Natural England Designated Sites Search

⁹ Lancashire County Council, Westmorland and Furness Council - [Open Government Licence](#)

¹⁰ [Search - Office for National Statistics](#) – ONS Census 2021

Economy¹¹

Economically Active	45%
Unemployed	1%
Economically inactive	54%
L1-3 Higher professional occupations	19%
L4-6 Lower professional occupations	26%
L7 intermediate	11%
L8-9 Small employers & own account	14%
L10-13 Technical, semi routine & routine occupations	21%
L14 Other	5%
L15 students	4%

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2022)¹²	Kt CO₂e
Industry	11.9
Commercial	2.6
Public sector	0.9
Domestic	13.2
Transport	5.6
Land-use change & forestry (LUCF)	-2.5
Agriculture	11.0
Waste	2.7
Total emissions	45.5
Per-capita emissions	0.0061 (6.1t per capita)
Per km² emissions	0.6



¹¹ [Search - Office for National Statistics](#) – ONS Census 2021

¹² [UK greenhouse gas emissions: local authority and regional - data.gov.uk](#)

Themes

The Management Plan is split into three themes for delivery. Each theme represents an aspect of delivering the primary purpose.

Place

A landscape alive with nature and beauty

People

A landscape for everyone

Partnerships

Working together for landscape

The three themes are split into Strategic Objectives, each defining a set of desired outcomes and the actions needed to secure them.

The Strategic Objectives, Outcomes and Actions are the core of the Management Plan. They identify the ambition for the landscape, set out the key drivers for change and define the actions that the partnership will work towards over the plan period.



Strategic Objectives

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S1 Landscape & Seascape

Conserve, enhance and improve understanding of the natural beauty, landscape and seascape of Arnside & Silverdale

Arnside & Silverdale is a unique limestone landscape, defined by the underlying carboniferous limestone. The area is a rich and intimate mosaic of wooded limestone hills, limestone pavement and coastal cliffs, freshwater reedbeds and wetlands, flower-rich grasslands and undulating farmed pastures. From the crests of the low hills and gaps in the coastal woodlands there are wide, sweeping views across the untamed channels, mudflats and marshes of Morecambe Bay.

Thousands of years of interaction between humans and nature have shaped the landscape's distinctive character, creating a living patchwork of contrasting habitats crossed by traditional stone field boundaries and ancient hedgerows. The villages are part of the historic fabric of the landscape, retaining medieval settlement patterns, limestone farms and barns, parish churches, grand regency country houses, seaside Victorian mansions and modest workers' cottages and terraces. Elsewhere, there are relics of the area's industrial past with quarries, railway cuttings, kilns and chimneys now hidden amongst native woodlands and pasture.

The area's distinctive character and combination of scenery, history, abundance of wildlife, peace and quiet, and culture is what makes the area unique. For many, this very particular sense of place is the primary motivation to visit and creates a strong connection with this landscape for residents and communities. The area benefits from low light pollution, with dark skies offering good stargazing opportunities. On rare occasions the Northern Lights are visible.



The landscape and seascape is under threat from the effects of climate change. These threats are wide reaching and require significant national and international action to mediate and resolve. Within Arnside and Silverdale, drier summers and wetter winters affect the mosaic of habitat niches and the species they support. Invertebrates, particularly butterflies are impacted by storm events, changing temperatures and the unpredictability in seasonal change. The undeveloped coast is at risk of sea level rise, changes to patterns of erosion and deposition alter the structure and hydrology of saltmarshes and heavy rainfall is impacting low-lying coastal grasslands and peatlands. The land managers and communities within the landscape contribute both towards mitigating the causes and impacts of climate change and to climate change adaptation; ensuring habitats, species, farmland and infrastructure are resilient and can withstand the changes predicted.

S1 Landscape & Seascape

Outcomes

- 1) A unique and beautiful area where landscape and seascape character and the area's special qualities are understood, valued, conserved and enhanced
- 2) A landscape resilient and adaptive to climate change

Drivers for Change

- Strengthened 2023 LURA duty on relevant authorities to 'seek to further' the purpose of designated landscapes
- Legislative and policy drivers at international, national and local levels.
- Increased pressures on landscape from development, tourism, recreation and demographic change.
- Developing and worsening impacts of climate change means that mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures need to be integrated into all aspects of work. If there are opportunities within any project to reduce impact, build resilience and increase carbon sequestration these should be integrated into project design and delivery
- Changing visitor audiences and potential to develop new audiences with an interest in landscape
- Landscape is being further recognised for its value to health and wellbeing

Indicators of Success

- Sky Quality Monitoring (SQM) surveys
- Number of projects delivered with the potential to mitigate or adapt to Climate Change
- National Landscape Climate Change Adaptation Plan developed and adopted

Key Partners

- Farmers and landowners
- Local Authorities
- Parish Councils
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Forestry England & Forestry Commission
- Historic England
- National Landscapes Association
- eNGOs including National Trust, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust
- Friends of The Lake District (FLD), CPRE The Countryside Charity
- Morecambe Bay Partnership

S1 Landscape & Seascape Actions

- 1a Recognise that the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape and seascape is the primary purpose of the designation. Take a holistic landscape-first approach to the work of the National Landscape Partnership.
- 1b Utilise the Arnside & Silverdale Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (LSCA) as the basis for policy and decision making. Periodically review and update the LSCA.
- 1c Apply the principles of the European Landscape Convention and use landscape and seascape characterisation as the basis for policy and decision making.
- 1d Improve understanding and awareness of the landscape designation, its purpose and the wide range of public benefits provided by landscape. Improve recognition and understanding of the National Landscape Partnership.
- 1e Maintain the sense of tranquillity within the landscape. Explore opportunities to enhance tranquillity of the area and sense of 'peace and quiet' through appropriate project design.
- 1f Improve the quality of dark skies within the landscape, reduce the impacts of light pollution and follow the principles of lighting only where necessary. Increase awareness and appreciation of the value of dark skies to wildlife, tranquillity and people's health and well-being.
- 1g Support, encourage and deliver tangible projects and interventions to mitigate the causes and impacts of climate change across the landscape and within the area's communities and built environment.
- 1h Develop a climate adaptation plan for the landscape containing an assessment of the principal risks and opportunities and proposed actions for adaptation.
- 1i Support and contribute to existing local climate change plans and strategies such as Lancaster City Council Climate Change Action Plan and Westmorland & Furness Council Climate Action Plan.
- 1j Explore opportunities to develop and support the implementation of specific risk management plans, including mitigation plans and local response plans for wildfire risk in the landscape.

1c - European Landscape Convention

The Convention aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe. It covers all landscapes, both outstanding and ordinary, that determine the quality of people's living environment. The text provides for a flexible approach to landscapes whose specific features call for various types of action, ranging from strict conservation through protection, management and improvement to actual creation.

[Council of Europe Landscape Convention / Official website - Council of Europe Landscape Convention](#) (External link)

1b - Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment

The landscape is defined within the Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (LSCA), with nine distinct landscape character types found within the designated boundary.

- Intertidal flats
- Bays, saltmarshes and lagoons
- Lowland moss
- Coastal limestone pasture
- Inland pasture and parkland
- Wooded limestone hills and pavements
- Drumlin farmland
- Low, coastal drumlins
- Lowland valley and coastal margins

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment, Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership and Land Use Consultants, November 2015

[Arnside & Silverdale | Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment](#) (External link)

1i - Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Adaptation relates to the actions that protect the landscape from the impacts of climate change. This is linked but separate from emissions reduction actions; it is about building resilience and managing risk.

The UK's National Adaptation Programme (NAP) is a rolling 5-year cycle of climate adaptation planning, assessment and monitoring. As part of this, National Landscapes and their host authorities are required to develop landscape-specific adaptation plans. The next planning cycle is 2028 – 2033 (NAP4), by which time all landscapes will have climate adaptation plans in place.

[Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) - GOV.UK](#) (External link)



S2 Geodiversity

Conserve, enhance and improve understanding and appreciation of our geological heritage.

The distinctive Carboniferous limestone geology underpins the landscape, unifying its character and creating the conditions that have allowed the wide diversity of habitats to develop. The limestone landscape formed in shallow, warm seas 330 million years ago, over a period of some 10-15 million years at a period in history where the region was part of the 'Pangea' or supercontinent located near the equator. Around 280 million years ago, during a period of mountain building caused by continental collisions, the Carboniferous rocks were uplifted and folded into a broad dome. This dome was then eroded, exposing the higher fells of the Lake District and leaving a ring of limestone around a mountainous core. The southern part of the ring, which includes Arnside & Silverdale, was extensively folded and faulted and the exposed rock was subsequently eroded by ice and dissolved by rainwater over time, creating the landforms we see today.

These limestone deposits contain a time capsule of life within the warm ancient oceans in the form of complex fossil beds. These fossils are records of continental shelf coral reef systems, as rich and diverse as modern tropical coral reef. Trowbarrow quarry holds a rich microfossil assemblage and is regarded as one of the most important limestone shelf localities in England. Elsewhere, at Far Arnside the erosion of salt marsh has exposed lower carboniferous coral fossils, one species of which was previously unknown to science before its discovery in 2001.

About 2 million years ago the Earth's climate cooled, allowing the development of glaciers and ice sheets which, at their maximum covered most of mainland Britain. These cold episodes were called Glacials and were separated by warmer Interglacials. The upstanding Carboniferous limestone blocks were scoured by ice which swept away overlying soils and preferentially eroded weaker beds of limestone. Exposed on the surface, the limestone has been weathered during the warmer climatic periods by moderately acidic water. This solutional erosion of the limestone has produced a range of characteristic features collectively known as karst (or paleokarst) landforms, such as dolines, polje and limestone pavements. These glacial features extend into Morecambe Bay with skears, scars and moraines protruding from the sands, revealed and re-covered by the movement of the tides and shifting of the channels.

This varied and fascinating geological history is nationally important and recognised and protected through a range of designations. The habitats and species supported by the landscape are inextricably linked to the area's geology as is the landscape's industrial and social history.



S2 Geodiversity

Outcomes

1. The Geodiversity of the area is in favourable condition
2. Local Geodiversity is researched and understood

Drivers for Change

- Encroachment of scrub and vegetation on valuable geological sites and exposures.
- Continued enforcement of geological designations, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Geological Sites (LGS) and Limestone Pavement Orders
- The need for updated interpretation and education around local geology, finding opportunities to engage new audiences.
- Strong local support through active local geological conservation groups such as Cumbria Geoconservation and GeoLancashire

Indicators of Success

- Condition of Geological SSSIs and Local Geological Sites
- Development and adoption of a Local Geodiversity Action Plan

Key partners

- Local Authorities
- Natural England
- Cumbria Geoconservation
- GeoLancashire
- Landowners and managers
- Universities and research institutions
- Morecambe Bay Partnership

4d - Cumbria Geoconservation

Cumbria Geoconservation (CGC) is a voluntary geological conservation group working to record, maintain and enhance important geological sites across the county. The group maintains an interactive mapping platform of sites of geological interest, an online catalogue of relevant publications and plays a key part in the identification, assessment and designation of Local Geological Sites (LGS).

[Cumbria Geoconservation](#) (External link)

Geodiversity Actions

- 2a Conserve and positively manage geodiversity, including both statutory (Special Areas of Conservation, Limestone Pavement Orders, SSSI) and non-statutory (Local Geological Sites) sites and also non-designated geological features and assets of interest where they occur

- 2b Raise awareness of the importance of geodiversity as part of the landscape character and natural and cultural heritage of the area. Utilise content and recommendations of existing work such as the AONB Geology Audit and Assessment to support interpretation and education of geodiversity on local sites of geological significance.

- 2c Where possible, integrate geodiversity within interpretation of other aspects of landscape interpretation such as industrial history and biodiversity.

- 2d Support actions of local organisations involved with Geodiversity conservation such as Cumbria Geoconservation and GeoLancashire.

- 2e Continue support of the area's Geotrails, a series of self-guided walks around notable geological sites within the landscape produced and published by the Arnsdale & Silverdale Landscape Trust. Explore opportunities to review, update and expand the existing network of Geotrails.

- 2f Develop a Local Geodiversity Action Plan to provide a framework for conserving, managing and raising awareness of the geodiversity within the landscape.

2e - Arnsdale & Silverdale Landscape Trust Geotrails

The Arnsdale & Silverdale Geotrails are a series of self-guided walks curated and published by the Arnsdale & Silverdale Landscape Trust. Originally created by local geologist Peter Standing, the trail routes take in a range of notable and interesting geological features, explaining each *in situ* and providing information on their history and formation.

The Geotrails are available for purchase from the Landscape Trust. The format has been highly successful and there is ambition for the creation of new routes and new Geotrail leaflets, both on paper and in digital formats.

2f – Geodiversity Action Plan

Informed by the 2019 Geology Audit and Assessment, recommendations were made to develop a targeted action plan for important geological sites within the landscape.

A Geodiversity Action Plan will outline measures to conserve, improve understanding and celebrate the geodiversity of the area and guide the work of the National Landscape Partnership.

Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape Monitoring Project – Geology Audit and Assessment, Cuesta Consulting January 2019

[Final Geology Audit and Assessment Report - DocsLib](#) (External link)

S3 Biodiversity

Secure the long-term recovery, conservation and enhancement of protected and priority habitats and species across the National Landscape, taking a Biodiversity-first management approach in all our work.

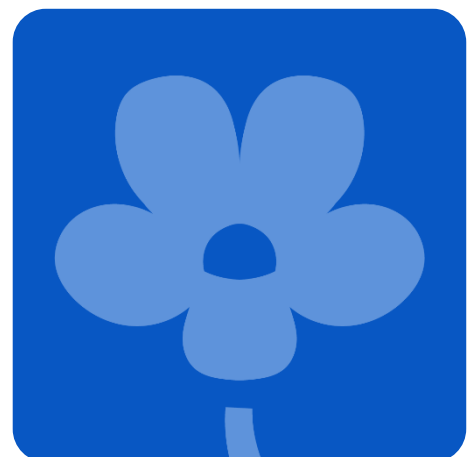
Arnside & Silverdale is home to an amazing diversity of wildlife. The concentration, variety and importance of the wildlife in relation to the size of the area is a unique quality of the landscape. The geological past of the area has created an unusual and varied range of landform, soil conditions, hydrological conditions and micro-climates which support an equally varied number and range of species.

The area supports almost half of England's 56 priority habitats (as listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities NERC Act 2006). These habitats are of principle importance nationally, either due to their scarcity, national declines or importance for priority species. Priority habitats which can be found within the landscape are: traditional orchards; hedgerows; coastal saltmarsh; intertidal mudflats; maritime cliff and slopes; oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes; ponds; rivers; lowland calcareous grassland; lowland meadows; lowland raised bog; inland rock outcrop and scree; limestone pavement; estuarine rocky habitats, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh; lowland fen; reedbed; lowland mixed deciduous woodland; upland mixed ashwood; wet woodland; and wood pasture and parkland.

These habitats support an outstanding diversity of plants, mammals, invertebrates, fish and fungi, many of which are uncommon or rare nationally. The geography of the landscape means it lies within an overlap zone for many species with either a northerly or southerly distribution. For example, amongst the butterflies, the northern species Scotch Argus and Northern Brown Argus are found here at the southern edge of their UK range while populations of the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, Pearl Bordered Fritillary and Duke of Burgundy occur at or near their UK northern range limits.

Well over half the UK's flowering plant species have been recorded in the landscape, including 29 nationally rare and 48 nationally scarce species, 15 of which are British native orchids. The landscape is one of the few locations inhabited by the endemic Lancaster Whitebeam, a rare tree of limestone cliffs and screes only found around Morecambe Bay.

Leighton Moss is home to reedbed specialists Bittern, Marsh Harrier and Bearded Tit. The saline lagoons and saltmarsh host breeding Avocet, Redshank and a colony of Black-Headed gull. Ancient woodland and parklands host the nationally scarce



Hawfinch. Over winter, the vast expanse of Morecambe Bay is used by over a hundred thousand migratory wading birds and wildfowl as their primary wintering grounds.

Otter, deer and badger are widespread throughout the landscape. The mosaic of woodland coppice, pavement and scrub has seen recent re-introductions of Hazel Dormice. A small population is now present in the area and early monitoring efforts to assess the success of colonisation are promising.

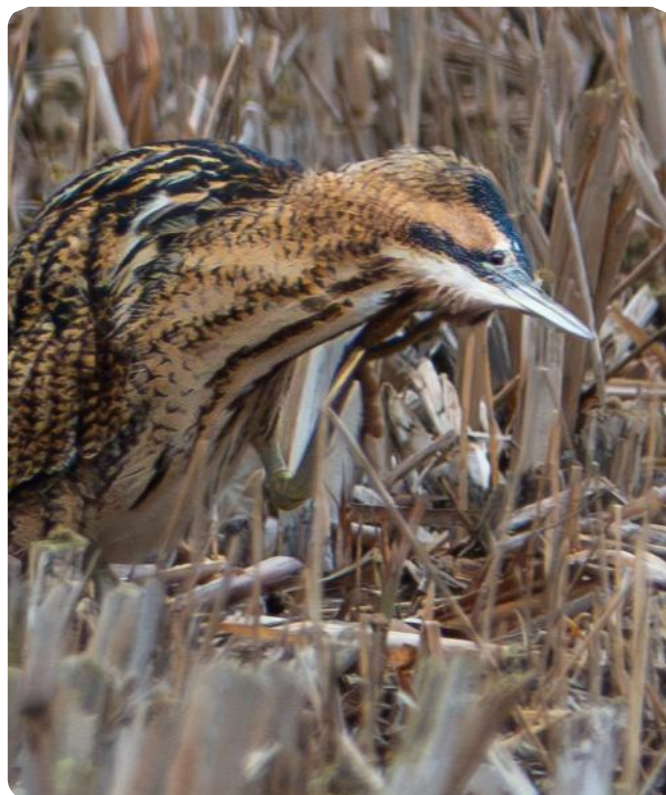
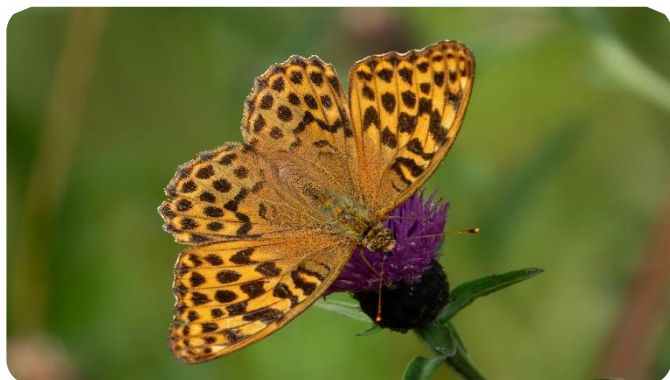
The National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan

The 2025 National Landscape Nature Recovery plan sets out the actions required to conserve and recover nature within the landscape and defines targets which contribute towards the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF). The PLTOF intends to support all Protected Landscapes; including National landscapes and National Parks to set targets towards national nature recovery targets. The Nature Recovery Plan reflects and supports the Habitat and Species outcomes within the Management Plan and provides further detail on the specific actions required for each suite of habitats.

The habitats and species targets across both plans are in turn supported by the Cumbria and Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). All documents should be considered when developing nature conservation projects to ensure that projects are coherently contributing towards the strategic outcomes.

[Homepage / Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (External link)

[Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Lancashire County Council](#) (External link)



S3 Biodiversity

Outcomes

1. Expansion and enhancement of the distinctive mosaic of high quality, well connected coastal and limestone habitats and the abundant and diverse species the habitats support
2. A landscape resilient to climate change where land management protects and increases biodiversity.
3. Nature is highly valued by the people who live in, work in and visit the area and is seen as integral to the character, history and future of the landscape

Drivers for Change

- Varied and widespread impacts of climate change on the extent, condition and resilience of habitats and species.
- Significant structural change to Agri-Environment Scheme grants, and the complexity and availability of payments to enable land managers to conserve and enhance the landscape.
- Recent changes, delays and 'moving goalposts' has affected the confidence of land managers with Agri-Environment Grant applications locally, particularly following the withdrawal and reinstatement of Sustainable Farm Incentive (SFI) in 2025.
- Inconsistent monitoring, particularly of designated sites means decision-making and prioritising work can suffer due to a lack of information.
- Lack of resource for conservation management, particularly of the network of Local Wildlife Sites, and non-designated priority habitat.
- Recreational disturbance by locals and visitors, particularly of coastal birds.
- Isolated populations of scarce and rare species, particularly invertebrates in the area leading to low genetic diversity and increased risk of loss from single events.
- Deer and grey squirrel management, particularly relevant for woodland habitats.
- Presence and expansion of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)
- Plant pathogens such as Ash Dieback
- Scrub encroachment and undermanagement of species-rich grasslands and open limestone pavements
- Overgrazing of saltmarsh and wetlands
- Mammalian predation pressure on declining species, particularly ground-nesting birds
- Agricultural intensification and loss of 'restorable' habitats to land improvement, drainage and agricultural inputs.
- Poor water quality, diffuse agricultural pollution and marine/aquatic litter and micro plastic contamination
- Emerging research over potential (positive and/or negative) impacts of gamebird release on native species and habitats. Opportunities to better understand interactions between released gamebirds and native species.

Indicators of Success

- Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework. Targets 1 – 8 (see Page 73).
- Positive results of the various ongoing biodiversity monitoring programmes specified within the Nature Recovery Plan, including:
 - o Quality and extent of priority habitats
 - o Stable/increasing priority species populations
 - o Long-term success of species re-introductions
- Relevant Lancashire and Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) indicators

Key Partners

- Natural England
- Local Authorities
- Parish Councils
- eNGOs including National Trust, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust, The Rivers Trusts
- Morecambe Bay Partnership
- Landowners and managers
- DEFRA
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission and Forestry England
- Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC) & Lancashire Environmental Records Network (LERN)
- Arnside & Silverdale Landscape Trust
- Local naturalists, species specialists and biological recorders
- Universities and research institutions



Biodiversity Actions

General

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3a | Make tangible progress towards Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) targets. 60% of SSSI have 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 2028 with a longer-term target of over 80% of SSSI features in favourable condition by 2042, equating to over 96 of 119 total SSSI features in the National Landscape. |
| 3b | Ensure the network of Local Wildlife Sites are maintained in good ecological condition and under positive management. |
| 3c | Ensure all areas of priority habitat are in favourable management |
| 3d | Raise awareness of the importance of wildlife as part of the landscape character and natural and cultural heritage of the area. Support and encourage opportunities for people to engage with nature through education, interpretation, themed events and activities. |
| 3e | Where possible, integrate biodiversity within interpretation of other aspects of landscape interpretation such as geology, heritage and social/cultural history |
| 3f | Raise awareness of the importance of monitoring Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the landscape and support actions to control INNS where they present a risk to protected sites, priority habitats and priority species. INNS of most relevant concern include <i>crassula helmsii</i> (New Zealand Pygmyweed), <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp, <i>Buddleia</i> spp, Himalayan Balsam and Chinese Mitten Crab. |
| 3g | Support legacy work of previous projects to reintroduce protected species to the landscape such as Hazel Dormouse. Explore project opportunities for future reintroductions and recolonisation of appropriate species within the landscape. |
| 3h | Take targeted action for key priority species included with the Arnside & Silverdale Nature Recovery Plan and any other rare or notable species where they occur within the landscape. Ensure that management requirements for priority species are accounted for in relevant Nature Reserve and associated Land Management plans |

3h Priority Species

Arnside & Silverdale is home to a range of nationally rare and scarce birds, butterflies, other invertebrates, plants and fungi.

The Arnside & Silverdale Nature Recovery Plan contains a list of priority species for which targeted actions are needed over and above the management of the habitats which support them. These species are a particular focus for the conservation organisations managing Nature Reserves within the landscape.

Priority species include the Duke of Burgundy and Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterflies, rare plants such as Green-winged Orchid and Spiked Speedwell, nationally threatened birds including Great Bittern, Redshank and Hawfinch as well as the locally endemic Lancaster Whitebeam.

Coastal and Marine Habitats

Mudflats and saltmarshes cover almost 40% of the Landscape area. These wild and often inaccessible habitats are constantly changing and the species which rely on them have evolved to exploit this dynamic shifting of tides and seasons.

A massive diversity of invertebrates, bivalves, fish and plankton supports over 100,000 migratory wading birds and wildfowl each autumn and winter.

Coastal & Marine

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3i | Maintain/improve quality and extent of high value saline influenced habitats. Create a further 6ha of priority saline-influenced habitat. |
| 3j | Significantly reduce grazing pressure on grazed saltmarsh. Seek a shift change in management from heavily sheep grazed marshes to ungrazed or (very) lightly cattle/pony grazed marshes. |
| 3k | Seek to progress projects included within Shoreline Management Plans and the Nature Recovery Plan to re-naturalise the 'hard' coast and mitigate climate change. |
| 3l | Manage for a more flexible and dynamic coast. Increase successional dynamism of saltmarsh habitats. Seek interventions to promote accretion and early stage 'pioneer' marsh and shingle habitats. |
| 3m | Restore Hydrology and wet features on saltmarshes to reverse damage caused by historic drainage and increase resilience to climate change impacts. |
| 3n | Reduce anthropogenic impacts on coastal habitats and species; seek to significantly reduce recreational disturbance pressure on winter high tide roosts and coastal breeding birds. Identify key sites and explore opportunities for improved signage, public engagement and interpretation, on-site access management and provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) where required. Ensure that the approaches to recreational disturbance mitigation in the landscape are consistent and compatible with the recreational disturbance mitigation approach utilised elsewhere within Morecambe Bay. |

3n Recreational Disturbance

Recreational disturbance refers to both direct and indirect disturbance of wildlife caused by people when undertaking recreational activities, notably walking with dogs off-lead. There is an established body of evidence showing how increased levels of public access can have negative impacts on wildlife. These impacts become particularly acute on coastal sites.

Recreational disturbance has been the subject of extensive local research and study and is recognised by Natural England, Local Authorities and eNGOs as being a significant risk to the condition and integrity of coastal and marine designated sites.

Morecambe Bay Bird Disturbance and Access Management Report (for Morecambe Bay Partnership), Footprint Ecology, May 2015

[Liley et al. - 2015 - Morecambe Bay Bird Disturbance and Access Manageme.pdf](#)

Trees and Woodlands

Woodland covers approximately 43% of the terrestrial landscape area. The majority of this is upland mixed ash woods (NVC W9 and W13), the calcareous substrate and light shade of this woodland type is generally characterised with a species-rich ground flora. Much of this habitat will also be ancient woodland, as defined by over 400 years of near-continuous woodland cover.

The woodlands in the landscape form part of a much larger network of limestone ash woods across South Cumbria and support a range of scarce and notable species. There are 300km of hedgerows within the landscape, making up historic field boundaries that have not significantly altered in hundreds of years.

Trees & Woodlands

- 3o Maintain/improve quality and extent of high value native woodland and historic parkland within the landscape.

- 3p Maintain condition of notable Veteran/Ancient trees present in the landscape and increase identification, monitoring and protection of individual Veteran/Ancient trees. Where veterans/ancient tree condition poses a risk to safety, manage decline through sensitive tree surgery and remedial works in preference to felling. If felling is necessary, ensure suitable replanting takes places, ideally of trees with local progeny.

- 3q Create 134ha of associated woodland habitats to increase overall extent including coppice, scrub, wood pasture, hedgerows and compatible mosaic habitats. Focus on creating/enhancing ecologically coherent buffers, corridors and islands as part of a wider woodland network.

- 3r Maintain and improve woodland connectivity for both woodland species and associated limestone grassland species through the creation of 183ha of open space, rides and glades within existing woodland.

- 3s Support restocking and recovery following the impact of Ash die-back to improve woodland structure and increase species diversity and resilience to climate change.

- 3t Prevent inappropriate afforestation. Refuse planting on incompatible priority habitats, especially new sites for non-natives and/or commercial timber crops. Reduce total area of non-native and/or plantation forestry and replace with appropriate priority woodland/scrub and mosaic habitats.



Limestone Grassland, Meadows & Mosaic

2.4% of the area is classed as priority grassland, with grasslands as a habitat covering a total of 30% of the landscape. Species rich calcareous grassland and hay meadows are a key component of the landscape and vital for the floral and invertebrate diversity present within the landscape. Significant areas of grassland are also managed for food production, and it is important to recognise a need for balance. Healthy soils are a key component for supporting nature and farming.

60% of all UK butterfly species are found in the area. Most targeted woodland and grassland management within the landscape currently focuses on the localised populations of Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Northern Brown Argus and Duke of Burgundy.

Limestone Grasslands, Meadows & Mosaic

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3u | Maintain/improve quality and extent of high value limestone grassland, meadows, pavements and limestone open mosaic habitats within the landscape. |
| 3v | Create/restore 74ha of priority species rich grassland and increase overall extent of species rich limestone grassland and associated limestone scrub and open pavement habitats. Focus on creating/enhancing ecologically coherent buffers, corridors and islands as part of a wider limestone grassland and mosaic network. |
| 3w | Maintain and improve connectivity for both woodland species and associated limestone grassland species through creation of 183ha rides and glades within adjacent/associated woodland and scrub areas. |
| 3x | Encourage extensive conservation grazing management using native breeds of sheep and cattle. |

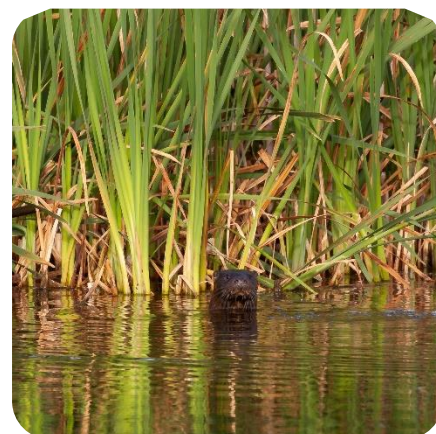


Freshwater Wetlands & Peatlands

Wetland covers around 500ha of the area including reedbed, fen and wet grassland. The landscape contains the largest contiguous reedbed in northwest England at Leighton Moss and areas of rare marl fen at Gaitbarrows NNR. Wetlands have been lost on a huge scale over the previous century, primarily due to the agricultural value of the underlying peat soils. The extent of habitat available has declined and with it the connectivity and specialist suite of species which are supported.

Freshwater Wetlands & Peatlands

- 3y Maintain/improve quality and extent of high value freshwater wetlands, notably the complex of reedbed, fen and open water forming part of RSPB Leighton Moss and Morecambe Bay Nature Reserve and Gaitbarrows NNR.
- 3z Create 54ha of priority wetland habitats to increase the overall extent of high value freshwater and water-compatible habitats, provide natural flood management (NFM) benefits and protect soil carbon. Focus on the creation/restoration of new wetlands on river floodplains, peat soils and restoration of hydrological functioning on historically cut-over peat moss at Arnside Moss and Hale Moss.
- 3aa Maintain and improve wetland connectivity for wetland species, especially European Eel by maintaining/improving natural and built watercourses and removing barriers to fish passage. Where possible, allow natural watercourses to function within their floodplain, removing or re-engineering bank structures, canalised sections and culverts.
- 3bb Improve water quality and severely reduce diffuse pollution risk from agricultural and urban sources through sustainable wastewater and sewerage interventions.



Urban & Built Environment

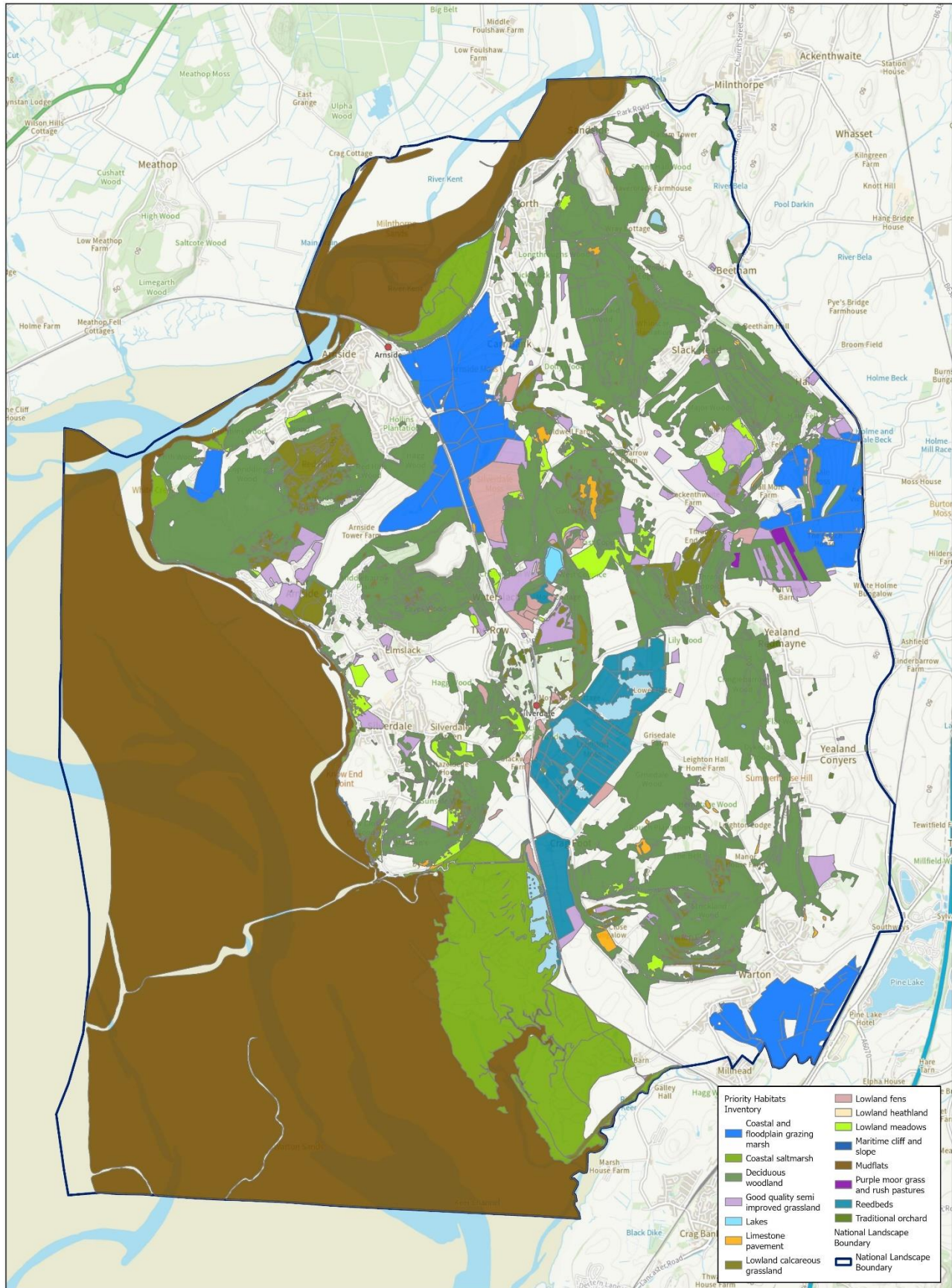
The built environment covers only around 3% (215ha) of the National Landscape area but plays a key role in the connectivity of the habitat mosaic. The settlement character of the villages within the landscape all offer different opportunities for biodiversity, from the Victorian walled gardens and orchards of Arnside to the stone-built cottages and medieval burgage plots-turned gardens of Warton and Beetham.

Urban

- 3cc Encourage built development (including renovations/remodels of older buildings) to incorporate wildlife friendly features such as Swift bricks, bird/bat boxes and bug hotels/invertebrate habitat within both the built structure and landscaping
- 3dd Utilise urban landscaping such as roadside verges to improve connectivity for pollinators. Identify and maintain existing high value verges and explore options for further verge enhancement with relevant Highways Authorities.
- 3ee Support the provision of guidance on wildlife gardening and support measures to increase biodiversity value of private gardens.
- 3ff Enhance community green spaces to provide more wild areas that improve connectivity of priority habitats across urban areas, particularly for pollinators.
- 3gg Increase engagement about the local landscape with community green spaces acting as an accessible way to learn about nature and become involved with conservation.



Priority Habitats



Scale: 1:35,000 © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 AC0000809397

Priority Habitats Inventory
Natural England PHI/ONS OpenGov Licence



Arnside & Silverdale
National Landscape

S4 Historic and Cultural Heritage

Conserve and enhance our built, cultural and social heritage and improve understanding and the public value of the areas unique historic character.

The archaeological, built and cultural heritage of the area is integral to its character and quality, creating 'time-depth' within the landscape. Past settlement and use of the land and its natural resources have created the landscape we see today and have left a legacy of fascinating features which tell the story of the area over many thousands of years. The importance of the historic landscape is recognised with 10 Scheduled Monuments, 114 Listed Buildings and 655 entries on the Historic Environment Record.

A brief history of Arnside & Silverdale...

Prehistory: Neolithic farmers clear woodland and introduce domestic livestock to the area

Iron Age: Burial and ritual sites have been found, a hill-top enclosure stood atop Warton Crag

Roman: Construction and operation of a cargo wharf at Milnthorpe

9th century: The Silverdale Viking hoard is buried, a cache of 200 pieces of silver jewellery and coins

1086: Warton village, with its church and rectory, is listed in the Domesday book

13th century: Early enclosures were formed across the area with their characteristic small, irregular and often sinuous boundaries. Strip-like layouts of 'burgage' plots are formed within the medieval borough of Warton.

14th century: The 'three towers' at Arnside, Hazelslack and Beetham are constructed, all prominent fortified tower houses and manor houses.

18th century: The area sees industrial development, quarrying of limestone and evidence of metalliferous ores being mined and smelted in the landscape, using charcoal from woodland coppice to fuel the furnaces. The mosslands at Hale and Leighton start to be drained to create more space for agriculture.

19th century: Further industrialisation of the landscape and adoption of more modern industrial processes including the ironworks at Carnforth. The railway arrives in the landscape and, in addition to providing transport for industrial goods, the railway brings passengers and the village of Arnside develops as a Victorian resort. Silverdale expands and fine houses are built by wealthy industrialists and businessmen as their country residences. Country estates see expansion and historic designed landscapes, gardens and parkland are created. The local fishing industry develops commercially and boat building takes place in Arnside.

20th century: – closure of industries, construction of post war housing, further development of tourism with new caravan parks in the area and the establishment of nature reserves at Warton Crag, Gaitbarrows and Leighton Moss. In 1972 Arnsdale & Silverdale is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The history of the landscape is researched, remembered and celebrated and forms a significant part of the strong local cultural identity. Local history societies, volunteer experts and academics have researched and written about the history of the area and produced a range of high-quality published works. Local institutions such as the Mourholme Society and Arnsdale Archive continue to explore and document the rich and fascinating history of the area.



S4 Historic & Cultural Heritage

Outcomes

- 1) Historic landscape character is conserved and enhanced
- 2) Key heritage assets and features are retained and sensitively restored, conserved or enhanced where appropriate
- 3) The area's heritage, including cultural heritage, is well researched and understood

Drivers for Change

- Management and conservation of designated heritage assets.
- Neglect and poor management of heritage assets, particularly uninhabited structures and those exposed to the elements.
- Increasing vulnerability of heritage assets due to the effects of climate change and more frequent extreme weather events.
- Inconsistent recognition of heritage assets that contribute towards landscape character, such as barns, stone walls, gateposts etc.
- Inconsistent support for the research and study of local history, including social history and costs of collating and circulating local history publications. Lack of formal recording and potential for important heritage assets to be misidentified or undervalued and/or forgotten.
- Changes to historic systems of land management.
- Development of local heritage lists of Non-designated Heritage Assets (NHDA) and their recognition/application in development management.

Indicators of success

- Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework. Target 10 (see page 73)
- Number and condition of scheduled monuments and designated heritage assets
- Number of non-designated heritage assets (NHDA)
- Condition of Conservation Areas
- Number of Listed Building Consent applications/permissions
- Extent of Historic Environment Record (HER)
- Number/extent of Agri-environment (AES) land management options targeting the historic environment

Key Partners

- Local Authorities
- Parish Councils
- Natural England
- Historic England
- The National Trust
- Landowners and Managers, Property Owners and residents.
- Friends of the Lake District, CPRE The Countryside Charity, Morecambe Bay Partnership

Historic & Cultural Heritage Actions

Designated Heritage assets	4a	Reduce the number of nationally designated scheduled monuments at risk in the landscape: Arnside Tower, Hazelslack Tower and Beetham Tower.
	4b	Conserve and enhance designated heritage assets, including scheduled monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, listed buildings and the Conservation Areas of Warton, Beetham, Yealand Conyers and Redmayne. Where feasible, support condition monitoring of designated heritage assets.
	4c	Conserve and enhance locally important heritage assets through the production and maintenance of local non-designated heritage asset (NHDA) lists. Seek out, survey and research other potential heritage assets in the area with a view to assessment for potential inclusion in local lists.
Settlement character	4d	Conserve and enhance built heritage assets and features that contribute to the distinctive sense of place and cultural heritage of the area, both within a rural and village setting. Identify, conserve and increase awareness of characteristic features outlined within the Special Qualities report.
	4e	Consider heritage assets holistically within their settings, accounting for supporting features and contribution towards wider landscape value.
Industrial heritage	4f	Conserve, enhance and raise awareness of industrial heritage assets, including landforms and features associated with the industrial past such as quarries and, mine workings.
	4g	Conserve and raise awareness of industrial processing structures and buildings relevant to characteristic local industries such as Lime Kilns and the smelting chimney at Jenny Browns Point. Assess risk to industrial structures and develop protection and consolidation plans where needed.
	4h	Conserve structures associated with the area's maritime past. Explore opportunities to raise awareness of locally notable maritime industry such as Crossfield Boat Yard in Arnside.

4f - Industrial heritage and quarrying

Evidence of quarrying and limestone extraction is frequent across the landscape. The history of some smaller village quarries may lead back centuries, where small volumes of stone were cut and lifted for use in local buildings, walls and as troughs, lintels and gateposts.

Larger scale mechanised quarrying began in the late 19th century, when sites as Warton, Trowbarrow, Sandside and Middlebarrow were opened up for exploitation. The operations took place at scale with use of engines, railways and explosives to extract the valuable limestone.

Now, with only the quarry works at Sandside remaining active, the other former quarry sites have left fascinating exposures of the area's geological past and some are now managed for biodiversity and public amenity.



Landscape

- 4i Conserve and increase awareness of landscape heritage sites of importance, such as Dallam Deer Park and Beetham medieval earthworks and field features.
- 4j Identify, conserve and restore the network of traditional field boundaries, including dry stone walls, veteran hedgerows, historic trackways and lanes.
- 4k Identify, maintain and restore historic orchards.
- 4l Encourage uptake of Agri-environment scheme actions to enhance the historic landscape
- 4m Conserve and ensure positive management of historic springs, ponds, and wells such as Bank Well and Wood Well in Silverdale
- 4n Conserve and ensure positive management of historic designed landscapes and gardens, such as Mawsons Garden in Silverdale.

4k – Historic Orchards

Orchards have been a feature of the landscape for hundreds of years; records from the early 1600s refer to the presence of orchards in Haverbrack and Beetham. Commercial fruit growing expanded when the railway provided improved access to markets in towns and cities and extensive orchards are shown across the area on early maps from the 1850s onwards.

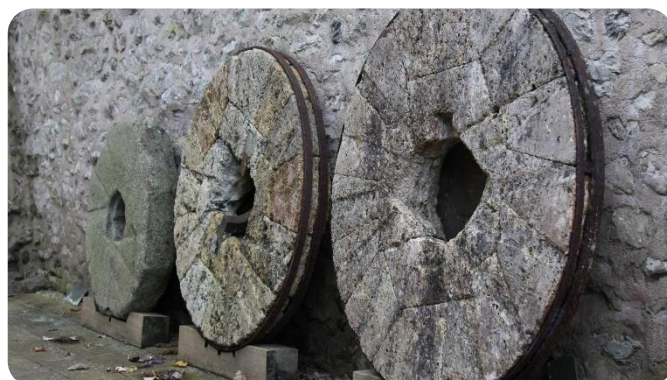
There are now more than 90 orchards in the National Landscape which grow a wide variety of apple, plum, damson and pear varieties. Numerous traditional varieties have been identified here with some unique to the area. There are at least 10 heritage apple varieties which have not been positively identified.

Ancient & archaeological

- 4o Conserve features associated with the pre-medieval history of the area such as Warton Crag Scheduled Monument. Implement management recommended within the Warton Crag Scheduled Monument Conservation Management Plan.
- 4p Raise awareness of notable finds and finds sites across the area recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER). Promote and interpret finds on display in museums and collections such as the Silverdale Hoard and Dog Holes cave artifacts.

Research and interpretation

- 4q Maintain and improve the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area and improve signposting/access to the dataset, particularly for landowners.
- 4r Support local organisations such as the Mourholme Society and Arnside Archive and projects which enhance local capacity, increase awareness of, and public involvement in the further investigation, research and management of the local historic environment.
- 4s Explore opportunities to update and refresh on-site interpretation of accessible heritage assets, building on the previous work of the Limestone Heritage Project.
- 4t Where possible, integrate the historic environment within interpretation of other aspects of landscape interpretation such as Biodiversity and Geodiversity.
- 4u Support research and recording of the area's oral history and social history.



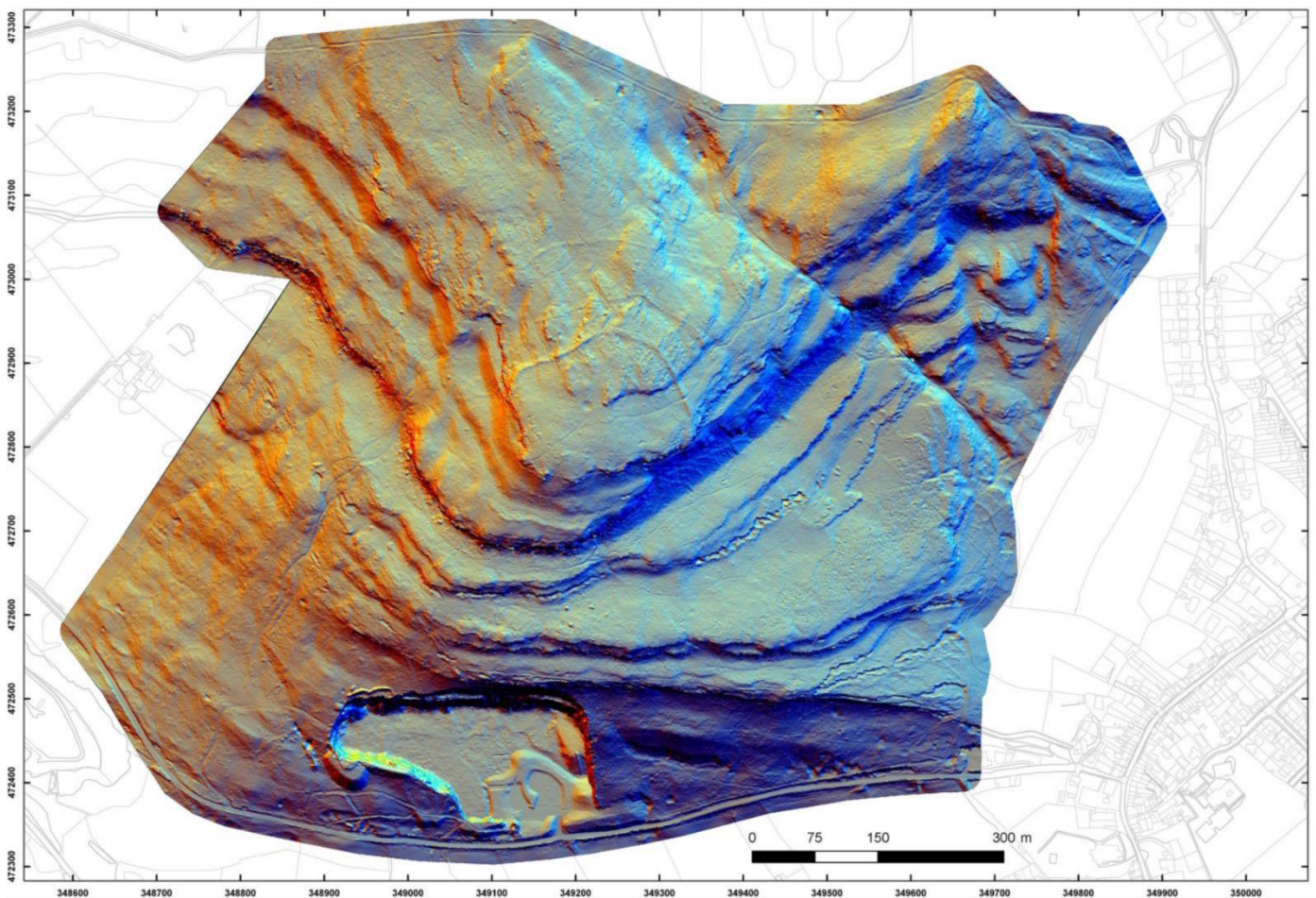
4o – Warton Crag Scheduled Monument

Until recently, the remains of three long, curving stone walls at the summit of Warton Crag were thought to be the remains of a prominent Iron Age Hill Fort.

Research carried out in 2015 using LiDAR surveys allowed Historic England to create a detailed plan of the monument. The evidence suggests the monument is around 1200 years older than was once thought. Dating to around 1500 – 1000 BCE, the site appears to be a bronze-age enclosure with no signs of permanent habitation and the walls show little evidence of defensive use. It may have been a meeting place for scattered communities whose lives revolved around their livestock.

Whether it was a meeting place, a trading post or held some other cultural significance, the monument is unique in NW England.

(Below) LiDAR image of Warton Crag showing wall structures. Taken from Warton Crag Aerial Investigation and Mapping Report, Historic England 2015



S5 Access, Enjoyment & Well-being

Communicate and interpret the special qualities of the landscape, promote the ways in which people can enjoy themselves safely and responsibly and the health and well-being benefits of doing so.

Provide high quality access across the network of footpaths and bridleways and seek to remove both social and physical barriers to accessing and enjoying the countryside.

Arnside & Silverdale is a place for inspiration, spiritual refreshment, dark skies at night and clear, unpolluted air. People come here to relax, unwind and recharge their internal batteries, to get close to nature, breathe in the fresh sea air and absorb exhilarating wide-open views. Tranquillity and a sense of space are easy to find both in the intimate inland landscape and on the hills and open coast.

The National Landscape is outstanding in the extent and quality of access available, providing wonderful opportunities to enjoy quiet recreation such as walking, cycling, wildlife watching and horse riding. The network of narrow lanes and minor highways is one of the delights of the landscape and, along with an intricate web of public rights of way, access land and other paths, provides many opportunities for people to come into close contact with the area's wildlife, geology and history, providing inspiring learning opportunities and engaging visitors with the area.

Many people still experience barriers to accessing the landscape and to enjoying the countryside. These barriers can be physical and social. Identifying and removing these barriers to the landscape in addition to providing better opportunities for people experiencing barriers is a key area of focus for the National Landscape Partnership.

The National Landscape Partnership, supported by local access authorities continues to support and deliver a range of projects to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and/or reduced mobility to enjoy the area. There is now a network of supported tramper trails, with over 9km of trails across the



area. The highly successful Walks for All programme leads hundreds of guided walks with a particular focus on therapeutic walks to support people living with dementia and other conditions and their caregivers to access the landscape.

Young people are encouraged and supported to engage with landscape. Primary schools in the area have provided training for their teaching staff to become forest school leaders. Supported visits to Nature Reserves by schools and community groups take place across the area. Landowners and partners, supported by the National Landscape team host a range of family events that interpret and celebrate the area such as the annual Apple Day event, now held at Leighton Hall.

The interpretation of landscape through the arts is an effective and innovative way to attract audiences and encourage local communities to view the landscape in different and interesting ways. From outdoor performances by the Poet Laureate to modern interpretive dance performances at iconic local sites, arts events and installations have created new intrigue and have provided new ways of communicating and engaging with the landscape.

There are many opportunities for people to get involved, learn about and actively participate in the conservation of the landscape. There are numerous local groups and societies that provide activities based on, and which support interest in the area such as natural history, local history, ornithology, sustainability and walking groups and societies. There is high community awareness of the area's unique qualities and of its designation.



S5 Access, Enjoyment & Wellbeing

Outcomes

1. A high quality and well managed access network of paths and bridleways facilitating quiet recreation and enjoyment for a diverse range of people
2. A high awareness and understanding of the landscape designation and the special qualities of the area
3. Wider range of people connecting with nature and the landscape through more opportunities to enjoy and appreciate the landscape

Drivers for Change

- Access for All programme
- Physical and social barriers to accessing nature and landscape
- Resource requirements for maintaining the existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) network to a high standard, including the provision of high quality waymarking.
- Development and establishment of the King Charles III England Coast Path
- Lack of pavements and off-road pedestrian access, particularly on narrow lanes and around blind spots
- Inconsistent inclusion of nature and wildlife education in primary and secondary curriculum
- Limited participation by young people in landscape conservation and limited targeted events/programmes for young people.
- A lack of resource to support youth education in the landscape, including costs associated with transport and equipment
- The need for a consistent and strategic approach to interpretation of the landscape
- Increased awareness of the health benefits of nature and engagement with the countryside, the development of 'Green prescribing' initiatives
- National public health issues such as dementia, mental health issues, obesity and social exclusion
- Changing patterns of information access, development of social media as the initial 'first contact' information/engagement platform for younger audiences.
- Lack of resource to engage effectively with rapid high volume social media engagement e.g. TikTok etc. and the challenges of competing for visibility across platforms.
- Local demographic changes. In particular, a notable increase in people over the age of 50 and a contrasting decrease of those under the age of 49 since the 2011 census i.e. trends of ageing population are continuing and show little to no signs of change. Disability has also increased over the period 2011-2021 with approx. 12% of the population identifying as disabled.

Indicators of Success

- Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) Target 9
- Total length and condition of Public Rights of Way (PROW) network
- Website traffic
- Social media engagement
- Number of landscape-related school sessions (such as Forest Schools)
- Number of landscape-related public events

Key Partners

- Residents and communities
- Landowners and Managers
- Health Authorities, local GP surgeries
- Local Authorities
- Parish Councils
- DEFRA
- Natural England
- Morecambe Bay Partnership
- Local Community Groups and Community Interest Companies
- eNGOs including National Trust, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust
- Local schools, universities and academic institutions

5d - Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape website

Launched in August 2025, the new Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape website is the primary source of information for visitors, residents, landowners and stakeholders on the landscape designation. The site hosts information on walks, activities and events for the public and visitors alongside an archive of technical reports, policy documents and associated information for stakeholders and those with a professional interest in the area.



Access, Enjoyment & Well-Being Actions

Enjoyment & Wellbeing

- 5a Offer and support an integrated and co-ordinated annual programme of events, guided walks, festivals, talks and conferences within the landscape. Curate outdoor experiences for a range of audiences and benefits including education, interpretation, health and wellbeing etc. Support existing long-running events that connect communities with landscape such as Apple Day and the Silverdale & Arnside Arts & Crafts Trail.
- 5b Deliver a supported walks programme for people experiencing barriers to enjoying the countryside, particularly barriers relating to physical disability, mental health and neurological and neurodegenerative conditions such as dementia.
- 5c Produce and circulate a range of high quality online and printed interpretation materials including visitor guides, walk guides, cultural trails and information.
- 5d Manage and maintain a high-quality website as the primary online resource for stakeholders, communities and visitors to find relevant information about the landscape and the work of the partnership.
- 5e Develop and implement a bespoke interpretation strategy for the landscape.
- 5f Operate and support coordinated youth education and engagement programmes. Encourage participation by young people in the interpretation and management of the landscape and increase opportunities for schools, both locally and from nearby urban areas to access and discover the landscape.
- 5g Support the development and delivery of projects that engage and interpret the landscape and its special qualities through the creative arts.

5b Walks for All

Walks for All is a programme of weekly supported walks across the landscape, aimed at providing opportunities for people with enhanced needs and their caregivers to experience the landscape in a safe and supported way. The walks are led by trained volunteers and carefully designed so people with varying abilities can get involved and enjoy themselves.

The programme has a particular focus on enabling people living with dementia and their caregivers to visit the countryside, exercise and provide opportunities for socialising and group support.

5g Forest Schools

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term programme that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

The Woodland Oasis in Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserve provides the space and facilities for local Forest School practitioners to run their own sessions. Groups can also book guided sessions with qualified National Landscape staff. Local schools have also been supported to train their own practitioners and make Forest Schools an integral part of their curriculum.



5h Maintain the public rights of way network to a high standard and identify opportunities to expand and improve both the public and permissive access network, improving the number, distance and connectivity of multi-user accessible routes including bridleways. Ensure the network is supported by consistent and high quality waymarking, signposting and suitable well-designed rest stops.

5i Support and maintain the availability of Trampler scooters for use within the landscape. Maintain, improve and expand the network of Trampler scooter routes and promote their availability and use

5j Establish the National Landscape section of the King Charles III England Coast Path and promote its responsible use.

Access

5k Recognise and maintain key viewpoints across the landscape. Where possible, improve accessibility to key viewpoints.

5l Undertake an accessibility audit, identifying barriers for people to access the landscape, including physical, social and perceptive barriers. Explore opportunities to remove or reduce impact of barriers.

5m Support measures to improve pedestrian and cycle access across the highways network. Encourage relevant authorities to explore options for improvements to pedestrian and cycle access on highways and potential introduction of traffic calming measures and reduced speed limits. Explore and mitigate issues around pedestrian and cyclist access on narrow lanes, blind spots and soft verges where pavements are not present. Focus on gaps in the PROW network where pedestrian access on the highway is unavoidable.

5n Raise awareness and encourage visitor compliance of relevant national guidance such as the Countryside Code, Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code and the 'Leave no Trace' principles.

5i Tramper Scooters

A Tramper is an electric all-terrain mobility scooter designed to cover rough ground and grass safely. They allow people with reduced mobility to get out into the countryside and access places they might not normally be able to.

In 2025 the Three Nature Reserves Trail was opened, a new 6 mile fully tramper-accessible trail guiding visitors around the nature reserves at Leighton Moss, Gaitbarrows NNR, Trowbarrow LNR and Coldwell Meadow. This route has been made possible by a partnership of local landowners (Natural England, Lancaster City Council, RSPB, Leighton Hall Estate, The Landscape Trust) and facilitated by Morecambe Bay Partnership.



5j King Charles III England Coast Path

The King Charles III England Coast Path is a 2700-mile National Trail spanning the entire coast of England. Once established, the Arnsdale & Silverdale section of the path will run from Arnsdale Station in the north to the River Keer in the south and take in approximately 9 miles of coastal pasture, woodland and limestone cliff with views out into Morecambe Bay.

S6 Sustainable Economy, Tourism & Transport

Support the development and diversification of local services and economic activity which benefits local communities, improves the quality of tourism offered and conserves and enhances the special qualities of the landscape.

Tourism is a key component of the local economy; around 10% of businesses are involved in tourism related activity.

Local services and facilities, including schools, doctors' surgeries, shops, post offices, garages, pubs and restaurants all contribute to the quality of life of the area's communities and are also important to the visitor economy. There are thriving primary schools and village/community halls in all the areas Parishes. The largest settlements of Arnside and Silverdale both have medical practices and a range of other shops and services.

Working to conserve and enhance the exceptionally high-quality environment of the National Landscape helps create the conditions for sustainable economic growth and prosperity both locally and across the wider region and creates tangible connections between businesses, communities and nature.

The excellent access afforded within the landscape is further enhanced by the relative ease of travel to the area from urban centres. There are train stations at Carnforth, Silverdale and Arnside which connect to the West Cumbria Coast and Carlisle via Barrow-in-Furness and the West Coast mainline via Lancaster and Preston. Access to and from the M6 motorway is provided at junction 35, Carnforth, at the southern edge of the area. There are some bus services serving the villages within the landscape, which link to services at Carnforth, Lancaster and Kendal.

6b - Visitor attractions

Arnside & Silverdale holds a range of popular and award-winning visitor attractions.

- RSPB Leighton Moss & Morecambe Bay Nature reserve includes a visitor centre, shop and café and hosts up to 100,000 visitors annually.
- Lakeland Wildlife Oasis at Hale is a diverse and carefully curated small zoo, allowing visitors to get up close with a range of both exotic and native birds, mammals, invertebrates, fish and reptiles.
- Heron Corn Mill in Beetham is a museum, craft centre and community art space housed inside a historic water mill on the River Bela.
- Leighton Hall is a traditional Country House with strong ties to the Gillow & Co Furniture company, once based in Lancaster. The Hall holds a fine collection of Gillow Furniture and hosts a range of popular annual events, including Apple Day, outdoor theatre productions and a variety of community arts and local heritage events.

S6 Sustainable Economy, Tourism & Transport

Outcomes

- 1) Retention and improvement to local services and facilities for communities and visitors
- 2) A high-quality sustainable tourism offer that focuses on quiet recreation, accessible wildlife experiences, local culture and history and local food, arts and crafts.
- 3) A strong, collaborative network of local businesses, valued by the community and supporting local employment

Drivers for Change

- Increased visitor numbers and increased visitor 'spill' from nearby tourism attractions such as Eden Project Morecambe
- Potential development of a central eco-tourism visitor hub for the area as part of the Evolving Leighton Moss project
- Opportunities for improved collaboration and networking between tourism businesses, stakeholders and communities within the landscape
- Poor availability of specific data on the local tourism and hospitality sector
- Introduction of flexible use categories for commercial premises
- Funding for rural services and changes to local authority education and health and social care provision
- Mobile phone coverage and availability of super-fast broadband
- Levels of community engagement and participation in consultations and decision making for the National Landscape
- Availability and quality of public transport service in the area
- Availability and quality of visitor (and resident) car parking provision in the area

Indicators of Success

- Visitor numbers at key attractions in the landscape
- Number and type of local services available
- Outcomes of the Silverdale Sustainable Transport Study
- Number of tourism businesses operating
- Number and type of visitor accommodation operating in the landscape.

Key Partners

- Local business owners and managers
- Local Authorities
- Parish Councils
- Local service providers (Schools, GP Practices etc.)
- Public Transport Providers, Furness Line Action Group
- Tourism organisations: Cumbria Tourism, Marketing Lancashire

Sustainable Economy, Tourism & Transport Actions

- 6a Ensure commercial economic activity (including tourism) is consistent with the core purpose of the National Landscape and that activity in the area is environmentally responsible and does not cumulatively cause harm to the landscape.
- 6b Promote and support tourism/visitor attractions that highlight and improve visitor understanding of the landscape and special qualities such as notable heritage sites, Geodiversity sites, nature reserves, providers of local food and products etc.
- 6c Promote use of and improvements in sustainable transport particularly bus/train travel, cycling and walking for both residents and visitors. Promote the Furness train line as a key transport link and visitor gateway to the area.
- 6d Improve understanding of visitor numbers, perceptions, behaviours and their economic and social contributions to the landscape. Use the information to inform the principles of a visitor management plan.
- 6e Explore implementation of opportunities outlined in the 2024 Silverdale Sustainable Transport Study.



- 6f Support tourism marketing and promotions of the area where this is consistent with the core purpose of the landscape designation.
- 6g Support efforts by local community groups and relevant Highways Authorities to encourage responsible and safer driving behaviour across the landscape, particularly within villages and around schools and public greenspaces.
- 6h Support development of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the landscape.
- 6i Support the RPSB in the 'Evolving Leighton Moss' project to further develop the reserve as a conservation and environmental visitor hub for the area.
- 6j Support scoping and potential development of the Arnside to Grange Trail, a proposed walking, wheeling and cycling route from Arnside to Grange-over-Sands utilising the Arnside railway viaduct to provide a new sustainable travel link and tourism asset.

6e Silverdale Sustainable Transport Survey

The Silverdale Sustainable Transport Study, published in 2024 examined the potential for improved and sustainable passenger transport services within the Parish of Silverdale. The study consists of 3 reports: a baseline assessment of transport services, an engagement and community survey and an options appraisal.

The study sets out clear actions required for sustainable transport in Silverdale. Issues around EV charging, rail services, bus services, visitor parking and walking/cycling access and further provision for each are addressed. The next stage aims to develop a business case for implementation and to explore the technical feasibility of the actions suggested in the report.

[Silverdale-Sustainable-Transport-Options-Report-3.pdf](#) (External link)

6f Tourism marketing

Cumbria Tourism and Marketing Lancashire, with support from Morecambe Bay Partnership provide a range of information and designation management services supporting the local visitor economy.

[Cumbria Tourism | The Official Tourist Board for Cumbria](#) (External Link)

[Marketing Lancashire | Online Information For Tourism Businesses](#) (External Link)

[Home | Morecambe Bay Partnership](#) (External Link)



S7 Planning and Place Making

Practice a landscape-first approach to planning and development management in which all development seeks to enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the landscape.

The planning system plays an important role in ensuring new development is appropriate and sustainable, and preventing harm to the area's special qualities from inappropriate development. The responsibility for planning policy and decision-making in Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape rests with the local planning authorities. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) places a duty on all relevant authorities to 'seek to further' the purpose of National Landscape designation when carrying out their functions, which includes the planning process.

The National Landscape Partnership plays a key role in supporting, advising on and influencing development of local planning policy and development management decisions, as a consultee.

The national designation and high sensitivity of the landscape requires a different approach compared with outside of the National Landscape. This has led to the development and adoption of the Arnside and Silverdale Development Plan Document (DPD), which places conservation and enhancement of the landscape at the centre of development management for the area.

The DPD covers both the Lancaster City Council and Westmorland and Furness Council local authority areas and provides consistent development policy across the whole landscape. The DPD, adopted in 2019 is the first National Landscape (AONB) DPD in England. It is a pioneering and innovative approach and has been followed closely by other National Landscape Partnerships up and down the country as an example of how a National Landscape Partnership, councils and communities can work together to produce the best outcomes for an area. The DPD has been widely praised and won an award from the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) following its adoption.

The DPD is only one of a number of plans and strategies affecting the National Landscape. It complements existing plans and strategies including the Management Plan, Lancaster City Council's adopted Local Plan (Climate Emergency Review) (2025) and the developing Local Plans of both Lancaster City and Westmorland and Furness. The planning and place making principles included within the Management Plan intend to reflect the policies within the DPD.



S7 Planning & Place Making

Outcomes

- 1) Planning policy and decision-making that conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the area and seeks to further the purpose of the designation
- 2) Sustainable, high-quality and beautiful development that contributes positively to landscape, communities and visitors
- 3) Development based on local needs
- 4) Collaborative, transparent development planning and management between planning authorities, communities, stakeholders and developers

Drivers for Change

- In 2019 adoption of the AONB DPD established a consistent, unified approach to planning decision-making across the two local planning authority areas for the first time.
- Changes to NPPF (December 2024) and expected alterations to Local Plan making and the role of Supplementary Plans.
- Ongoing reviews of Local Plans within both Local Planning Authorities.
- Opportunities to develop Sustainable Access Mitigation and Management Strategies for all local planning authorities in and around the Morecambe Bay area.
- Implementation and development of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and development and adoption of the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Impacts of Climate Change and the need for mitigation and adaptation measures that may be subject to Development Management controls.
- Housing needs assessments produced by local planning authorities and the need for affordable housing within local communities.
- Small scale cumulative development, particularly renovations, conversions and extensions, has the potential for incremental erosion of landscape quality over time.
- 'Undergrounding for visual amenity' project run by Electricity Northwest.
- Major development pressure, including commercial scale renewable energy and communications infrastructure, either within the landscape, or within the setting.
- National house building targets and the need for residential development either within the landscape or within the towns of Carnforth and Milnthorpe increasing urban sprawl at the landscape edge and at the main 'gateways' to the landscape.
- Development within the hinterland of the National Landscape having cumulative impacts on the setting and on views in and out of the landscape.
- Relatively low levels of competition within regional house building sector i.e. few private companies willing to build small volume affordable developments and limited resources of housing associations to build social housing.
- Lack of mains sewerage in Silverdale and Yealand and the need to replace/improve aging septic tank installations.

- Development of bespoke design principles for lighting as part of the Cumbria 'Good Lighting Guide Technical Advice Note'.
- Expansion and redevelopment of tourist accommodation, particularly caravan sites.
- Local community concerns over the numbers of dwellings used as short-term holiday lets that are considered suitable for use as a permanent residence.

Indicators of Success

- Number of development management cases that make a positive contribution to the landscape.
- Number (and proportion) of affordable housing permitted and built.
- Maintain and/or reductions in total number of static caravans, lodges, chalets and touring pitches.
- Maintain and/or reductions in total number of short-term holiday lets.
- Total distance of cables/wires undergrounded.

Key Partners

- Local Authorities
- Parish Councils
- Local Community Land Trusts and Housing Associations
- Residents and Communities
- The Rural Housing Enabling Service
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Friends of the Lake District, CPRE The Countryside Charity



Planning and Place-making Principles

- 7a Ensure that all decision-making in relation to planning and development and in the preparation of Local Plans seeks to further the purpose of the National Landscape designation and support the conservation and enhancement of the Special Qualities, natural beauty, landscape character, settlement character, visual amenity, heritage, biodiversity (including protected habitats and species) and geodiversity. Development proposals are required to clearly demonstrate this.
-
- 7b Support development of planning policy and decision-making processes that are bespoke and specific to the National Landscape. Support the continued adoption and periodic review of the approach and objectives currently contained within the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD, as part of any future Local Plans. Ensure local planning authorities work closely together to achieve a joint consistent approach across the National Landscape.
-
- 7c Explore opportunities to develop specific design guidance for the landscape, consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code and any adopted Local Design Codes for Westmorland and Furness Council and Lancaster City Council.
-
- 7d Support development of Local Authority Biodiversity Strategies, ensuring that any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) opportunities contribute towards outcomes included within the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and/or actions from the 2025 Arnsdale & Silverdale National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan / Management Plan Habitats and Species Actions as appropriate.
-
- 7e Support the continued implementation of a landscape capacity-led approach to planning and development management as referenced in Policy SP2 and SP3 of the 2025 Lancaster City Council Development Plan Document (DPD)¹³, Policy DM1 (9) of the 2019 South Lakeland Development Management Policies (DPD)¹⁴ and Policy AS01 of the 2019 Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB DPD¹⁵. In this context, landscape capacity refers to the amount of change the landscape is able to accommodate without unacceptable harm to its primary purpose, including its character and qualities.

7e - Local Plan Policy (Lancaster Local Plan Policy SP3)

"The development strategy ensures that only development that can be accommodated without harm to the AONBs primary purpose (to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area) will be permitted. This will be achieved whilst maintaining a positive approach to development, recognising that appropriately located and designed development can contribute to conserving and enhancing the landscape and settlement character, including where appropriate opportunities for regeneration and redevelopment to be delivered."

New Local Plans for both Lancaster City and Westmorland and Furness are in preparation. As part of this review and adoption of future Local Plans, the current planning policies may be superseded and requirements may change; this is likely within the period that this Management Plan covers. Any new Local Plans will seek to further the purpose of designation and maintain a joint consistent approach across the area.

¹³ [Local Plan and Planning Policy - Lancaster City Council](#)

¹⁴ [Planning policy | Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

¹⁵ [Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD - Lancaster City Council](#)

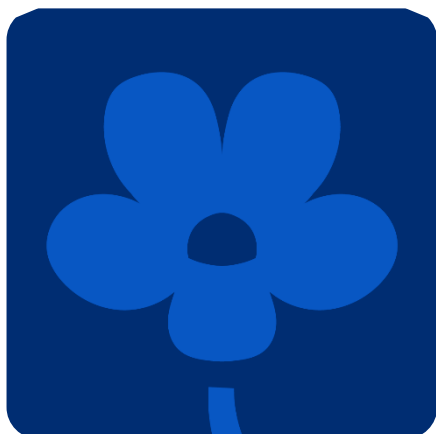
7f – Major Development

Major development in Arnside & Silverdale is defined as development that has the potential to have serious adverse impact on the landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage or other characteristics of the National Landscape because of its scale, form, character or nature. Examples could include quarrying, medium and large-scale housing development, extensive commercial development, golf courses, caravan sites, new roads, vertical infrastructure, power lines or energy generation. The intimate nature of the landscape means that even small-scale proposals may be considered 'major' development depending on the context.

- 7f Major development (describing any development which has the potential for significant harm to the designation) will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated to be in the public interest and exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated in line with national planning policy. This is to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
-
- 7g Ensure housing proposals reflect identified local need in so far as is possible, providing that The Landscape Capacity approach is followed and that the landscape can accommodate new housing without unnecessary harm, as determined on a case-by-case basis. Proposals will be supported where affordable housing is maximised and where developments deliver no less than 50% affordable housing and ideally more than 50% in line with current Local Plan Policy (AONB DPD Policy AS03).
-
- 7h Support local housing associations and Parish Councils with providing affordable housing for local needs. Through future Local Plan policy review, explore the use of local occupancy restrictions in line with up-to-date evidence-based local housing needs.
-
- 7i Development proposals will be supported where they contribute towards outcomes included within the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and/or actions from the 2025 Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan / Management Plan Habitats and Species actions.

7i - Development to meet Nature Recovery Plan actions

The Nature Recovery Plan includes a range of actions that, when implemented would likely require planning permission. Groundworks associated with wetland creation, installation of water control structures, natural flood management measures, erection of anti-predator fencing to protect ground nesting birds or infrastructure required to allow conservation grazing management of limestone grassland mosaic habitats are examples.



- 7j Development proposals within environmental protected sites (including internationally, nationally and locally designated wildlife or geology sites and functionally linked land) or development with the potential for adverse impacts to irreplaceable habitats, high-value priority habitats and/or protected species will not be supported unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated, the development cannot be located elsewhere and mitigation is provided or, where not possible compensatory measures are provided that result in enhancement (net gain) to the habitats extent, condition and value.
-
- 7k Support development proposals that positively contribute to the extent and quality of public open space and publicly accessible areas (including Public Rights of Way) and supporting public recreational facilities (playgrounds, allotments, playing fields etc.). Proposals will not be supported where they result in loss of, or harm to the extent or quality of public open space and/or local green spaces except in the circumstances described in Paragraph 104 and 108 (respect to Local Green Spaces) of the NPPF.
-
- 7l Proposals for development within Key Settlement Landscapes will only be supported in exceptional circumstances, where they do not compromise the open nature, rural characteristics and landscape character of the Key Settlement Landscape in line with Local Plan Policy (AONB DPD AS06). A Key Settlement Landscape describes privately owned land that makes a positive contribution to landscape character, including pasture, woodland, ponds/wetlands, traditional boundaries or parkland within or on the fringes of settlements.

7l - Key Settlement Landscapes

Key Settlement Landscapes are private (and often not publicly accessible) areas of open space within the four Local Service Centres (villages) that make a particular and important contribution to the character of the area by bringing the countryside into the settlements and reinforcing their rural character as well as by providing key views and offering variety in settlement form, fabric and feel. Some are part of significant tracts of land within settlements. All the Key Settlement Landscapes form an important part of the distinctive character of the settlements within which they lie and form part of their setting.



7m Vernacular building styles

Most of the vernacular building style dates to the medieval period when some of the earliest stone buildings were built. They include distinctive features such as date stones, small 'fire' windows and decorative hood mouldings over windows. Wall construction is typically 'slobbered masonry' or limestone rubble wall with a white lime render and limewash finish. Buildings are typically moderately steeply pitched and slate roofed and rarely more than 2 storeys tall. Buildings tend to front directly onto the roadside and are laid out in terraces or a linear arrangement, following medieval settlement patterns such as the burgage plots found in Warton and Beetham.

Later Victorian and Edwardian buildings take some influence from the vernacular style but with revival detailing. The use of limestone and slate is still dominant but decorative elements, finishes and features become more common.

- 7m Ensure that design of proposed development is of the highest quality and responds positively to the character of the landscape and local built environment. Design should be respectful of settlement and building vernacular and should reinforce what is locally distinctive about the area, with careful consideration of layout, alignment, scale and form, massing, rooflines, lighting, materials finish and colours. Plot size should be consistent and boundary features, access points and landscaping should not be detrimental to the street scene and settlement character. (AONB DPD Policy AS08)

- 7n Ensure that existing development that is harmful to landscape character or settlement character is not used to inform the design of new development or that proximity to it is not used to justify further poor quality or harmful development. (AONB DPD Policy AS08)

- 7o Development proposals which bring demonstrable local community or local economic benefits will be supported except where they are incompatible with the designation of the National Landscape and would not conserve or enhance its Special Qualities.

- 7p Support development proposals which enable improvements or diversification to farm businesses (with the exception of tourist accommodation) where proposals will result in improvements to business viability, or a reduction in environmental impact from agricultural operations, providing development does not cause adverse impacts on the designation.

- 7q Essential infrastructure which supports development or is required to improve the capacity of existing infrastructure, including public transport provision, active travel and highways improvements, utilities services and communications infrastructure will be supported where it is appropriate to the development it supports, there is a proven need, and development does not cause adverse impacts on the designation. (AONB DPD Policy AS10)



- 7r Development proposals will not be supported for new static caravan, chalet, cabin or lodge-style development or the replacement of low-impact touring caravan or camping accommodation with static caravans, chalets, cabins or lodges. Proposals may be supported within the developed footprint of an existing site as part of a master-planned improvement for the whole site. (AONB DPD Policy AS11)
-
- 7s New building development intended to provide self-catering visitor accommodation and short-term holiday lets will not be supported. Conversions of existing buildings or redevelopment within the footprint of existing buildings for these uses will only be acceptable where the conversion of the building to a permanent dwelling would be inappropriate. (AONB DPD Policy AS11)
-
- 7t Development which improves or rationalises the provision of waste water treatment in areas not connected to mains sewerage, including the installation of new treatment infrastructure will be supported. In areas not connected to mains sewerage, development proposals which have the potential to increase waste water flows will only be supported where the capacity and condition of current infrastructure is shown to be adequate. If replacement infrastructure (including upgrading septic tank systems to package treatment systems) is required, it will not have an adverse impact on the environment or landscape. (AONB DPD Policy AS12)
-
- 7u Support small-scale low carbon and renewable energy developments providing that the siting, scale, design and appearance will not have an adverse impact on landscape or settlement character (as defined within the LSCA) and that development does not compromise heritage assets and their setting, historic character, biodiversity or geodiversity features. (AONB DPD Policy AS13)
-
- 7v Installation of new overhead lines (electricity or communications/fibre) will be supported only where undergrounding is demonstrably inappropriate or where overhead cables are essential for overriding reasons of public need and/or safety and cannot be located elsewhere. (AONB DPD Policy AS13)
-



- 7w Large/tall vertical infrastructure, including communications masts will only be supported where there is a demonstrable overriding public need and all reasonable alternative low-impact communications infrastructure is inappropriate. Vertical infrastructure should as far as possible not result in an impact to landscape, seascape, biodiversity or settlement character. Where impacts are unavoidable, a tailored package of mitigation measures will be needed for proposals to be supported.
-
- 7x Proposals for adverts and commercial signage for which consent is required will only be supported where the advertising/signage are of high quality and of appropriate scale, design and colour to as to not have adverse impacts on landscape or settlement character. Signage should be of traditional designs and maintain the rural character of the area. Where appropriate, removal or rationalisation of existing signage will be supported. (AONB DPD Policy AS14)
-
- 7y All new lighting should adhere to the primary lighting principles outlined within the 'Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note and Lancaster City Council Good Lighting Planning Advisory Note 13) or that which supersedes this, or any additional local published guidance. Notably that lighting scale, position and brightness should only be as much as is necessary for the intended purpose and that lighting should be kept away from sites of wildlife importance.
-
- 7z Development proposals will not be supported where they impede on undeveloped coast or cause harm to the extent and character of the undeveloped coast.
-
- 7aa Development proposals that seek to enhance or conserve buildings, structures or features with historic or heritage value will be supported. The appropriate conservation of listed buildings, non-designated heritage assets or other features of heritage interest within Conservation Areas will be supported. Conversions, alteration of modifications to heritage assets should adhere to vernacular design and enhance the asset and its setting, the use of traditional materials, finishes and construction methods should be utilised wherever possible to maintain the character and integrity of the asset. ((AONB DPD Policy AS17)

7y – The Good Lighting Guide

The Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note (TAN) was developed by Friends of the Lake District and Dark Source Lighting design on behalf of several planning authorities in Cumbria and North Lancashire. The TAN provides technical lighting guidance to planners, applicants, architects, developers, electricians, property owners, communities and lighting professionals to support them in applying relevant local and national planning policies and good lighting principles when submitting or assessing planning applications or other applications (such as Notifications of Intent and Listed Building) and in making good lighting choices when installing new or replacing existing lighting outside of the planning process.

[Good Lighting Technical Advice Note \(TAN\) - Full Version by Friends of the Lake District - Issuu](#) (External link)

S8 Farming, Forestry & Rural Land Use

Support and encourage sustainable management of the landscape which conserves and enhances the special qualities and delivers a range of environmental, community and local economic benefits.

Working the land is the foundation of the rural economy; the traditional cultures of low-intensity pasture management and woodland coppice management have created much of the distinctive landscape character we see today, and the area remains a living, working landscape. Farming and forestry make a major contribution to the landscape's character and distinctive features. Landowners and farming and forestry tenants actively maintain the natural beauty and distinctiveness of the area.

The expanse of Morecambe Bay and the river estuaries that feed it have been fished for centuries. Local traditions for hand-gathered artisanal shellfisheries, tractor shrimping, stake netting and recreational angling are managed sustainably by the Northwestern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NW-IFCA).

The interdependent relationship between land management, natural beauty, community and the economy is clear. The health and viability of the land management sector, national policy approaches and work of individual landowners, farmers and land managers are all critical to conserving and enhancing the landscape. Maintaining an economically viable and sustainable land management sector will be essential to delivering the National Landscape purpose into the future.

Changes introduced through the Environment Act 2021, including the de-coupling of agricultural subsidy payments and transition into a 'public money for public goods' model of subsidy has the potential for significant positive influence towards the local farming and forestry sectors ongoing contribution towards the conservation of the landscape. The growth of sustainable, locally produced woodland products such as woodcrafts, charcoal and woodfuel has encouraged restoration of traditional coppice and woodland management. Extensive pasture systems produce high-quality livestock products and impacts to the environment from modern agriculture are being limited through provision of farm advice, training and access to grant schemes.

The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, delivered by the National Landscape team has supported a range of projects to provide training to land managers, improve and create habitats, restore heritage features and traditional boundaries and conduct research and analysis. The programme has also developed and delivered a range of public and community engagement projects, encouraging and supporting more people to visit and be part of the landscape.

Rural skills such as hedge laying, drystone walling, coppice management and maintenance of traditional orchards are vital for maintaining the traditional landscape and habitats of the area and regular training sessions and competitions are held with the involvement of local organisations and training providers.

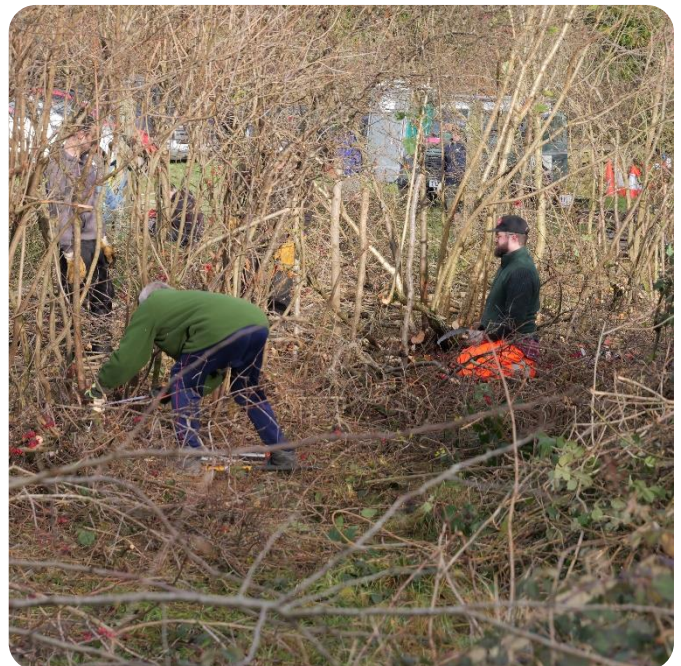
S8 Farming, Forestry & Rural Land Use

Outcomes

- 1) Viable high nature-value farming and forestry delivering a wide range of public benefits including the storage and sequestration of carbon, conservation and enhancement of habitats, species and natural beauty
- 2) Truly sustainable farming, forestry and fisheries management producing high quality products with short supply chains

Drivers for Change

- Agricultural transition and the move from area-based subsidy to a payment for actions system.
- Impacts of climate change and pressure on agricultural land and farming systems.
- Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF).
- Changes to rural development schemes and non-nature based funding support mechanisms for landowners.
- Increased interest and developing evidence on regenerative farming techniques, pasture-fed livestock systems, agroforestry and high nature value farming.
- Increased prices of products required to support existing farming systems e.g. fertilizer and processed feeds.
- Loss of expertise and experience in traditional rural skills such as hedgelaying, drystone walling, coppice and woodcrafts. Limited training and income opportunities for new practitioners.
- Lack of available ecological expertise to advise land managers on designing and delivering conservation projects as part of Agri-environment scheme commitments.
- Investment required to establish local supply chains and associated costs of marketing and developing retail premises.



Indicators of success

- Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) Targets 1-8.
- Uptake and coverage of Agri-Environment Schemes (AES), management options and capital works by type.
- Uptake and coverage of Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL).
- Total value of AES and FiPL within the landscape.
- DEFRA June farm survey results.
- Number of farm and land management events.
- Total area under Conservation Grazing management.

Key Partners

- Landowners and managers
- Farmers, Foresters, land agents and agricultural and forestry contractors
- Natural England
- Forestry England & Forestry Commission
- Northwestern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
- Commercial Fishers, recreational anglers and angling clubs
- DEFRA
- National Farmers Union (NFU)
- Sustainable farming organisations such as Pastures4Life
- Deer stalkers and gamebird managers
- eNGOs including National Trust, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust

8c – Farming in Protected Landscapes

Farming in Protected Landscapes is a programme funded by Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) as part of their Agricultural Transition Plan, which aims to move farmers away from subsidy funding based on the area of land farmed, and towards rewarding them for delivery of public goods.

As of March 2025, over 150ha of land has been supported through FiPL projects within the National Landscape. These projects have planted over 2000 trees and 4500m of hedgerows, restoration of 500m of existing hedgerow and restoration of over 200m of dry-stone walls as well as providing 3000m of path improvements and over 50 educational visits, workshops, talks and events.



Farming, Forestry & Rural Land Use Actions

- 8a Provide bespoke advice and support to landowners and managers on land management practices which conserve and enhance the landscape and natural and cultural heritage of the area through a range of mechanisms e.g. habitat and species monitoring, woodland/site management plans, felling licences, Agri-Environment Scheme (AES) agreements etc.
-
- 8b Ensure at least 80% of farmers and land managers adopt nature friendly farming practices on at least 15% of their land.
-
- 8c Deliver the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, supporting projects which:
- Support nature recovery
 - Mitigate the impacts of climate change
 - Provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
 - Protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place.
-
- 8d Support the National Landscape Farming and Land Management Group, provide information, share expertise and explore further development of farm 'clusters' to deliver nature-based projects.
-
- 8e Support development of relevant skills and expertise within the farming, forestry and land management sector, collaborating with existing networks to provide information, knowledge sharing, training and events tailored to the landscape. Promote innovation and use of new technologies that may improve the sustainability and viability of land use operations.

8b – Nature Friendly farming

Nature friendly farming is centred on the principles of a sustainable food production model based on healthy soils, clean water and abundant biodiversity.

The Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFM) champions innovative approaches to farming, combining traditional techniques alongside new technology to reduce impacts, increase efficiency and diversify farming operations.

[Home | Nature Friendly Farming Network, NFFN](#) (External link)



- 8f Support and implement Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) initiatives to tackle agricultural diffuse and point source pollution across the landscape.
-
- 8g Improve climate change resilience of farm businesses to adapt to expected wetter winters and higher frequency of storms. Support the transition to systems of 'wetter' farming on low-lying, reclaimed farmland and farmland over peat soils where inundation risk is highest.
-
- 8h Support opportunities for creating and developing the next generation of land managers through work placements, apprenticeships, internships and skills training opportunities.
-
- 8i Support sustainable small scale artisanal fisheries and recreational sea angling. Ensure fisheries activities are not detrimentally affecting the network of environmentally designated sites or the special qualities of the landscape/seascape.
-
- 8j Support development and diversification of rural economy with products produced through the conservation of habitats, species and landscape e.g. woodfuels, biochar and woodcraft products from under-managed woodlands, local venison supply chains as part of deer management etc.
-
- 8k Protect and restore healthy soils on farmed land. Encourage the development and delivery of soil restoration plans for farmed land.
-
- 8l Support measures to protect soil carbon by raising water levels on low-lying, reclaimed farmland and farmland over peat soils. Encourage update of Agri-Environment Scheme (AES) options which raise water levels in peat soils.
-
- 8m Support development of a viable conservation grazing model that provides sustainable conservation grazing services to nature reserves and high-nature value farmland within the landscape.
-
- 8n Safeguard local genetic progeny of heritage livestock breeds. Encourage uptake of and support applications using relevant Heritage Breeds at Risk (HBR) management actions within Agri-Environment Schemes (AES).
-
- 8o Ensure compliance with relevant gamebird release general licence (GL43¹⁶) in relation to gamebird release within buffer zones of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Encourage sustainable gamebird management practices¹⁷ within the landscape and explore opportunities for biodiversity improvements as part of gamebird management.

8i – Hand gathered shellfisheries

Morecambe Bay has a long history and tradition of hand-gathered shellfisheries. Operating at low tide, gatherers travel far out onto the sands to fish for cockles. The cockle fishery is seasonal, and gatherers often spend the rest of the year shrimping or harvesting mussel from the cobble skears in the outer bay. Fisheries in the area are managed by NW-IFCA under bylaw with a flexible permit scheme, strict controls are in place to ensure the fishery is sustainable and that sufficient shellfish are available for molluscivorous wintering waders and ducks such as Oystercatcher, Knot and Eider.

¹⁶ [GL43: licence to release common pheasants or red-legged partridges](#)

¹⁷ [Sustainable gamebird releasing - Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust](#)

8j - Biochar

Biochar is a supplementary product of charcoal production, created by pyrolysis of brash-wood from coppice management. Pyrolysis involves burning the brash in the absence of oxygen, a form of thermal decomposition.

The end product is a fine grained, porous, absorbent and carbon-rich material used mainly as a soil improver but may have other applications in carbon sequestration, manufacturing and livestock feeds.

8l – Conservation Grazing

Conservation grazing has been a vital part of managing Nature Reserves across the landscape for decades. The practice mimics a naturalistic system in which large herbivores would intermittently graze over large areas. This type of extensive grazing by hardy traditional breeds of cattle creates optimal conditions to maintain and enhance the range of limestone grassland, scrub, woodland and wetland habitats present.

Conservation grazing practices have been pioneered in Arnside & Silverdale, the methodology and results have been widely shared across the conservation sector. Use of no-fence collars to target grazing pressure at fine scale have been used on sites like Warton Crag to manage the mosaic of grassland, scrub and bracken for scarce species of fritillary butterflies.



S9 Governance & Ways of Working

Facilitate and support a clear, effective framework for achieving the National Landscape statutory purpose.

Dynamic and successful partnership working is critical to enable delivery of the National Landscape Management Plan and to create a strong and resilient National Landscape Partnership. The National Landscape Team plays an essential role in this process: providing management and leadership; making things happen on the ground, translating vision and national policy into local action; stimulating collaboration and providing value for money by facilitating access to funding and resources.

The primary purpose of designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. In pursuing the primary purpose account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment. Recreation is not an objective of designation but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

(Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A policy statement (Countryside Commission, CCP 356, 1991), page 5)

The delivery of the primary purpose by the National Landscape partnership needs a strong, flexible framework in which to function.



S9 Governance & Ways of Working

Outcomes

- 1) A coordinated approach to conservation and enhancement of the landscape, its natural beauty and special qualities
- 2) Respectful, collaborative relationships between partnership organisations, landowners/managers, businesses, communities and individuals.
- 3) Open, transparent communication of the National Landscape Partnership's work and opportunity for communities, residents and visitors to engage constructively in major decision making.
- 4) A unique and beautiful area where landscape and seascape character and the areas special qualities are well understood, valued, conserved and enhanced.

Drivers for Change

- New duty on relevant authorities to 'seek to further' the purpose of designated landscapes
- Stretched resources within public bodies and eNGO partners emphasises the need for collaboration. Shared resources and responsibilities, especially in project delivery spreads the obligation to deliver and can achieve better outcomes.
- New opportunities to formalise existing partnerships and collaborative approaches to management through initiatives such as Landscape Recovery projects and the proposed creation of an Arnside & Silverdale National Nature Reserve.
- Changing audiences and ways of engaging has changed the presence and visibility of protected landscapes within society. There is a need to establish the new National Landscape brand both nationally and locally.
- Recognition of the value and benefits that landscapes offer has developed, in particular the health and wellbeing value of improved access to the landscape. New partnerships and collaborations could help realise these benefits more widely.

Indicators of Success

- Number of volunteer days supported in the Landscape, either directly by the NL Team or within partnership organisations National Trust, RSPB etc.
- Number of research projects supported that contribute towards improved understanding of the Landscape and its special qualities.

Key Partners

- Local Authorities
- Parish Councils
- Volunteers
- Members of the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Executive Committee
- Local Community Groups and Community Interest Companies
- eNGOs including National Trust, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust
- Local schools, universities and academic institutions

Governance & Ways of Working Actions

- 9a Ensure relevant authorities, in exercising their functions seek to further the purpose of the National Landscape.

- 9b Operate and fund a joint National Landscape Partnership bringing together Local Authorities, Parish Councils, stakeholders and representatives to take a co-ordinated, landscape scale approach to the conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape.

- 9c Actively engage, contribute and collaborate in partnerships, groups and networks relevant to the landscape, both locally and nationally. Recognise the wide-reaching value of landscape with involvement and collaboration in environmental, historical, cultural, social, transport, health and wellbeing groups and networks.

9a – S85 Duty

The 2023 Levelling-up and Regeneration Act introduces important amendments to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW), replacing and strengthening the section 85 duty on public bodies and statutory undertakers *'to have regard to'* with *'to seek to further the purpose of'* in reference to the s85 (1A) duty to *'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area'*.

[National Landscapes - Guidance for Local Planning Authorities: CROW s.85 duty to 'seek to further the purposes'](#).
(External link)

- 9d Support, champion and build capacity of community led organisations which directly support the conservation and enhancement of the landscape such as the Landscape Trust and Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company (CIC).

- 9e Actively support volunteering within the landscape, ensure volunteering opportunities are available to people of all ages and abilities and recognise volunteering for its value to individual health and wellbeing.

- 9f Engage and collaborate with statutory agencies, partners, stakeholders and communities in major decision making, plan making and consultation on matters that may affect the National Landscape.

- 9g Continue to develop and practice a clear and consistent approach to communications and the provision of information for residents, communities and visitors about relevant work within the National Landscape.

- 9h Support and collaborate with academic institutions, local special interest groups and skilled individuals engaged in the study and research of the natural, historic and social heritage of the National Landscape.

- 9i Practice a multi-objective approach to planning and project design.

- 9j Support and facilitate closer working and collaboration between conservation organisations operating within the landscape. Develop proposals for the creation of an Arnsdale and Silverdale National Nature Reserve.

9b – The National Landscape Partnership

As part of their statutory duties, the three responsible local authorities operate and manage a National Landscape Partnership, which aims to conserve, enhance and connect people to the area and is made up of the local authorities, statutory agencies, landowners, conservation organisations, local communities and interest groups, working together. Each partner nominates a representative to sit on the formal Executive Committee.

A staff team is employed on behalf of the Partnership by Lancaster City Council, as host authority, to prepare and drive the implementation of the joint statutory Management Plan.

9d – The Landscape Trust

The Arnside & Silverdale Landscape Trust is a registered charity dedicated to conserving and enhancing the natural landscape of the designation and raising awareness of it. The Landscape Trust has almost 1000 members and is run entirely by volunteers.

The Landscape Trust's work spans the full breadth of landscape conservation, owning a network of small nature reserves, leading on conservation projects, running and supporting an extensive and varied events calendar and producing a range of books, leaflets and maps including the journal 'Keer to Kent' with three editions each year.



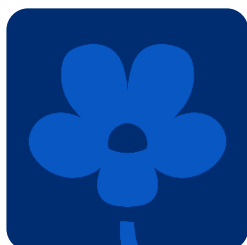
S10 Funding and Finance

Increase capacity and resources for conserving and enhancing the landscape, and for connecting people to it. Explore new and emerging funding opportunities for the conservation of landscape and seascape.

A sustainable long-term approach is needed to secure funding for landscape conservation moving forward. The scale of investment required to meet national biodiversity and climate goals is significant and the funding provided by DEFRA is only a proportion of what will be needed.

A short and medium-term focus on established funding mechanisms, including charitable grant funding and Agri-Environment Schemes for farmers, foresters and land managers will sit alongside exploring the new and innovative financing opportunities as they develop further. Involvement in partnerships that allow Arnside and Silverdale to be part of larger initiatives, such as Nature North and The National Landscape's 'Your Natural Partner' programme is likely to attract greater levels of investment for Arnside and Silverdale in the future.

Wider socio-economic conditions are making access to the landscape more difficult for some visitors. Basic costs associated with travel, activities and provision of facilities for visitors have risen. Disposable incomes have fallen with subsequent impacts on tourism and hospitality businesses in the area. There are significant and multiple benefits to health and well-being from the landscape, ensuring that people can still access these benefits requires ongoing support, both in terms of staff resource and direct funding.



S10 Funding & Finance

Outcomes

- 1) Long term security of sufficient funding for conserving and enhancing the landscape
- 2) Increased staff resource and capacity within the National Landscape Partnership and partnership organisations

Drivers for Change

- Increases in actual costs due to inflation. The funding required to maintain landscape assets in their current condition has increased in real terms.
- Socio-economic pressures and rising poverty have made access to the landscape more difficult, particularly for harder-to-reach audiences. Reductions in budgets for eNGO partners, leading to less investment by charitable organisations which manage land for conservation.
- Changes to charitable grants and funding streams and increased competition for the funds available.
- New opportunities becoming available through new schemes and programmes.
- Changes in Agri-Environment Scheme funding and the de-linking of agricultural subsidy payments with a move to a 'public funds for public goods' model. Developments in Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) policy and opportunities to deliver wildlife conservation and habitat creation through the planning system.
- Green finance in its current form is focused on restoration of poor-quality wildlife habitat and does not fund the conservation of existing good quality habitat.

Indicators of Success

- Amount of funding secured, either directly or indirectly by the wider partnership to fund work that contributes towards the conservation and enhancement of the landscape.
- Number of projects supported by the National Landscape Small Grants Fund.

Key Partners

- Charitable funding organisations e.g. National Lottery
- Local Authorities – Lancaster City Council, Westmorland & Furness Council, Lancashire County Council
- Parish Councils
- eNGOs including National Trust, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust
- Natural England
- National Landscapes Association
- Morecambe Bay Partnership

Finance and Funding Actions

- 10a Increase capacity within the National Landscape Partnership to include a dedicated finance and funding role, aimed at exploring innovative blue and green finance options, including larger scale, longer term bid funding if feasible.

- 10b Effectively utilise and contribute to existing green finance networks and forums such as the National Landscapes Association 'Your Natural Partner' service and Nature North's investable propositions project pipeline.

- 10c Invest in and support the adoption of new sustainable technology, equipment and infrastructure to increase efficiency, reduce costs and reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change.

- 10d Advise and support local communities, organisations and businesses to engage with and access relevant rural development and funding programmes.

- 10e Support, facilitate and, if appropriate, lead on the development of funding bids that contribute towards the purpose of the designation. Seek funding through established funding bodies, focusing on those tailored towards Protected Landscapes e.g. NLHF Landscape Connections, Landscape Recovery.

- 10f Explore opportunities to further develop income through individual gifting schemes including targeted donations, crowd funding and sponsorship schemes.

- 10g Administrate and deliver the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Grants Fund in partnership with the Arnside & Silverdale Landscape Trust

10b – National Landscapes Association 'Your Natural Partner' programme

Your Natural Partner is the National Landscapes Association's online showcase of nature recovery and social responsibility projects ready for corporate sponsorship or partnership. The Association brings together 46 National Landscapes spanning England and Wales to offer varied and scalable projects to meet the changing needs of nature, people and business.

[Your Natural Partner | Home](#). (External Link)

Nature North

Nature North is a partnership of statutory agencies, funding bodies, eNGOs and others tasked with developing a strategic plan and large scale conservation projects for a 'Nature Positive Regional Economy'. Large scale multi-organisation projects so far include The Northern Forest and The Great North Bog. The partnership is currently working on a portfolio of investable projects for coasts and estuaries across Northern England

[Home - Nature North](#) (External Link)

Key Policy

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

The PLTOF¹⁸ are split into 3 themes, each with a series of associated targets and reportable indicators:

- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Enhancing Beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

Thriving Plants and Wildlife

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).

NB. the 250k ha total will be split across the whole Protected Landscape network with the target hectareage for Arnside and Silverdale being a proportion of this, related to total area and existing area of priority habitats.

Target 2 - Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

Target 3 - For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

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.

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.

The following indicators will measure progress on the 'thriving plants and wildlife' targets:

- 1) extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites
 - percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition
 - percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition
 - extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes
 - percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land

Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

Target 6 - Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

Target 7 - Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

Target 8 - Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

The following indicators will measure progress on the 'mitigating and adapting to climate change' targets:

- the level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes
- extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes

¹⁸ [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework)

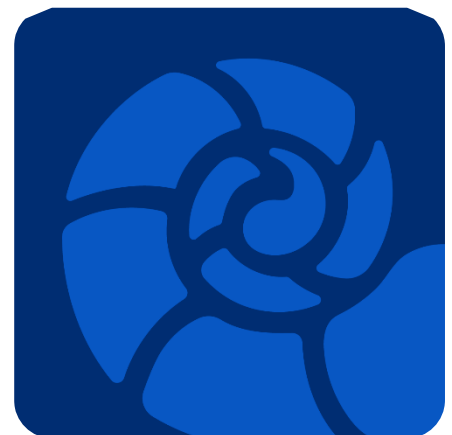
- extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes
- Enhancing Beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

Target 9 - Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.

Target 10 - Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

The following indicators will measure progress on the ‘enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement’ targets:

- improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme:
- metres of accessible path as a percentage 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 has been created or improved
- policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers
- number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk. To separately cover the categories of:
 - scheduled monuments
 - registered parks and gardens
 - registered battlefields
 - listed buildings (grade I or II*)
 - protected wreck sites



International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The IUCN recognises UK protected landscapes as 'Category V (5) Protected landscapes / seascapes', defined as protected areas mainly managed for landscape and seascape conservation and recreation.

The IUCN sets out 12 principles for management of these category V (5) areas;¹⁹

Principle 1: Conserving landscape, biodiversity and cultural values are at the heart of the Category V protected area approach.

Principle 2: The focus of management should be on the point of interaction between people and nature.

Principle 3: People should be seen as stewards of the landscape.

Principle 4: Management must be undertaken with and through local people, and mainly for and by them.

Principle 5: Management should be based on co-operative approaches, such as co-management and multi-stakeholder equity.

Principle 6: Effective management requires a supportive political and economic environment.

Principle 7: Management of Category V protected areas should not only be concerned with protection but also enhancement.

Principle 8: When there is an irreconcilable conflict between the objectives of management, priority should be given to retaining the special qualities of the area.

Principle 9: Economic activities that do not need to take place within the Protected Landscape should be located outside it.

Principle 10: Management should be business-like and of the highest professional standard.

Principle 11: Management should be flexible and adaptive.

Principle 12: The success of management should be measured in environmental and social terms.



¹⁹ [Management guidelines for IUCN category V protected areas : protected landscapes/seascapes | IUCN Library System](#)

National Planning Policy Framework 2024

The National Planning Policy framework (NPPF) Sets out Government planning policy and how policy should be applied.

Areas most relevant to the landscape are:

(189) Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

(190) When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes, permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.

Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

- a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;*
- b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and*
- c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.*

(192) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity⁶⁸; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and*
- b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.*

(193) When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
- b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;*

- c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁷⁰ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and*
- d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.*



Plan Monitoring

The requirement to monitor against outcomes is integrated into each 5-year Plan. The 'State of the National Landscape' Report is the primary output of this monitoring and details performance against the indicators of success listed against each strategic objective.

Reportable Indicators against Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective	Indicators	Mechanism	Period
S1 Landscape & Seascape	Sky Quality Monitoring (SQM) surveys	Point survey using SQM meter	Every 3 years
	Number of projects delivered with the potential to mitigate or adapt to Climate Change	Total number of projects with climate mitigation/adaptation potential including suitable habitat creation, emissions reduction or engagement initiatives.	Whole plan
	National Landscape Climate Change Adaptation Plan developed and adopted	Development and adoption of Climate Change Adaptation Plan	By 2028
S2 Geodiversity	Condition of Geological SSSIs	SSSI condition monitoring undertaken by Natural England	Every 6 years (varies by site)
	Condition of Local Geological Sites (LGS)	LGS monitoring undertaken by Cumbria Geoconservation and/or GeoLancashire with support from Local Authority	Every 6 years (varies by site)
	Development and adoption of a Local Geodiversity Action Plan	Local Geodiversity Action Plan produced and adopted	End of Plan period
S3 Biodiversity	Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework. Targets 1–8.	See indicators listed in PLTOF section	2030
	Positive results of the various ongoing biodiversity monitoring programmes specified within the Nature Recovery Plan	See indicators listed within Nature Recovery plan monitoring section	2030
	Relevant Lancashire and Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) indicators	LNRS indicators monitored by respective Local Authorities	Every 5 years

Strategic Objective	Indicators	Mechanism	Period
S4 Historic & Cultural Heritage	Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework. Target 10	See indicators listed in PLTOF section	
	Number and condition of scheduled monuments and designated heritage assets	Historic England Monitoring programme.	Varies by asset
	Number of non-designated heritage assets (NHDA's)	Review and updates to Local Heritage Lists by relevant Local Authority Conservation Teams	Varies
	Condition of Conservation Areas	Review and updates to Conservation Area Appraisals by relevant Local Authority Conservation Teams	Varies
	Number of Listed Building Consent applications/permissions	Development Management reporting based on application type and outcome	Whole Plan
	Extent of Historic Environment Record (HER)	Review of HER data supplied by relevant County Data Centres	Whole Plan
	Number/extent of Agri-environment (AES) land management options targeting the historic environment	Review of AES options in place and extent of options, complied by Natural England/Rural Payments Agency as part of Open Gov licence	Whole Plan
S5 Access, Enjoyment & Wellbeing	Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) Target 9	See indicators listed in PLTOF section	2030
	Total length and condition of Public Rights of Way (PROW) network	Review of PROW monitoring by relevant Local Authority Access Teams	Whole Plan
	Website traffic	Reported metrics from National Landscape Website host	Annually
	Social media engagement	Reported metrics from active National Landscape Social media platforms	Annually

Strategic Objective	Indicators	Mechanism	Period
S5 Access, Enjoyment & Wellbeing (continued)	Number of Landscape-related School sessions	School sessions reporting and feedback from school visits	Annually
	Number of public events	Public events reporting, either directly or indirectly through partners such as The Landscape Trust	Annually
S6 Sustainable Economy, Tourism & Transport	Visitor numbers at key attractions in the landscape	Visitor numbers reporting from key attractions (ticket sales etc.)	Annually
	Number and type of local services available	Review of local services including Schools, Libraries, Grocery retail, Healthcare, Public Transport etc.	Whole Plan
	Outcomes of the Silverdale Sustainable Transport Study	Review of published study	Whole Plan
	Number of tourism businesses operating	Relevant Local Authority business reporting, Outcome of National Landscape Visitor Research (6d)	Whole Plan
	Number and type of visitor accommodation operating in the landscape	Relevant Local Authority business reporting, Outcome of National Landscape Visitor Research (6d)	Whole Plan
S7 Planning & Place Making	Number of development management cases that make a positive contribution to the landscape	Development Management reporting based on application type and outcome	Whole Plan
	Number (and proportion) of affordable housing permitted and built	Development Management reporting based on application type and outcome	Whole Plan
	Number of static caravans, lodges, chalets and touring pitches	Relevant Local Authority business reporting, Outcome of National Landscape Visitor Research (6d)	Whole Plan
	Total distance of cables/wires undergrounded	Electricity Northwest Undergrounding for Visual Amenity (UVA) project reporting	Whole Plan

Strategic Objective	Indicators	Mechanism	Period
S8 Farming, Forestry & Rural Land Use	Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) Target 1-8	See indicators listed in PLTOF section	2030
	Uptake and coverage of Agri-Environment Schemes (AES), management options and capital works by type.	Review of AES options in place and extent of options, complied by Natural England/Rural Payments Agency as part of Open Gov licence	Whole Plan
	Uptake and coverage of Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)	FiPL programme reporting	2025 – 2026
	Total value of AES and FiPL within the landscape	Review of AES options in place and extent of options, complied by Natural England/Rural Payments Agency as part of Open Gov licence	Whole Plan
	Number/type of livestock and land use	DEFRA June Farm survey results	Whole Plan
	Number of people employed within Agriculture.	DEFRA June Farm survey results	Whole Plan
	Number of farm and land management events	FiPL programme reporting, direct reporting from partners such as NFU, Pastures4Life etc.	Annually
	Total area under Conservation Grazing management	Direct reporting from Conservation Graziers and eNGO's practicing Conservation grazing Management in Landscape	Whole Plan
S9 Governance & Ways of Working	Number of volunteer days supported in the Landscape, either directly by the NL Team or within partnership organisations National Trust, RSPB etc.	Volunteer activity reporting	Annually

Strategic Objective	Indicators	Mechanism	Period
S9 Governance & Ways of Working (continued)	Number of research projects supported that contribute towards improved understanding of the Landscape and its special qualities.	Direct reports from Educational Institutions, Review number of published/submitted research projects and papers.	Whole Plan
S10 Funding & Finance	Amount of funding secured, either directly or indirectly by the wider partnership to fund work that contributes towards the conservation and enhancement of the landscape.	Partnership headline budget reporting, specific budget reporting related to large grants/charitable bid funding.	Annually
	Number of projects supported by the National Landscape Small Grants Fund.	Small Grants Fund reporting	Annually



Supporting Documents

Arnside & Silverdale State of The National Landscape Report 2024

Arnside & Silverdale Nature Recovery Plan 2025

Arnside & Silverdale Special Qualities Report 2025

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) 2019

National Landscape Management Plan Strategic Environment Appraisal (SEA)

National Landscape Management Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

National Landscape Management Plan Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

2019-2024 Management Plan Policy and Actions Review

2026-2031 Management Plan Public Engagement and Stakeholder Consultation reports

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment 2015

Key legislation & Policy (links)

[Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000](#)

[Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023](#)

[Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK](#)

[Countryside Act 1968](#)

[Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#)

[Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#)

[Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#)

[Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)

[Climate Change Act 2008](#)

[Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#)

[The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017](#)

[National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#)

[IUCN](#)

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