

# Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

## Local priorities and guidance, April 2026



**Shropshire  
Hills**  
National  
Landscape

Projects funded through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape are expected to deliver against at least one, preferably more, of the priorities of the National Landscape Management Plan and where appropriate, the Nature Recovery Plan.

The drawings in the following pages show some potential actions which would meet the programme priorities of Nature, Climate, People and Place. The images and captions are intended as a starter to stimulate ideas for potential applicants. To progress a project idea you would need to discuss your proposal with one of our advisers. Actions need to be appropriate to the proposed location.

There are different drawings for upland and lowland, but many of the ideas are interchangeable, so you may want to look at both. For both upland and lowland, there is an image labelled with actions for 'Nature' and for 'Climate', and one labelled with actions to support the 'People' and 'Place' themes.

Applicants are encouraged where possible to combine elements of more than one of the four themes in projects.

# Upland areas - with Nature and Climate actions

Heathland restoration on suitable hill tops

Rewetting of upland peatlands

Improved systems for manure handling and use

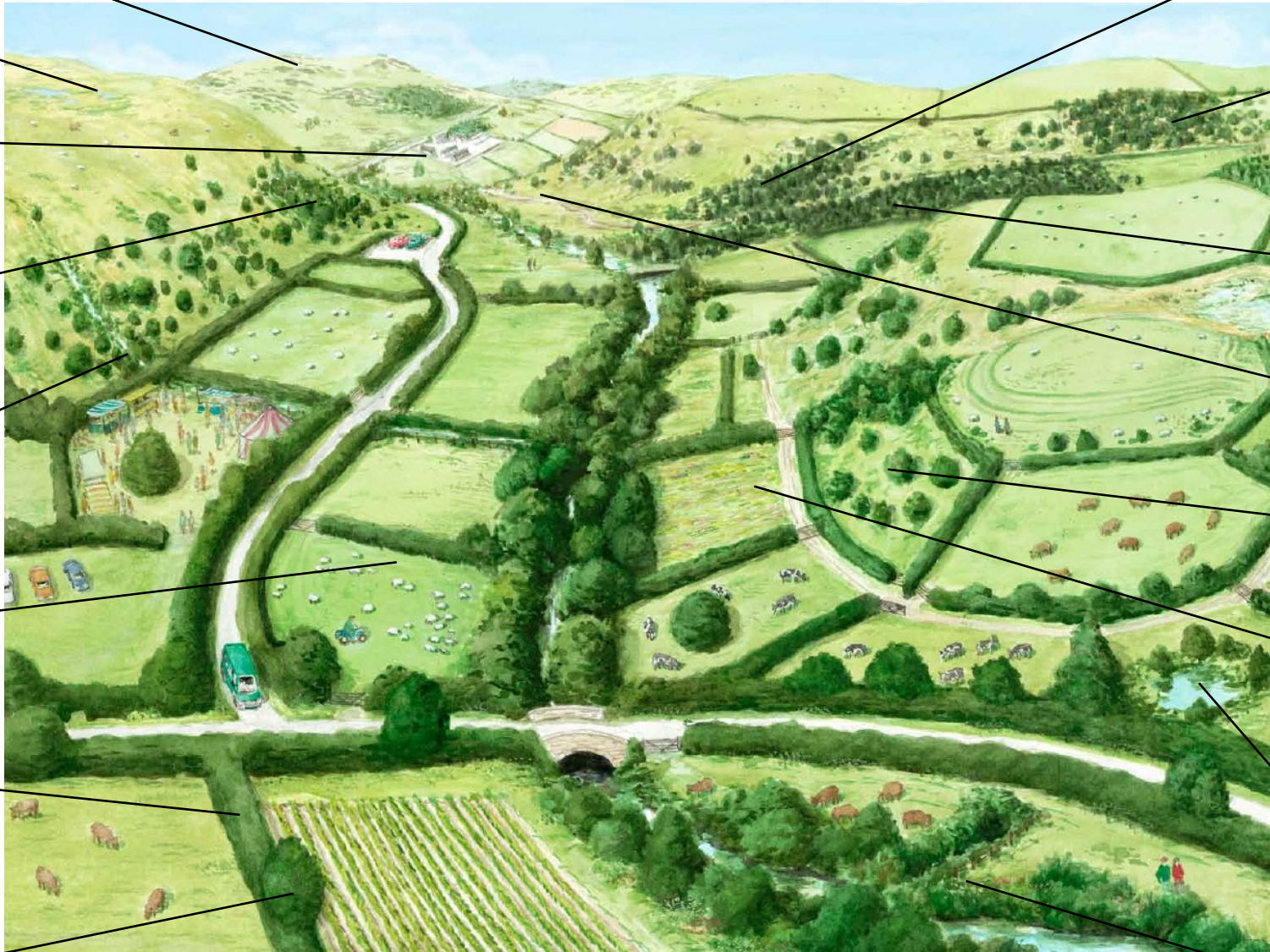
Protection of native woodlands from grazing to allow tree regeneration

Leaky dams on small streams (natural flood management)

Field restructuring and water provision for regenerative grazing

Hedge laying and restoration, hedges allowed to grow to larger volume and managed in rotation

Planting and maintenance of hedgerow trees



Planting more trees in dingles and on rough banks (ffridd)

Restoration of conifer plantations to broadleaved woodland

Creating, expanding and connecting native woodlands

Carbon and natural capital assessments

Wood pasture creation as part of habitat networks

Creation of species-rich hay meadows

Enhancing an existing pond for wildlife, and possible farm use of stored water

Creation of wooded buffer zone along stream corridor

Note - the text and images here are suggestions and ideas - please refer also to detailed programme guidance

# Upland areas - with People and Place actions

Facilities for walkers and cyclists in suitable locations

Creation of small new parking area for walkers

Creation of waymarked and interpreted all-ability trail

Cultural or arts events linked to land management, nature and heritage

Programmes of countryside visits for under-represented groups

Interpretation of natural and cultural features of landscape



Geological site maintained and made available with trail and educational use

Community woodland management, including woodfuel supply

Hillfort maintained as open grassland and with enhanced public access and interpretation

Wildlife watching events

Educational use of pond and wetland area

Volunteers involved in wildlife monitoring

Improved public access along river corridor

Note - the text and images here are suggestions and ideas - please refer also to detailed programme guidance

# Lowland areas - with Nature and Climate actions

New hedges, field division and water supply for regenerative grazing

Hedge laying and restoration, hedges allowed to grow to larger volume and managed in a rotation

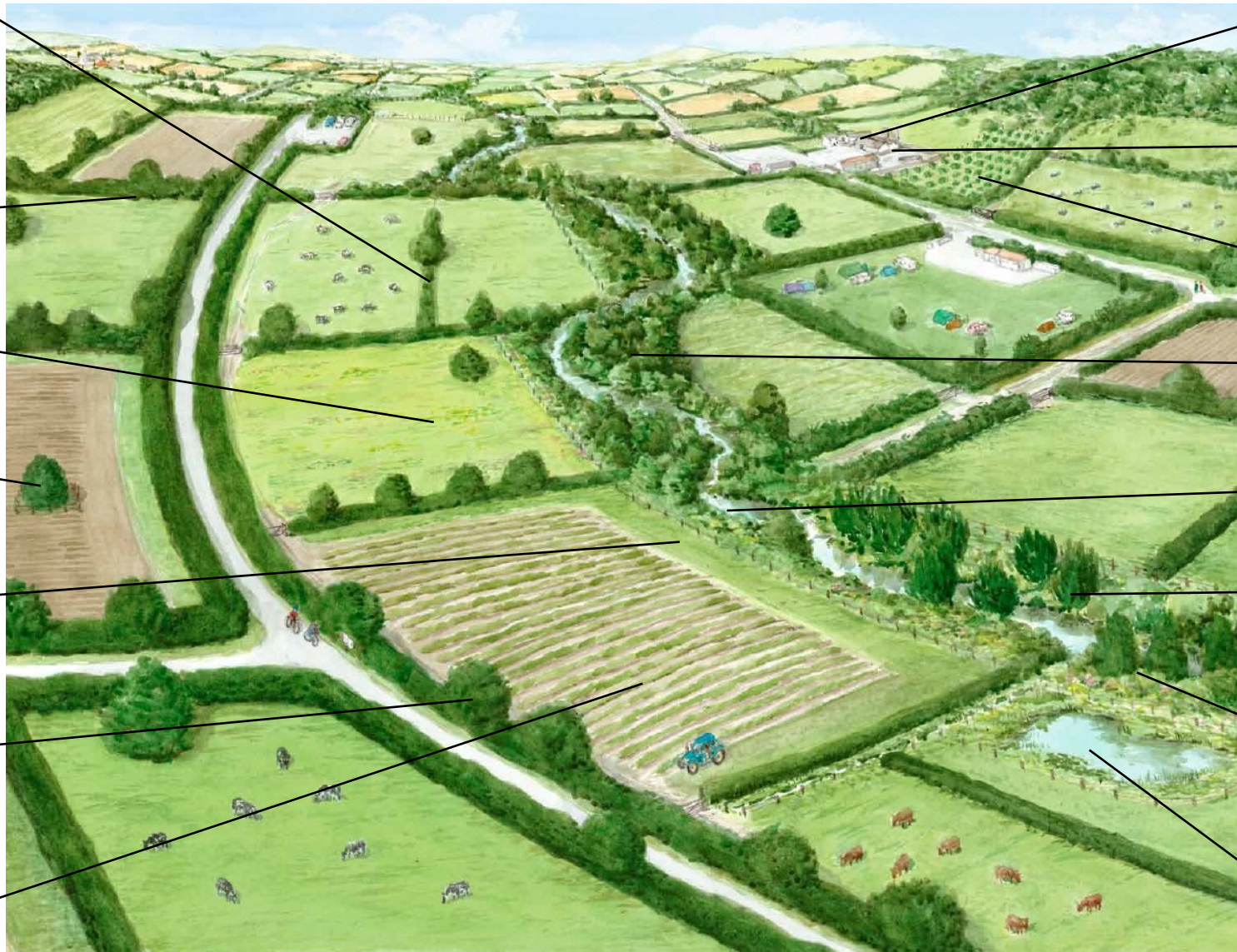
Creation of species-rich hay meadows

Planting of new in-field trees

Creating wider grass margins on arable fields by river

Planting and maintenance of hedgerow trees

Shift to regenerative arable farming practices such as min-till/ no-till, to improve soil condition



Improved systems for manure handling and use

Carbon and natural capital assessments

Agroforestry or new orchards

Creation of floodplain woodland

Meanders reinstated in straightened river

Bankside willows re-pollarded

Creation of woodland/ scrub corridor on riverbank

Creation of new pond and wetland in suitable low-lying place, possible farm use of stored water

Note - the text and images here are suggestions and ideas - please refer also to detailed programme guidance

# Lowland areas - with People and Place actions

Orchard created or restored, with community involvement

Facilities for walkers and cyclists in suitable locations

Creation of off-road cycle route

Care farming and social forestry to benefit wellbeing of vulnerable people

Cultural or arts events linked to land management, nature and heritage

Demonstration events in agro-ecological and regenerative farming



Direct selling of environmentally sustainable locally produced food

Restoration of historic farm building for visitor centre or educational use

Farm open days or educational visits

Creation of small campsite in suitable location

Public engagement on low carbon and nature friendly land management

Skills courses in practical conservation

Note - the text and images here are suggestions and ideas - please refer also to detailed programme guidance

# The Shropshire Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030 'Thriving in Balance with Nature' has a Vision set out around six themes:

Our vision for the Shropshire Hills...

## Thriving in balance with nature

Everyone can play their part in looking after what makes the area special

**Climate** is stabilised through decarbonising, and we are resilient to change

**Nature** is restored and natural processes regenerated

**People** are healthy and connected to nature – in vibrant communities and as welcome visitors

**Water** is clean, and its flows and cycles support our lives, and all life



**Land** is nurtured so it can sustain us



**Shropshire Hills**  
National Landscape

# Summary of key Plan priorities

Under each Vision heading, these are headline summaries of the Plan's priorities, which are fleshed out in Policies, Recommendations and Aspirations within the Plan.

## Nature is restored and natural processes regenerated

- Build the **nature recovery network** by restoring and creating more connected habitats for wildlife – woodlands, rivers and wetlands, meadows, scrub, hedges, road verges, etc.
- Avoid further harm and **manage existing good habitats**.
- **Integrate nature with farming** and land management.
- Increase **native tree and woodland cover**.
- Targeted action for particularly important **species**.
- Support and enable **natural processes**.
- Help people to **connect to nature**.

## Climate is stabilised through decarbonising, and we are resilient to change

- **Face up to the challenge** – changing, preparing, adapting.
- Achieve **big reductions in greenhouse gas emissions** through technological, behavioural and structural changes in all sectors.
- Encourage **dialogue and collective action** on climate.
- Undertake more detailed work on **adaptation**.
- Maximise **storage and sequestration of carbon in land**, and apply nature-based solutions at scale.
- Appropriate deployment of **renewable energy**.
- Seek to ensure a **just transition** for all of society.

## Land is nurtured so it can sustain us

- Forge a **new sustainable future for farming** - especially livestock farming in the uplands, balancing food production with nature.
- Transition to **more agro-ecological farming**.
- Understand and value our **exceptional geology**.
- **Look after soils**, especially through regenerative practices.
- Support the movement for a **fairer and healthier food system**.
- Ensure **appropriate forms of built development** on farms.

- Support **sustainable forestry**, balancing production with other benefits.
- Support **skills development** for land management.
- Develop the role of **farmer clusters and groups**.

## Water is clean, and its flows and cycles support our lives, and all life

- **Re-naturalise our rivers and their catchments** - with less engineered stream and river channels.
- **Hold more water higher up for longer** to slow flood peaks and maintain flows in dry periods, including rewetting headwater land.
- **Reduce all forms of pollution** to achieve cleaner rivers.
- **Manage catchments in an integrated way** for multiple benefits.
- Improve **management and storage of water** as a resource.

## People are healthy and connected to nature – in vibrant communities and as welcome visitors

- Support **meeting everybody's basic needs of wellbeing**.
- Take active steps to **address barriers faced by underserved communities** (including local people and visitors).
- **Involve and welcome a wider range of people** from all parts of society to enjoy the area.
- Encourage **active recreation for health and wellbeing**.
- Invest in improvements and maintenance of the **access network**.
- Manage localised **impacts and pressures from visitors**.
- Support **learning** related to all aspects of the landscape.
- Enable more opportunities for **volunteering and involvement**.

## The Shropshire Hills are valued and cared for as a special Place

- Build a **regenerative economy** that supports a healthy environment and meets the needs of all of society.
- **Reject developments which harm** or take from the environment.
- Support transitions to **sustainable tourism and transport**.
- Protect **tranquillity and dark skies**.
- Value and celebrate our varied **cultural heritage**.
- Develop **sense of place** at local levels and for the Shropshire Hills.
- Build strong **communities**, and support **local action**.
- Optimise links between the Shropshire Hills and **surrounding areas**.

## **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) priorities and actions** [www.shropshire.gov.uk/lnrs](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/lnrs)

### **Enhance nature alongside food production**

Establish Farmer Groups

Enhance soil health and nature on arable land

Enhance soil health and nature on pastures

Create, restore and manage nature-rich farmland mosaics

### **Restore, enhance, expand and appropriately manage the hedgerow network**

Restore and manage the existing hedgerow network

Create more connectivity in the landscape by establishing new hedgerows

### **Re-naturalise rivers and stabilise flows**

Improve water quality

Reduce both flood risk and low flows

Remove physical barriers

Restore streams and rivers to a more natural state

Create, enhance and appropriately manage riparian buffers

### **Restore peatland and wetland mosaics**

Restore existing areas of high-quality peat, fen and bog habitat

Restore, connect and expand areas of wetland mosaic habitat

Restore ability of catchment headwaters to act as a sponge

Target regularly flooded land for wetland creation and grazing marsh

### **Create, restore and manage ponds, glacial pools and meres**

Enhance existing ponds, pools and meres

Create new ponds

## **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) priorities and actions** part 2

### **Safeguard and enhance veteran trees**

Identify, appropriately manage and safeguard the future of veteran trees

Secure continuity of veteran trees in the landscape

### **Restore and expand nature-rich woodlands**

Buffer and connect ancient semi-natural woodland

Improve condition of deciduous, mixed and wet woodlands

Restore plantation on ancient woodland sites

Create new woodlands

### **Restore and expand nature-rich woody habitats**

Restore and expand wood pasture

Restore parkland

Plant and manage mosaics of scrub

Establish new, and safeguard traditional, orchards

Plant more trees in the farmed landscape

### **Restore, connect and expand species-rich grasslands across the county**

Set up infrastructure to support grassland restoration and creation

Safeguard and enhance traditional hay meadows and other existing species-rich grasslands

Create and restore species-rich grassland

Restore grassland on roadside verges and alongside paths and tracks

### **Restore, connect and expand heathland sites**

Establish effective management regimes for heathland sites

Restore heathland where geology allows to increase habitat connectivity

## **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) priorities and actions** Part 3

### **Increase the area of ffridd habitat**

Enhance areas of ffridd habitat

Create new areas of ffridd habitat to benefit a wide range of species

### **Enhance the wildlife value of open mosaic habitats**

Create, enhance and appropriately manage close mosaics of open habitats on former coalmining and post-industrial sites

Enhance open mosaic habitats on brownfield sites

Retain the wildlife value of scree

### **Bring nature into towns, villages and amenity spaces**

Integrate nature recovery within new developments

Create wildlife-friendly gardens at homes and businesses

Enhance wildlife value of multifunctional green space

Effective water management in the built environment

Reduce the adverse impact of light pollution on wildlife

Increase canopy cover in the built environment

### **Reduce invasive non-native species across whole catchments**

Prevent the spread of invasive non-native species

Implement a targeted programme to reduce invasive non-native species

### **Enable more access to and connection with nature for health and wellbeing**

Enable access to nature-rich sites

Create a more comprehensive network to enable active travel

Enhance peoples' connection with nature