National Parks: Taking Leadership on Nature Recovery

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The English National Parks are leaders in nature recovery and are in a strong position to deliver Government targets. National Park Authorities deliver successful nature recovery and has a track record of working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders. With the core funding to National Park Authorities decreasing by 40% in real terms since 2010 the authorities have had to be proactive in seeking funding from other sources.

This selection of case studies showcases the varied range of projects that National Park Authorities can deliver as part of wider partnerships and utilising a diversity of financial sources. These case studies demonstrate how nature, climate, people and the landscape are at the heart of the work of the National Park authorities. These projects are ongoing, some are well established and others still in the development stage.

Photo credit: John Hodgson, LDNPA

Revere Windermere Water Quality Finance Model

Strategic riparian woodland planting and wetland creation that can be integrated into existing farm systems. Phase 1 feasibility model supported by Esteé Lauder Companies which delivered proof of concept; Phase 2 design was supported by Santander Bank for ground-truthing the model, widening stakeholder engagement with investors, buyers and land managers to prepare for investment readiness, as well as developing the commercial model for future implementation.

Photo credit: Tim Longstaff

Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected

Working across Upper Swaledale and Upper Teesdale, encompassing part of the North Pennines National Landscape, to collaborate with farmers and landowners.

The project has already restored or enhanced 92 ha of woodland; 150 ha of species-rich grassland and hay meadows; 74 ha of rush management, 116 scrapes and 5400m of hedgerows have been planted. Interventions include: restoring blanket bog; creating on-farm wetlands; rush management; instream/riparian works and vegetation and grassland planted across highly metal-contaminated ore processing wastes to reduce metals being washed out by rain and increase biodiversity.

Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Hadrian's Wall: Recovering Nature

Restoring natural processes, enhancing and expanding wetland habitats and sequestering more carbon.

Funded by Landscape Recovery (one of Defra's Environmental Land Management schemes) and the Reece Foundation.

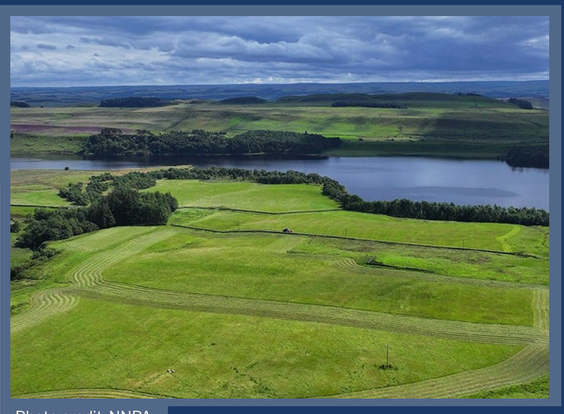


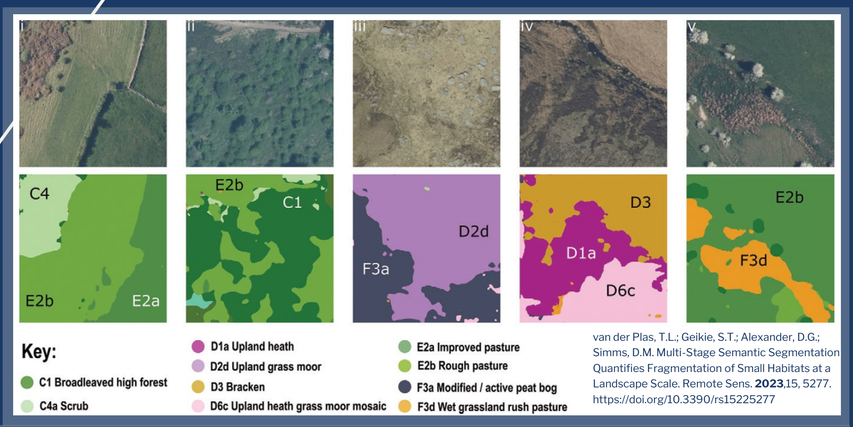
Photo credit: NNPA

Photo credit: NYMNPA

Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership

Restoring the western River Rye catchment by enhancing in-river features; delivering natural flood risk management measures; creating and restoring habitat from woodlands to marshy grasslands; controlling invasive non-native species and reconnecting people to this special river landscape through school outreach and citizen science surveys.

Made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund and partners.



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Using AI to analyse landscape change

Using high-resolution aerial photography and artificial intelligence methods to survey habitats and land cover with a high accuracy and across large areas. This has the potential to provide a repeatable, fast and economical method for monitoring landscape change.

Made possible with funding from Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council and The Alan Turing Institute.

Before and after photos. Photo credit: Alison Kennedy

Sowing the Seeds

Using a brush harvester to collect seed from donor meadows; drying and preparing the seed to distribute to recipient meadows; cultivating and planting plug plants as well as offering specialist advice to meadow owners.

Funded by Farming in Protected Landscapes (one of Defra's Environmental Land Management schemes) and donations through CareMoor.

Credits: Esri, Michael Bauer Research GmbH 2023, Office for National Statistics (ONS)/ UK Statistics Authority, Scottish Government, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Eurostat

Fibre Broads

Testing novel propagation and wetland crop systems whilst monitoring the success.

Funded by Nature for Climate Paludiculture Exploration Fund (Defra and NE).

Before and after photos. Photo credit: The Broads Authority

Dartmoor Headwaters Project

Working across 7 priority catchments and using a whole catchment approach to provide clean air; water quality; flood and drought resilience; thriving wildlife; adaptation to climate change; enhanced beauty and heritage; and engagement with the natural world.

At one site interventions included trialling 5 different types of leaky dams to slow the flow, as well as tree planting in gullies. Other interventions include: improving soil condition; floodplain reconnection; river restoration; peatland restoration; wetland restoration; valley mire restoration and water storage ponds.

Funded by the Environment Agency's Natural Flood Management Programme and Devon County Council.

Photo credits: DNPA and R. Morgan

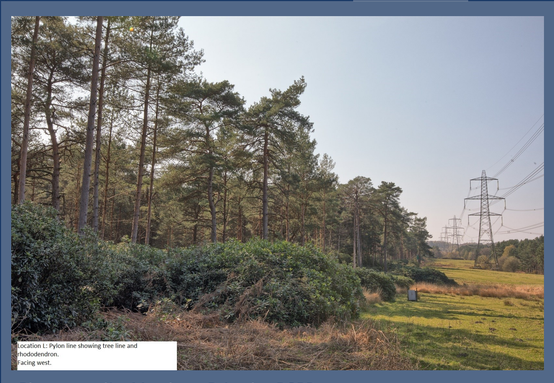

Photo credit: Matthew Pringle, RSPB

Restoration and Enhancement of Franchises Lodge

Removal of invasive species; preventing a wet heath and bog from drying out; unearthing an ancient Bronze Age site; tree planting; improving access and stream enhancements.

Funded by the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative.

ReNaturing in Buriton

Low cost actions to improve conditions for pollinators by allowing grass margins to grow long and sowing yellow rattle.

Funded by the South Downs Trust.

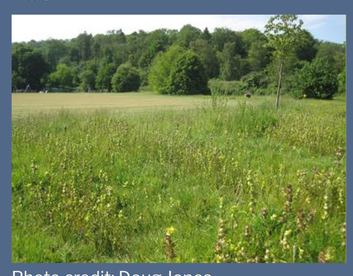

Photo credit: Doug Jones

Nature Recovery Target Habitats

Collectively, including projects not managed by National Park Authorities, English National Parks have a portfolio of projects that have the potential to achieve the creation and restoration of this many hectares in each of these habitat types. However, the funding and resources to achieve these targets are currently not available.

Sources:

The information on this poster was either obtained from the National Park Authority staff directly or through their websites.

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Yorkshire Water, The Wildlife Trusts, Derwent Catchment Partnership, Howardian Hills National Landscape, North Yorkshire Council, English Heritage, Forestry England, Woodland Trust, Natural England, National Trust, Environment Agency, Durham University, Community First Yorkshire, Butterfly Conservation, Northumberland County Council, Tyne Rivers Trust, Historic England, North Pennines National Landscape, Lake District Foundation, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, National Farmers' Union, Westmorland and Furness Council, United Utility, Cumbria Enterprise Partnership, Severn Trent, RSPB, South Pennines Park, Heather Trust, Ethical Finance Sector, British Mountaineering Council, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest, South West Water, Devon County Council, The Alan Turing Institute, Cranfield University and Buriton Parish Council.