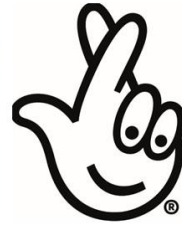




**SOUTH WEST PEAK**  
LANDSCAPE AT A CROSSROADS



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**

## **South West Peak Landscape Partnership Final Report and Legacy Plan**



# Acknowledgements

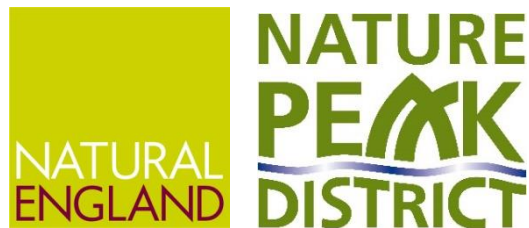
The Partnership was led by:



With the following additional delivery partners:



And the following supporting partners:





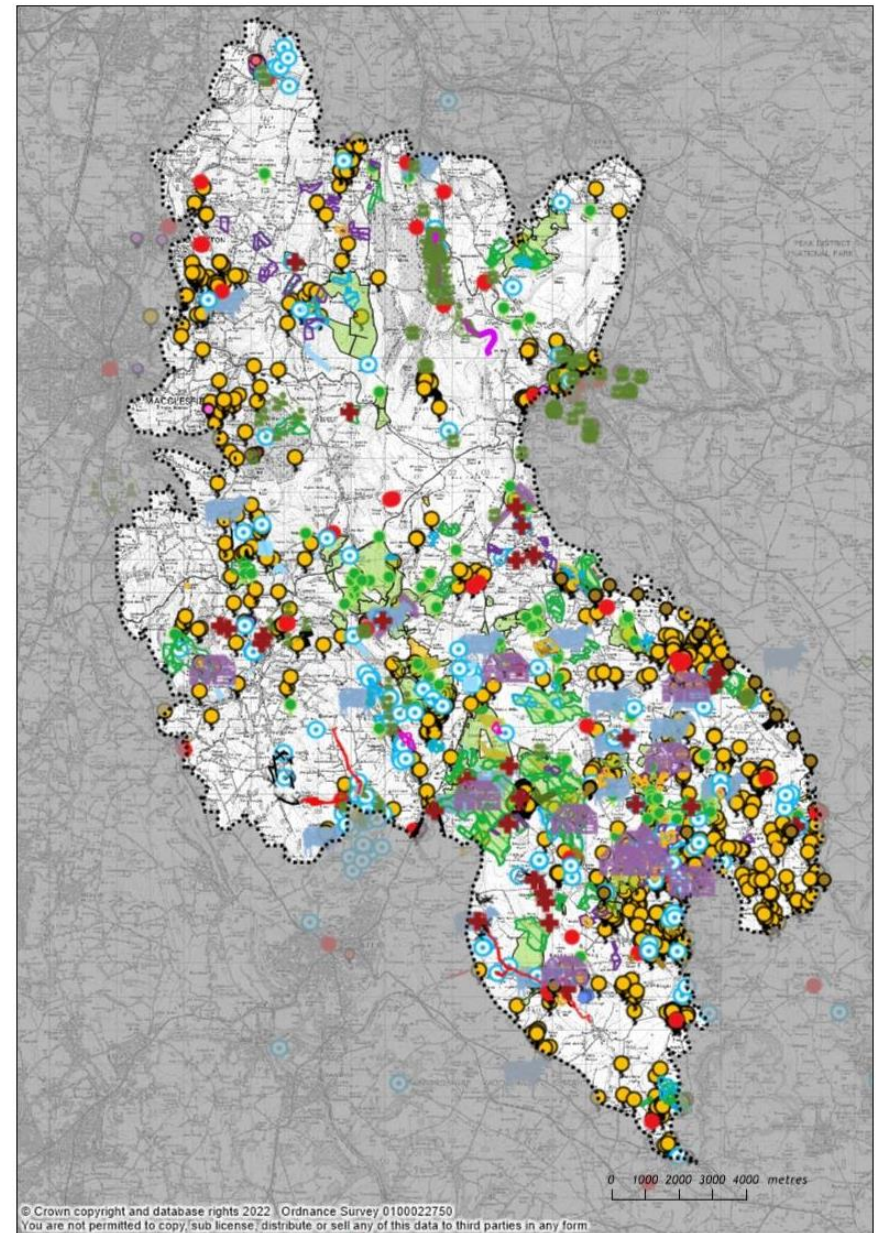
# Introduction

The South West Peak Landscape Partnership formed in 2013, and in 2014 submitted a first round bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (now called the National Lottery Heritage Fund) for the Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) entitled 'South West Peak – Landscape at a Crossroads'. After a development phase between January 2015 and July 2016 in which project plans were finalised and the Landscape Conservation Action Plan produced, the Partnership began its delivery phase in January 2017.

The South West Peak Landscape Partnership Scheme covered an area of 354km<sup>2</sup> mostly within the Peak District National Park, encompassing parts of the Staffordshire Moorlands, Cheshire East and the High Peak of Derbyshire. This ambitious programme comprised a relatively small number of high-value projects with a wide range of activities across the area. Some projects were site focussed, some concentrated in specific priority areas, while others acted across the whole area. The map pictured right shows the spread of our work, from survey records to capital works, habitat and species enhancements, and engagement activities.

The LPS was expected to complete in December 2021, but an extension of six months was agreed as mitigation for the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to 2021, which interrupted and changed the intended delivery programme, the LPS therefore completed in June 2022.

This report provides examples of the work delivered by the partnership and the outputs and outcomes resulting from our activities. Full details are available in final project reports and case studies on our website: [www.southwestpeak.co.uk](http://www.southwestpeak.co.uk)



# Programme Outcomes

The Partnership agreed the following Mission Statement:

***By working together in the South West Peak, we will shape a better future for our communities, landscape, wildlife and heritage where trust and understanding thrive.***

Plus the following set of partnership outcomes, which aligned with the NLHF outcomes (at the time of producing our Landscape Conservation Action Plan) as follows:

LPS Outcome	Related NLHF Outcomes
<b>Relationships</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved understanding and relationship between different communities (farmers, conservationists, residents, visitors, partners)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage.</li> <li>The South West Peak will be a better place to live, work or visit.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats are more diverse and more resilient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage will be better managed</li> <li>Heritage will be in better condition</li> <li>Heritage will be identified/recorded</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Populations of key species are supported and more resilient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage will be better managed</li> <li>Heritage will be in better condition</li> <li>Heritage will be identified/recorded</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A move towards economically and environmentally sustainable land management or 'high nature value farming'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negative environmental impacts will be reduced</li> <li>The South West Peak will be a better place to live, work or visit</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landscape is managed for multiple benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negative environmental impacts will be reduced</li> </ul>
<b>People</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People have a stronger sense of place, they are engaging with the landscape, have better experiences, and have gained respect and understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People will have learnt about heritage</li> <li>People will have volunteered time</li> <li>More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People have gained skills and knowledge about the landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage will be identified/recorded</li> <li>• People will have developed skills</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People value the landscape and understand the benefits it provides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People will have learnt about heritage</li> <li>• More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who are currently disconnected from the landscape are supported to build a relationship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People will have learnt about heritage</li> <li>• More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage</li> </ul>
<b><i>Landscape character</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic and built elements of the landscape are recorded, understood, valued and restored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage will be better managed</li> <li>• Heritage will be in better condition</li> <li>• Heritage will be identified/recorded</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distinctive mosaic of natural heritage is maintained and enhanced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage will be better managed</li> <li>• Heritage will be in better condition</li> <li>• Heritage will be identified/recorded</li> </ul>



# How we met these outcomes

## ***Improved understanding and relationship between different communities (e.g. partners, farmers, residents, visitors)***

Improving working relationships between the different partners involved in the partnership was important in ensuring we were able to deliver a cross-cutting programme of work for heritage (natural and cultural), people and communities across parts of three counties (Staffordshire, Cheshire and Derbyshire). Most of the LPS area fell within a protected landscape (Peak District National Park) and a significant proportion of this comprised designated sites (SSSI, SAC, SPA). Two different county Wildlife Trusts, two different Environment Agency regions, three different local authorities, two different water companies as well as NGOs and statutory agencies all worked together to support the programme and its component projects.

Our project staff, apprentices and volunteers often worked on privately owned farmland, sometimes alongside the landowners to deliver improvements (pictured right, installing stock fencing to protect species-rich hay meadow and 'waxcap grassland').

### Volunteer feedback

- 👥 *"I am likely to continue volunteering in the SWP if the projects are of a similar nature and are led by the same / similar people. Having worked with the same people on a number of projects / activities I have developed a good working relationship with them and the rest of the team of volunteers."*
- 🦌 *"The Wader Warden project has been excellently run and has been maintained by knowledgeable staff. Joint working of the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust has given consistent support throughout the pandemic."*
- 👥 *Over 80% of Engaging Communities grant recipients who responded to a questionnaire said their understanding and relationships with other groups/communities has improved. "The project has served to bring the community together and show the initiative, creativity and resilience needed to make things happen"*





## ***Habitats are more diverse and more resilient***

### Hay meadows

- ✋ The Glorious Grasslands project restored 61 ha of hay meadows using a range of methods including spreading of green hay, brush harvested wildflower seed and hand planting wildflower plug plants.
- ✋ Initial monitoring surveys indicated increases in average number of species, percentage cover of wildflowers and number of species (wildflowers and grasses) per square metre.

### Blanket bog

- ✋ The Upstream Thinking project planted 60,000 sphagnum moss plug plants of five different species over 30ha of blanket bog on 2 sites.
- ✋ Fire damaged blanket bog at the Roaches has been given a kick-start to rebuild some of the lost peat.
- ✋ Species-poor blanket bog at Morridge now has a wider variety of bog forming species which will help to re-wet this area of moorland, retain water and improve its value as a carbon sink.
- ✋ 16ha of fire-damaged peat at Merryton Low has been stabilised with the application of 12,000m<sup>2</sup> of geojute, over-sown with a mixture of lime, fertiliser and seed to stop further peat erosion and kick-start re-vegetation. This was achieved by working together with Historic England, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority, Environment Agency, the Ministry of Defence and contractors.

### Trees and Woodlands

- ✋ 8ha of new woodland was created and 2400m of new hedgerow planted
- ✋ Plantation and riverside woodland has been thinned on 12 sites to provide timber and pleach living willow for NFM works.



## ***Populations of key species are supported and more resilient***

### White-clawed crayfish

- 🦞 The Crayfish in Crisis project successfully improved the resilience of donor populations of white-clawed crayfish by working with the landowner at the donor site in Staffordshire to install additional habitat refuges in the rivers and streams on site, coupled with regular monitoring of the donor population.
- 🦞 As a result we were able to move 5646 healthy crayfish into 7 new ark sites in the South West Peak. Subsequent monitoring of these new populations found evidence of breeding activity, indicating that translocations were successful.
- 🦞 Watch the video here: [Crayfish in Crisis - YouTube](#)

### Upland waders (curlew, lapwing, snipe)

- 🦶 The Working for Waders project engaged with 50 landowners, by surveying their land to identify suitability for feeding and breeding wader species (as well as other species of flora and fauna) and producing a wader plan for each site.
- 🦶 The wader plans gave information on suitable areas of habitat, the requirements of each species and recommendations to enhance the habitat to support more resilient populations.
- 🦶 Collectively these wader plans cover 3048ha of land.
- 🦶 38 new foraging features (pools and scrapes) were created across 11 farms, to increase the opportunities for waders to find food.

### Grassland fungi

- 🌿 Survey work of 1420ha of grassland identified 24 sites of international importance for grassland fungi, all landowners received a comprehensive report on the findings with management recommendations.
- 🌿 Follow up work using environmental DNA (eDNA) technology to identify fungi from soil samples across 25 different sites identified 32 species of fungi on the IUCN red list as either endangered or vulnerable, enabling us to increase the knowledge and understanding of this assemblage of species and provide feedback to Natural England on future targeting of Environmental land Management scheme.





## ***A move towards economically and environmentally sustainable land management or 'high nature value farming'***

### Informing farmers and land managers

A key part of the Farm Link Worker role was passing on information about Countryside Stewardship (CS), Hedgerows and Boundaries grant scheme, and latterly, Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme to farmers and landowners, providing advice on the general direction of the new ELM schemes and how to prepare for changes to basic payments and the introduction of new initiatives. Farmers were signposted towards opportunities for grant funding to support high nature value farming both within the SWPLPS, the National Park Grant Scheme, national grant schemes and from 2021 the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme.

- 33 farms were signposted to either Countryside Stewardship mid-tier or National Park Grant Scheme agreements.
- The Future Farmscapes, Glorious Grasslands, Slowing the Flow and Working for Waders projects supported 187 farms by providing advice, offering funding, signposting to other sources of help and finance, and delivering capital works.
- We produced a film about species rich grasslands (screenshot right) where land managers and volunteers spoke about why they got involved in the Glorious Grasslands project.
- One landowner said: *"The opportunity that South West Peak has given us because we have benefited both from the grasslands project, the meadow restoration, the wader plan and also the fungi survey. And that's been incredible because we've got nationally important fungi on the land, which we just know about, so that's spreading knowledge isn't it."*



## ***The landscape is managed for multiple benefits***

### Rivers and streams

- /// The Slowing the Flow project delivered 28 projects including leaky dams, run-off attenuation features, re-meandering, pleached willow, new woodland and new hedgerows in and around 12 different watercourses which have multiple benefits including: slowing peak flows during flood events, slowing overland flow and increasing the available in-stream habitat for freshwater invertebrates.
- /// Adjacent forestry plantations were thinned to provide locally sourced timber to construct 'leaky dams'.

### Waders, Waxcaps, Wildflowers and Water

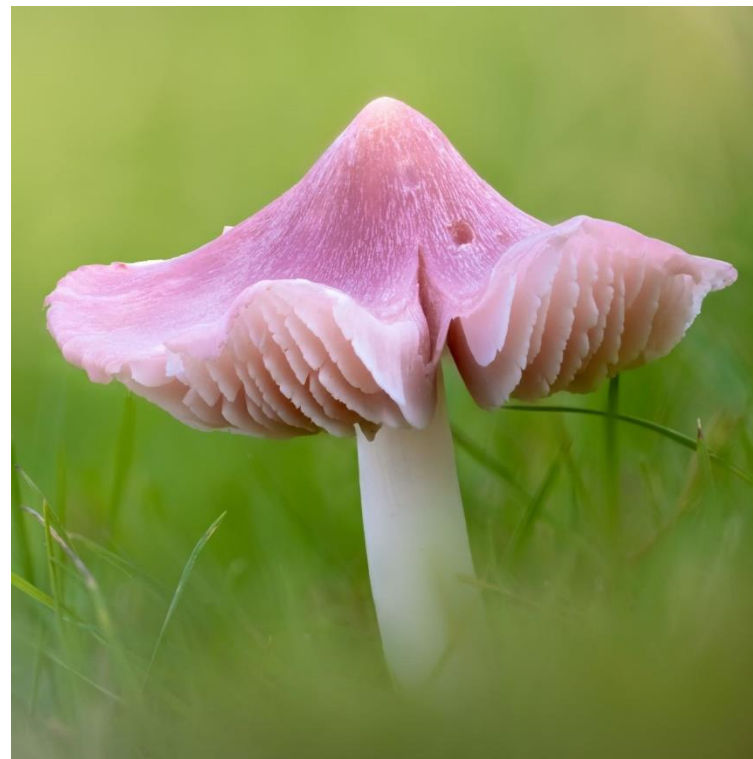
46 farms which each supported a range of heritage interests were involved in several of our projects.

On one small 20ha site, which is managed as a field study centre for visiting groups, we:

- 🦋 Created wader scrapes in an area of rush-pasture.
- /// Returned a 300m stretch of watercourse to its original meanders to help slow the flow.
- 🌾 Used one hay meadow as a seed donor site and planted wildflower plug plants in another to increase species diversity.
- 🌿 Planted a new hedgerow.
- 🍄 Our fungi surveys found that the site was also of international importance for waxcap fungi (pink waxcap pictured right, photograph courtesy of Alex Hyde); and
- 🦞 Relocated white-clawed crayfish to a safe location.

On another site, we:

- 🔧 Supported the landowners to repair an historic stone bridge.
- 🌿 Fenced an area and planted trees to encourage new woodland.
- 🏠 Produced historic building survey of a field barn together with bat and bird surveys to inform future repairs; and
- 🍄 Fungi eDNA work found that the site was also of international importance for waxcap fungi and national importance for fairy clubs, pinkgills and earthtongues.



***People have a stronger sense of place, they are engaging with the landscape, have better experiences, and have gained respect and understanding***

Working with local communities and individuals was a rewarding element, we received the following feedback from people who participated:

- ✚ *"I thoroughly enjoyed Saturday although it made me realise how much I don't know! However, having been through the handbook and explored the websites, I would like to get started and have a go at a first survey. Out walking on Sunday, I came across a dilapidated barn so could I try that one?"*
- ✚ *"Thank you very much for once again organising an excellent event. It was well presented, useful and informative, in comfortable and delightful surroundings with interesting participants. I really appreciated the day."*
- ✚ *"On behalf of the scouts and leaders of the 3rd Buxton (Harpur Hill) scouts I would like to thank you for a most interesting tour of Gradbach and visit to the lime kiln. I certainly got a lot from the history of Gradbach and have sourced a copy of Eric Wood's book the South West Peak. I believe the scouts also enjoyed their walk, talk and questionnaire. Hopefully a seed has been planted!"*
- 🌿 *"I have really enjoyed my involvement with the Glorious Grasslands project as my first love is for wild flowers. It was very satisfying to do something practical to help with trying to find ways to increase the richness of our grasslands. I also had some very good training from experts in their fields and have been able to use the knowledge gained to help the project. I have also met diverse and interesting people with depths of knowledge that they have shared readily. The surveying and seed collecting in beautiful locations was very rewarding. We discussed the outcomes and purpose of our collecting after sorting and drying. Using our precious collected seeds on our prepared seedbeds was interesting work. I look forward to seeing how things have survived." (Green hay spreading pictured right)*
- 🦉 *"I had a fantastic day out with Nick and his team yesterday carrying out this project to move crayfish from Cannock Chase to the Upper Manifold Valley. In total I think there are 537 crayfish with a new home 😊. Many thanks for highlighting the opportunity."*





## People have gained skills and knowledge about the landscape

### Apprentices

- 13 Countryside Worker and Livestock Farmer apprentices collectively completed 17 formal practical and technical training courses, including: drystone walling, sheep shearing, all-terrain vehicle, pesticides application, chainsaw felling and cross-cutting, artificial insemination, foot trimming, riverfly monitoring, use of tele-handler, and off-road driving.
- Apprentices also gained on-the-job skills in: hedgelaying, tree felling, replacing stiles with wicket gates, grassland restoration, installing benches, conservation grazing, Himalayan balsam removal, grassland survey data entry and report writing, fencing, footpath repair, moorland restoration, surveying of landscape heritage features.

### Volunteers

A wide range of training has been provided for volunteers including: level 1 building and landscape survey, archiving, historic building recording, measured drawing, grass and wildflower identification, botanical survey, grassland fungi identification, winter tree identification, wader surveys, dry stone walling, footpath repair, hill skills, navigation, wildplay, tree planting, and practical natural flood management.

One regular volunteer told us:

- "Volunteering with the SWPLP has given me experience in an office setting of data processing and presentation. This gave me an insight into how heritage is recorded across the SWP through volunteer submissions and the use of GIS, in preparation for the Historic Environment Record. I also learnt about the challenge of determining the heritage significance of a feature: how to consider the context of a feature and its current state and how this helps interpretation. I was exposed to this challenge through site visits and work in the field. This included a day in Warslow learning how to conduct a buildings survey on a historic field barn, along with a visit to a packhorse bridge near Buxton, where the goal was to investigate the bridge and any potential routes/features linked to it in the wider area. This allowed me to practice and enhance my research skills in preliminary work before the site visit, as well as contributing to a final report on the bridge assessing the significance of the heritage."*



Another said:

🌾 *"I would like to thank those involved in organising the volunteering in the South West Peak. The Grassland Group is excellent. Excellent knowledge which is shared in a formal and informal way. Staff that go above and beyond to keep the group running and make all volunteers feel valued. I have learned a lot and it has increased my confidence in grassland surveying."*

#### Farmers, land managers and contractors

- 🌿 25 farmers and land managers attended an information day entitled 'soils for the future' sharing thoughts on land management to improve soil and water quality.
- 🌿 27 farmers from 13 farms attended an information evening about grassland fungi, 9 of those then gave permission for their farms to be included in our eDNA study into grassland fungi.
- 🌿 Local contractors were sought where possible to deliver work such as installing stockproof fencing to protect watercourses, delivering natural flood management works, harvesting and spreading of green hay, and creating wader scrapes (pictured right). Project Officers explained the rationale and approach and helped increase the knowledge and skill level of these contractors for future opportunities.

Staff and trainees have developed skills through the LPS and have gone on to further careers in the sector:

- Our PhD student now works for the RSPB conservation science team.
- Our Countryside Worker apprentices have gone on to the following employment: National Trust ranger, Severn Trent Water ranger, Natural England Life in the Ravines project in the Peak District, Countryside Maintenance and Projects Team with PDNPA, milking and access work on a local farm, self-employed hedgelaying and walling contractor.
- The Livestock Farmer apprentices we supported have gained a number of their 'tickets' providing them with the skills to continue working and managing their land.
- One of the Farm Link Workers moved to employment with PDNPA as FiPL Engagement Officer.
- The Vocational Training Officer is currently working as Trails Volunteer Coordinator with PDNPA.
- The Youth Engagement Officer is currently working two part-time roles as Project Officer and Engagement Officer with PDNPA.
- The Scheme Manager will be starting with Natural England as Species Recovery Programme Manager.



## ***People value the landscape and understand the benefits it provides***

Running learning, art and conservation activity sessions for schools, youth groups and community groups as part of the Beyond the Classroom project in school grounds, town greenspaces, local nature reserves, and further afield reached a wide audience from the South West Peak and beyond, with tailor made activities designed to engage groups with different abilities in the landscape around them, including VICTA (a national charity that provides support to children and young adults from 0 to 29 who are blind or partially sighted and their families).

### Feedback from community groups

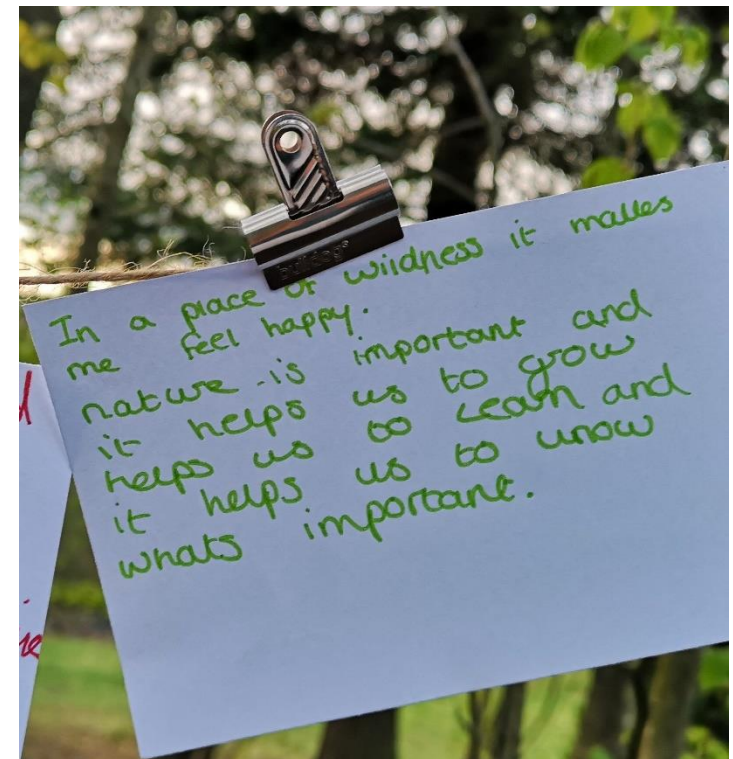
👥 *"I think it became, not a push, I think it was a pull actually, that young people saw the benefits, and then other young people start to see the benefit that that's happening on their friends if they want to be a part of that. The volunteering, it gave them meaning to their life and made them feel that they'd actually achieved something that day. And then that becomes quite infectious."* North Staffordshire YMCA

### Feedback from schools

- 🎒 *"I just wanted to send a quick message to say a big thank you from the staff and the children for organising the first Buxton Wild Week. They have all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and I definitely believe from what the teachers and children have said that they have begun to appreciate what they have in terms of the nature around them"*
- 🎒 Pupils were asked to create modern day John Muir quotes to encapsulate what the natural environment meant to the (pictured right).

### Feedback from land managers

- 🌿 *"We have received a lot of advice from Andrew, and he has organised very useful survey information which is helping us form a nature friendly farming strategy for the land."*





## ***People who are currently disconnected from the landscape are supported to build a relationship***

- 11 champions from black and minority ethnic communities, deprived areas, with health inequalities, or supporting young people, completed training courses to increase their knowledge and understanding of the landscape and the logistics of organising field visits, and subsequently organised 19 visits with 158 people to take part in outdoor activities like walking, cycling and canoeing.

Feedback from Mosaic champions on the hill skills and navigation training:

- "We've had a really good weekend on the hill skills course, learning to map read which I feel more confident with now, and knowing how to take a compass bearing."*
- "I've pushed myself with regards to the walk, we went up quite a few hills, I wouldn't have thought I'd be able to do that but we did. Feeling great, it's been a wonderful experience, we'd do it again"*

Feedback from participants in final Mosaic celebration event:

- "I came from Ethiopia and I enjoyed today, I am very happy to be here, great views"*
- "I am from Sudan, we enjoyed the canal and the lake, and the bicycle, we are happy today, good for everyone, thank you"*
- "This was my first time canoeing, to say I was a little bit terrified because I am disabled. I can't believe as a disabled person, I did that. I enjoyed the experience very much"*

- 680 instances of children from schools in Buxton participating in outdoor education and conservation activities like building bug hotels, surveying for grassland fungi, and habitat management of a local wildlife area, increasing their awareness and appreciation of the natural world.

- 179 young people gained their John Muir Discover level award and 15 gained Explorer level recognising their contributions to environmental stewardship.

- Over 6000 young people and families took part in wild play and outdoor activities such as den building, bug hunting, natural crafts, mud painting, campfire cooking, whittling and 'squirrel yoga' across 24 different locations in 404 sessions.

- 65% of community grant recipients who responded to a questionnaire said their project attracted new volunteers.

- 77% of community grant recipients who responded to a questionnaire said these new volunteers have continued to be involved.



## ***Historic and built elements of the landscape are recorded, understood, valued and restored***

- 🏠 208 field barns and 930 heritage features such as sheepfolds, bridges, waymarkers and stone gateposts have been surveyed and recorded by staff and volunteers with the information provided to the Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record.
- 🏠 24 volunteers spent 12 days excavating and consolidating Dale Mine, former 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century ore bins, working alongside expert archaeologists and restoration professionals. The site was subsequently adopted by the newly formed interest group Friends of Dale Mine.
- 🏠 46 heritage assets adopted by local residents/groups.
- 🏠 Augmented reality app produced for the ruinous Errwood Hall to provide innovative digital audience engagement.
- 🏠 16 volunteers spent 4 weeks in July and August 2021 excavating and consolidating Gradbach Limekiln (pictured right, photograph by Alex Hyde), working alongside expert archaeologists and dry stone walling professionals.
- 🏠 Feedback from High Peak Scouts about project work at Gradbach Limekiln: *“they’ve [the scouts] been able to go up of an evening and do some work on it, with the experts that are there as well. Learn about what it is – it’s part of the local heritage that we’re trying to get a feel for and a responsibility for as well.”*
- 🏠 4 field barns have been restored or repaired ensuring they remain weather tight and accessible in the landscape for decades to come.
- 🏠 Historic sheepfold (pictured below) restored by local dry stone waller / builder.



















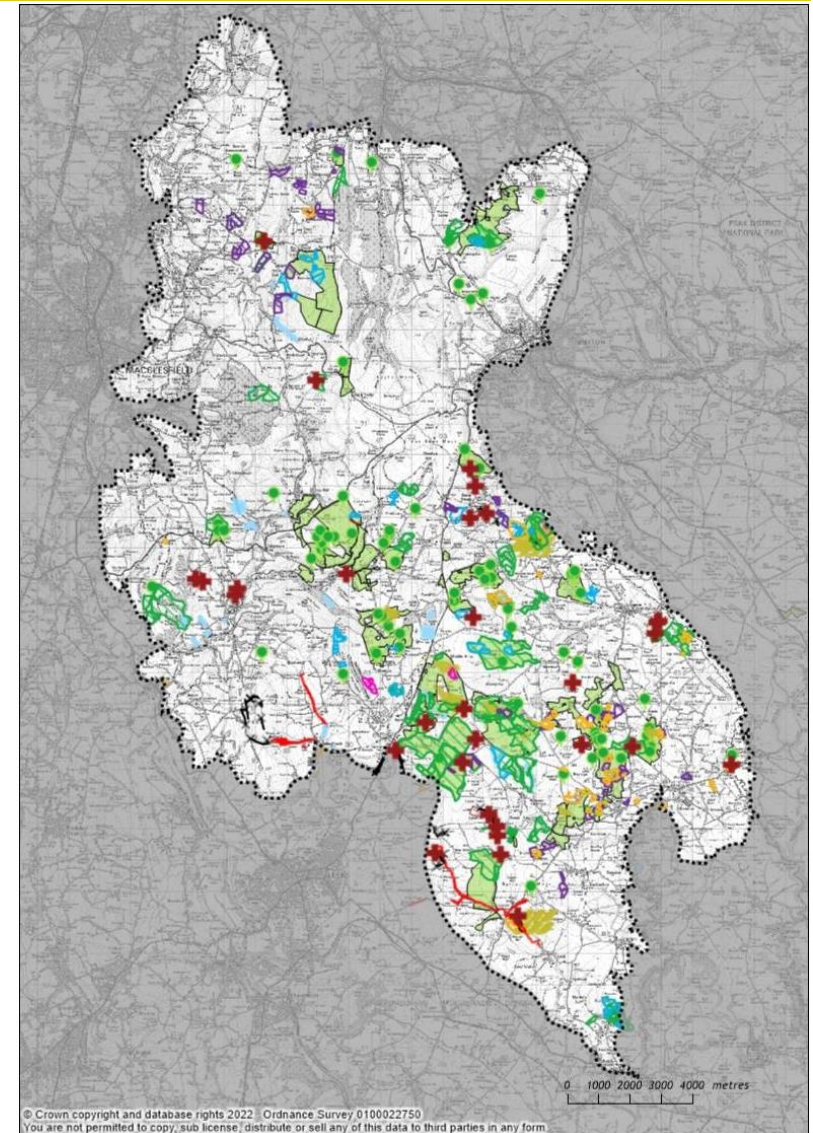


## *The distinctive mosaic of natural heritage is maintained and enhanced*

The South West Peak has a distinctive mosaic of moorland, grassland, wetland, woodland and rivers criss-crossing the landscape. The distribution of the activities delivered under our different natural heritage projects is depicted on the map opposite. Due to the scale of the map not all activity will be visible.

### Key to map:

-  Hay meadow donor site
-  Hay meadow restoration site
-  Hay meadow survey
-  Waxcap DNA
-  Waxcap survey
-  Natural Flood Management
-  NFM - leaky dam/LWD
-  Habitat intervention
-  PhD study site
-  Wader plan written
-  Farm Grant Given
-  INNS Removal
-  Sphagnum planting
-  Fencing
-  Hedgerow
-  Soil decompaction





## Additional community outcomes

As well as contributing to many of the partnership outcomes above, our Engaging Communities project which administered a third party grants scheme for community grants, of between £500 and £10,000, achieved a wide ranging set of outcomes. As is so often the case, very small grants have made a huge difference to the communities they have benefitted. 60 different community groups delivered 72 different projects across the landscape, with a wide range of benefits:

- 👥 Building community cohesion (e.g. improvements at Hartington Village Hall): *“there is now a belief within the community that we can bring about much needed improvements in our Village Hall which, as depicted in our logo devised by members of our primary school, is at the heart of our community”*
- 👥 Attracting disadvantaged people to experience the landscape, heritage or culture of the South West Peak area e.g. Cheshire Eye Society, ASHA, Gradbach Scout Camp, North Staffs YMCA, High Peak Community Arts, Staffordshire Clubs for Young People: *“Young people participating have learnt more about conservation and the environment. One young person learnt how to climb and now he has joined a climbing club. Another young person fell in love with the outdoors and now has taken up full time employment with an outdoors education centre”*
- 👥 High quality learning e.g. through the White Peak Farmers’ online webinar sessions.
- 👥 Gaining cultural insights of some of the most hidden minorities such as the Travelling communities (Kidology Arts).
- 👥 Creating legacies that will endure well beyond the scheme including the walking trails guides (e.g. Bollington Centre), the online archives and the capital projects which shored up buildings for the future and provided new features such as bridleway gates, and so on.
- 👥 Using creativity to engage in and celebrate the landscape (e.g. Borderland Voices’ patchwork, pictured right).



# Programme Legacy

As a result of the work of the partnership, a wide legacy has been achieved across all projects including the development of skills amongst staff and volunteers who are now well equipped to take these skills forward in ongoing or new roles; tools and equipment which have been retained and provided to staff and volunteers working within the South West Peak area; more resilient species and habitats; conserved and protected built structures; a range of interpretation, capital works and improvements to community buildings/facilities; and greater depth of understanding and connection amongst local communities and those from further afield.

A final report has been produced for each of our projects with reference to the legacy secured, the reports are available in the 'more' section on each of the project pages on our website. Many projects also have separate case studies with further information, which can also be found on the respective project page:

[Barns & Buildings](#)

[Better Outside](#)

[Beyond the Classroom](#)

[Bigger Better More Connected](#)

[Crayfish in Crisis](#)

[Engaging Communities](#)

[Future Custodians](#)

[Future Farmscapes](#)

[Glorious Grasslands](#)

[Mosaic](#)

[Roaches Gateway](#)

[Slowing the Flow](#)

[Small Heritage Adoption](#)

[Upstream Thinking](#)

[Wild Child](#)

[Working for Waders](#)

Below is a summary of the legacy plans in place or being developed. Appended to this report is a list of the planned and delivered outcomes.

**Cultural Heritage:**

- Volunteer groups have adopted 46 heritage assets including: Under Whitle archaeology trail, 4 mileposts, Dale Mine, Gradbach Limekiln, Dane Bridge, Butterson Sundial, Hobcroft Barn and 4 stone troughs with agreed monitoring plans in place.
- The Peak District Milestone Group has been formed, members of the group have received training on how to care for and maintain milestones and mileposts, and have membership of the Milestone Society for the next ten years.
- PDNPA is developing a new fixed-term Community and Conservation Archaeology post to extend and develop the work of the Barns & Buildings and Small Heritage Adoption projects.

**Natural Heritage:**

- The South West Peak Curlew Recovery Partnership has been set up by RSPB, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Peak District National Park to survey curlew populations in Cheshire, expand the 'wader warden' scheme and seek ongoing funding.
- Grassland habitat data have been provided to Natural England to update their Priority Habitat Inventory used to inform future targeting of Environmental Land Management and other initiatives.
- 60ha of hay meadows have been restored and either entered into long-term management agreements or had existing agreements amended, which will protect this resource for the future.

**Land management:**

- 15 landowners were signposted by our Farm Link Workers to the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme for on-farm projects including: concreting of farm yards to facilitate regular maintenance, reduce run-off and improve water quality; woodland creation; pond creation; and catchment sensitive farming work. Of these, four have so far entered into an agreement or completed works.
- Work is ongoing with landowners across the South West Peak to promote natural flood management and seek suitable tree and woodland planting locations.
- Work on hydrological assessment and restoration at the top of the Dove catchment by gully blocking and stabilisation of bare peat, achieved through additional funding from the Environment Agency, has provided the evidence required to justify and seek funding for further works to increase the resilience of the Dove headwaters.

**People and communities:**

- Wildplay activities for children and families continue to be offered across Staffordshire, including the Staffordshire Moorlands part of the South West Peak, however, a small charge is now applied for attending sessions.
- Buxton Wild Weeks 2022 is now happening with four local schools taking part on four separate weeks with continued support from the initial team and sessions in schools run by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.
- Moorlands Wild Weeks with Moorlands Climate Action Group is set to happen in at least 13 schools in 2022.



# Appendix. South West Peak Landscape Partnership Outputs 2017-2022

Met/exceed	Met or exceeded target
Short	Short of target, genuine reasons or alternatives delivered
Behind	Well behind target

Project	Outputs & Quantifiable Outcomes	Planned Number	Actual Number	% of target	Comments
Barns & Buildings	Number of buildings recorded (Level 1 and/or Level 3)	40	200	500%	Target exceeded
	Consolidation, repair or restoration of 9 field barns	9	4	44%	Costs escalated, many barn owners unable to engage, output target lowered
	1 community building brought to a standard for community/educational use	1	1	100%	Target met
	200m of dry stone walls (associated with field barns) repaired/restored	200	79	40%	Part of this output target was delivered through the FC project
	130 volunteer days given (skilled rate)	130	231	178%	Target exceeded
	9 landowners engaged with	9	16	178%	Target exceeded
	9 management plans written	9	5	56%	Management guidance provided for 2 barns re major repairs and 4 barns with minor repairs
	8 school or community groups worked with	8	10	125%	Target exceeded
	2 new heritage trails created	2	2	100%	Physical barns trail leaflet and accompanying ArcGIS storymap
	4 interpretation opportunities delivered	4	7	175%	Target exceeded with
	5 one-day courses in rural skills and heritage conservation training delivered	5	6	120%	Target met
Better Outside	3280m surfacing upgraded on 2 existing routes	3,280	1,681	51%	Second route unable to be completed
	Routes will be upgraded and promoted for access for all	2	1	50%	Second route unable to be completed, however, 9 new benches purchased to enhance the route, to be installed after bird nesting season
	Stiles replaced with wicket gates	10	27	270%	Output met by working with FC project
	Days volunteer time at skilled rate	20	23	115%	Output met by working with FC project
	Volunteers trained to have a deeper appreciation of barriers facing people living with health inequalities.	3	0	0%	Unable to meet target due to COVID restrictions having high impact on target user groups
	Interpretive features installed	5	3	60%	3 panels designed and installed
Beyond the Classroom	1500 young people are supported to make better connections with the SWP via e.g. field work/community science days/assemblies/downloading resources	1,500	2,093	140%	Target exceeded through Buxton Wild Weeks
	180 pupils participating in long term projects (a minimum of 4 different activities over a 4-6 week period)	180	680	378%	Target exceeded through Buxton Wild Weeks, Wild About Your School and Fairer for Nature
	90 young people obtain John Muir Award to 'Discover' level and 10 of these upgrade to 'Explorer' level	90	194	216%	Target exceeded
	8 new Learning & Discovery volunteers recruited and trained	8	6	75%	Target not met, but additional volunteer involvement was achieved
	180 volunteer conservation activities delivered	180	551	306%	Target exceeded
	10 new Junior Rangers recruited	10	23	230%	Target exceeded

<b>Bigger, Better, More Connected</b>	Interpretive Training Packs Produced	20	5	25%	Target not met
	Training Days for Staff/Volunteers	4	7	175%	Target exceeded
	Materials Prod/Used at Events	20	23	115%	Target exceeded
	Materials Prod/Used at School Visits	20	14	70%	Target not met due to lack of direct school visits, but engagement with schools was achieved via BC project
	People Exposed to SWPLP Message	5,000	759,154	15183%	Target exceeded
	People Volunteering with the SWPLP	50	19	38%	Large number of volunteers involved in other projects
	Volunteer Days Supporting the SWPLP	50	76	152%	Target exceeded via oral history editing volunteer
<b>Core work</b>	Board meetings	20	21	105%	Target met
	Monitoring & Evaluation contract set up	1	1	100%	Target met
	Monitoring & Evaluation mid-term review	1	1	100%	Target met
	Annual review and business planning	4	4	100%	Target met
	Legacy plan	1	1	100%	Target met
	End of Scheme event	1	1	100%	Target met
	Final Scheme Evaluation	1	1	100%	Target met
<b>Crayfish in Crisis</b>	Feasibility surveys / habitat assessments	20	23	115%	Target exceeded
	km of watercourse assessed	20	27	135%	Target exceeded
	Landowners liaised with	25	49	196%	Target exceeded
	Habitat enhancements schemes	5	6	120%	Target exceeded by in kind contributions from partners
	km of stream habitat enhanced / buffered	2	3	227%	Target exceeded by in kind contributions from partners
	Sites with baseline and ongoing water testing	5	10	200%	Target exceeded
	Translocations completed	5	7	140%	Target exceeded
<b>Engaging Communities</b>	Volunteer days input into this project	40	40	100%	Target met
	Community Groups engaged	50	166	332%	Target exceeded
	Parish Councils engaged	30	24	80%	Target not met, and unlikely to have been achievable
	New community groups helped to set up	5	2	40%	Target not met, there were far more existing groups than we expected
	Community Groups receive a SWP grant	40	72	180%	Target exceeded
	Cash match funding: at least	150,000	150,000	100%	Target met
	In-kind match: up to value of	150,000	176,450	118%	Target exceeded
<b>Future Custodians</b>	Volunteers recruited to grants panel	14	14	100%	Target met
	Additional funding leveraged	n/a	325,969	n/a	Additional output
	Countryside Worker apprenticeships completed.	6	6	100%	Target met
	Livestock Farmer apprenticeships completed.	6	7	117%	Target exceeded
	Mentors/coaches trained to provide support to apprentices.	12	10	83%	Target not met, some apprentices did not want or need mentors
	Number & type of 'projects' delivered by apprentices (conservation & on-farm)	70	115	164%	Target exceeded
	300 Farmers in the SWP to have received a visit, interaction/ contact with one of the FLW's	300	325	108%	Target met
<b>Future Farmscapes</b>	50 farms involved with direct delivery and implementation of one or more SWPLP projects	50	240	480%	Target exceeded



	60 Farms in the SWP offered Local Farm Grants	60	30	50%	Target not met as fewer larger value grants were offered under WEG-funded project
	50 Local Farm Grant projects to be completed (allowing for potential drop-out from initial 60 offers)	50	20	40%	Target not met as fewer larger value grants were offered under WEG-funded project
<b>Glorious Grasslands</b>	Grassland surveyed & assessed (plants and waxcaps) (ha)	450	1,829	406%	Target exceeded
	Results & implications of grassland surveys discussed with farmers, land managers and landowners (ha)	450	537	119%	Target exceeded
	Brief survey and management reports for surveyed grassland are shared with farmers, land managers and landowners (ha)	450	1,480	329%	Target exceeded
	Map of grassland resource linked to survey data	1	1	100%	Target met
	New CWT Local Wildlife site designated	1	3	300%	Target exceeded
	Farm plans for flagship sites with recommendations produced	20	13	65%	Target not met, but all reports are highly detailed
	Management Guidelines produced for important grassland fungi	1	1	100%	Target met
	Sites (fields) helped to access Agri-Environment Schemes & long-term management regimes initiated	50	49	98%	49 sites but 79 hectares in area
	Hay meadow sites enhanced (ha)	50	61	122%	Target exceeded
	Deliver 4 grassland wildflower training sessions	4	6	150%	Target exceeded
	Deliver grassland fungi training sessions	3	7	233%	Target exceeded
	Train people in grassland fungi	30	97	323%	Target exceeded
	Appoint, train & develop Meadow Monitors	10	31	310%	Target exceeded
	Skilled volunteers engaged	3	6	200%	Target exceeded
	Guided walks with leaflets	4	6	150%	Target exceeded
	Illustrated talks	4	4	100%	Target met
	Celebration events	3	3	100%	Target met
	Scoping constraints & incentives to traditional grassland management	1	1	100%	Target met
	Follow up monitoring visits with support & advice provided to farmers (ha)	50	78	156%	Target exceeded
	A range of interpretative information produced and opportunities for learning	10	7	70%	Target not met
	Potential markets for flower-rich hay/haylage and cut rush researched.	1	0	0%	Report drafted, unable to be met due to staff capacity
	People will have volunteered time 165 days in total	165	445	270%	Target exceeded
<b>Mosaic</b>	Community champions recruited & trained	12	11	94%	Target almost met
	Number of volunteer hours given by trained champions	336	325	97%	Target close to being met, due to COVID restrictions
	Number of visits for new audiences delivered	24	19	79%	Target not met, due to COVID restrictions
	Number of people taking part in visits	240	158	66%	Target not met, due to COVID restrictions

Peak Land Lives	interviews with SWP farming families transcribed, edited and reviewed	25	25	100%	Target met
	1 book produced	1	1	100%	Target met
	Copies of book printed or electronically available	2,000	2,000	100%	Target met
	Book Launch	1	1	100%	Target met
	Walks and talks	10	8	80%	Target not met, covid slowed promotion opportunities
	People buy the book - book sales	2,000	1,079	54%	Target not met
Roaches Gateway	Site entrance improvement	3	2	67%	Target not met
	Metres of footpath improved	1,000	1,800	180%	Target exceeded
	Volunteers trained in walling and stone pitching	10	14	140%	Target exceeded
	Metres of boardwalk Installed	80	225	281%	Target exceeded
	Metres of boundary drystone wall Completed	800	926	116%	Target exceeded
	New leaflet produced and distributed	50,000	0	0%	Alternative face to face interpretation delivered
	Number of kissing gates installed	4	11	275%	Target exceeded
Slowing the Flow	30 ha habitat created	30	9	30%	Target not met, but others were exceeded
	30 ha habitat restored	30	48	160%	Target exceeded
	5 km of new or improved riparian zone habitats	5	8.8	176%	Target exceeded
	20 evidenced NFM projects across the SWP	20	28	140%	Target exceeded
	5 communities @ risk better protected from flooding	5	5	100%	Target met
	Water quality improved in 10 watercourses	10	12	120%	Target exceeded
	100 unique/individual volunteers engaged	100	112	112%	Target exceeded
	4 annual events	4	10	250%	Target exceeded
	6 local communities engaged	6	5	83%	Target not met
	20 management plans created	20	1	5%	1 overarching handbook produced instead
	1 long term academic study	1	1	100%	Target met
	10 student projects	10	13	130%	Target exceeded
	1 Project celebration document	1	1	100%	Target met
	10 videos produced	10	6	60%	Target not met
Small Heritage Adoption	New heritage assets identified and recorded and supplied to record centres	400	531	133%	Target exceeded
	Previously recognized heritage assets updated or fully recorded and supplied	500	399	80%	Target not met, there may not be enough existing assets recorded
	Heritage assets adopted by communities of interest	25	46	184%	Target exceeded
	Volunteers trained	65	109	168%	Target exceeded
	Volunteer days (at skilled rate £150 per day)	300	336	112%	Target exceeded
	School/community groups worked with	25	25	100%	Target almost met but impacted by COVID
	Learning activities/resources delivered	75	88	117%	Target almost met impacted by COVID
	New heritage trails	4	3	75%	Target impacted by COVID, could take into account trails produced under EC project
	Improved heritage trails	2	2	100%	Target met
	Guided walks	4	12	300%	Target exceeded
	Community archives	4	4	100%	Target met



	5 one-day courses in rural skills and heritage conservation training delivered	5	9	180%	Target exceeded
<b>Succession Planning</b>	Business training sessions	11	1	9%	Project closed
	People completing training sessions	20	10	50%	Project closed
<b>Virtual Visitor Centre</b>	Partnership Website Created	1	1	100%	Target met
	Online Survey Of Website Users	5	2	40%	Target unlikely to be met
	Updates and improvements to website - phase 2	1	1.0	100%	Updates made within hosting structure, website archiving process complete
<b>Wild Child</b>	Wildlings sessions run	168	162	96%	Target almost met
	0-5yr olds attending	2,520	3,099	123%	Target exceeded
	Wildplay sessions run	208	219	105%	Target exceeded
	6-13yr olds attending	3,120	3,197	102%	Target exceeded
	Family events run	24	23	96%	Target almost met
	Families attending events	300	601	200%	Target exceeded
	Volunteer training sessions	4	5	125%	Target exceeded
	Volunteers attending sessions	80	25	31%	Target not met
	Added value events run	8	7	88%	Target not met due to covid restrictions
<b>Working for Waders</b>	Wader plans written for 50 farms in breeding wader priority areas.	50	50	100%	Target met
	1 PhD thesis produced (supporting sustainable management)	1	1	100%	Target met
	20 volunteer wader wardens trained and developed (3 training / information events)	20	23	115%	Target exceeded
	100 days of volunteer support provided, including carrying out wader surveys and providing other landowner support	100	173	173%	Target exceeded
	Feasibility study for end use of soft rush	1	0	0%	Target not met, due to lack of staff resource
	50 landowners engaged with enhanced understanding, knowledge, skills and attitude towards land management for breeding waders	50	50	100%	Target met
	Recommendations and results from PhD research providing improved knowledge and understanding of how to maintain resilient populations of lapwing, curlew and snipe in the South West Peak (annual summary).	4	4	100%	Target met