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**Project  
Summaries**



Gritstone Trail barn © Karen Shelley-Jones

## Barns & Buildings Conservation

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

January 2018 to December 2021

### Cost

£404,970

### Project Summary

Field barns built from local materials, in a vernacular style, are a distinctive feature and a key landscape characteristic across the South West Peak. Most were constructed during the second half of the 19th century, up to the outbreak of World War I. Their form, location and particularly their internal arrangements reflect the changes that have occurred in upland farming practice over the last 150 years. The end result of these changes is that many have fallen out of use and into disrepair because they are considered no longer to have a viable agricultural use.

The project aims to identify, record, and where possible, repair, conserve or consolidate these buildings by engaging with:

- landowners and managers, for permissions, support and engagement;
- local communities, for support and input to identifying, recording, repairing and managing them into the future;

- craftsmen and women, to undertake repairs and up-skill community members to undertake future maintenance work;
- visitors, by enabling them to understand and see how these buildings functioned in the past and the present and what future they have, through information, interpretation and changing uses, such as camping barns, shelters, information/interpretation/e-access hubs, wildlife havens and even returning some to an appropriate agricultural use.

In exceptional circumstances, the needs of a public building may be considered, where engagement would result in an enhanced community benefit.

### Project Benefits

- The conservation of these characteristic features in their landscapes.
- Improved knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of traditional barns and buildings.
- Accessible information about these heritage assets through a variety of media, including limited and discreet on-site interpretation, web-based information and other digital media.
- Up-skilling of community members in a range of expertise, from building recording to conservation techniques such as the use of lime mortar.
- Enhanced public awareness of the presence and value of these heritage assets;
- Enhanced public access to these heritage assets.





Goyt Valley view © Karen Shelley-Jones

## Better Outside

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

January 2018 to March 2020

### Cost

£112,100

### Project Summary

Better Outside aims to widen access to heritage and improve the quality of the visitor experience. Working with a variety of organisations we have identified two routes which require improvements to make them suitable for access for all.

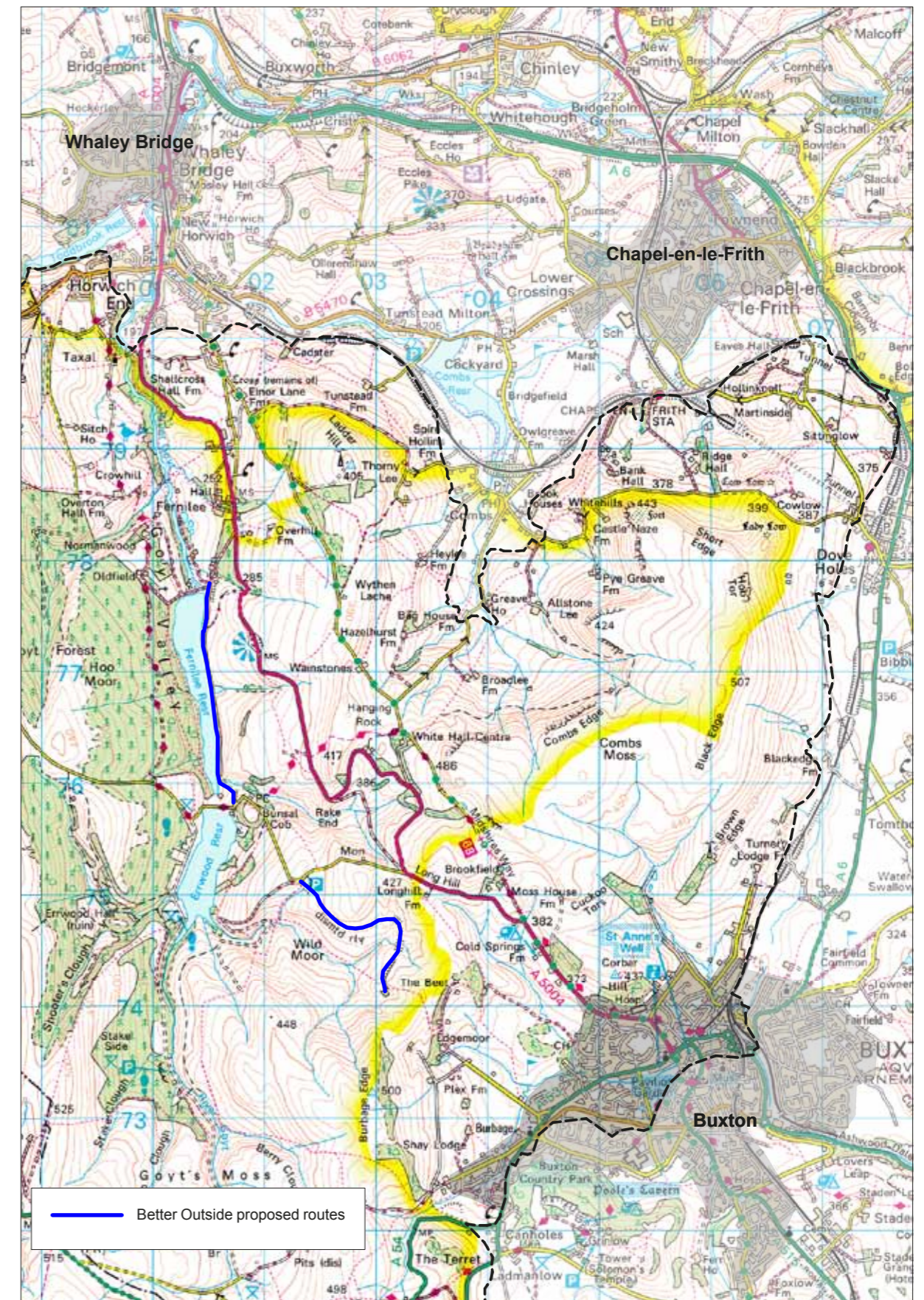
Capital works and improvements to routes will be followed by the development and delivery of a program of activity, designed to improve health and initiate behaviour change amongst target groups. Volunteers will be trained to have a deeper appreciation of barriers faced by people living with health inequalities in order to facilitate access to natural and cultural heritage features. Routes will be interpreted on the ground to ensure that all visitors have a better understanding and appreciation of the heritage features of the South West Peak.

Better Outside is an area-wide project and by 2021 we will have not only improved access to the South West Peak, but will have raised awareness of heritage features and built a wider appreciation of them, leading to a better understanding and desire to protect and care for them.

### Project Benefits

- Two routes upgraded to best practice standards to make them suitable for access for all.
- Ten stiles replaced with wicket gates for easier access.
- Volunteers will be trained to have a deeper appreciation of barriers faced by people living with health inequalities in order to facilitate access.
- Interpretation on the routes will tell the story of the landscape and help to engage new audiences.

## Better Outside Routes



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Beyond the classroom © PDNPA



Buxworth School walk © PDNPA

## Beyond the Classroom

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

April 2018 to March 2021

### Cost

£77,676

### Project Summary

This project is a phased approach to engaging with young people (11-18 years of age) within the South West Peak Landscape Partnership Scheme, from curriculum based school visits, to longer projects that also develop personal and leadership skills and ongoing volunteering opportunities in the Peak District National Park (PDNP) Junior Ranger programme.

The project will offer a subsidised programme of curriculum focused school visits for secondary schools focused on Geography and Science knowledge and field work skills. This work will also offer the participants an opportunity to gain Peak District Awards, which will recognise the learning they have achieved about the landscape area. Local schools that currently do not use the area will be targeted.

We will also work with youth groups and schools on 4-6 week projects, where participants can get more involved with conservation and heritage work in the scheme. Working with other projects

and partners we will offer non-curriculum projects that develop participants' knowledge, heritage and leadership skills, with the opportunity for participants to gain a John Muir Award.

Young people taking part will be encouraged to take part in long term volunteering. The Beyond the Classroom project will facilitate this and support participants to join the existing Junior Ranger programme.

### Project Benefits

- Schools will be connected to the South West Peak as a resource to help pupils develop increased motivation and appetite for learning that will contribute to raised levels of achievement, attainment and progress.
- Young people will understand the importance of conservation and sustainable development.
- Young people will have had the opportunity to appreciate the benefits of physical fitness and the lifelong value of participation in healthy active leisure activities.
- Young people will have had a chance to broaden their horizons and become open to a wider range of employment opportunities, life chances, life choices and lifestyles.

## Bigger, Better and More Connected

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

March 2017 to December 2021

### Cost

£115,620

### Project Summary

Bigger, Better and More Connected is an over-arching interpretation project that will develop and promote hard-hitting, impact making messages that inspire people to do more and care more about the landscape. The messages will be jargon free and make sense to everyone. We will ensure that all partners are talking consistently about the real strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats in the South West Peak and supporting people to take action on behalf of the landscape.

### Project Benefits

- A clear and consistent set of South West Peak messages will be developed and used consistently by the Partnership across the various projects.
- Staff and volunteers will know about the messages and will be trained to communicate them clearly to the public.
- More people will know about and understand the value of the landscape and the threats it faces.
- Some people will change their behaviour as a result of a deeper understanding and be inspired to help.





Crayfish © Karen Shelley-Jones

## Crayfish in Crisis

### Project Lead

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

### Duration

January 2019 to December 2021

### Cost

£61,017

### Project Summary

The white-clawed crayfish is the UK's only native freshwater crayfish. It is globally endangered and is a priority Biodiversity Action Plan species. It is one of our largest freshwater invertebrates and an important component of our aquatic ecology. They are becoming increasingly rare through the impacts of non-native competitors introducing disease, along with habitat degradation and loss.

The distribution of the species is shrinking and is becoming reliant on small isolated headwaters and still waters, where the risk of transmission of disease and the spread of the non-native North American Signal crayfish is reduced through natural barriers and reduction of disease vectors.

The South West Peak is an area that has ideal conditions for the conservation of white-clawed crayfish, having numerous small,

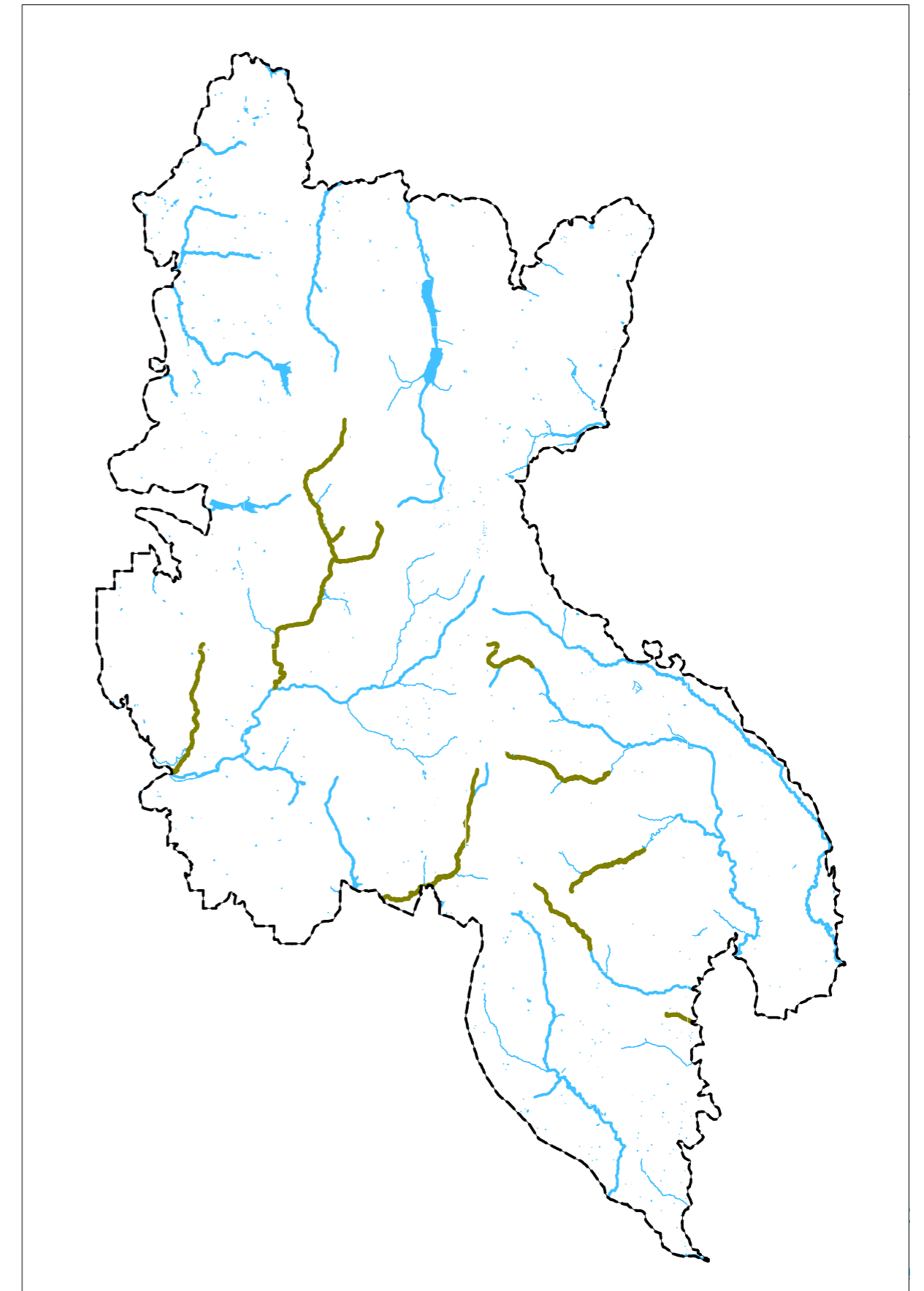
isolated headwater streams and ponds. These locations have excellent habitat for white-clawed crayfish with plenty of features such as rocks, roots, pools, overhanging banks and good water quality / quantity.

We will develop conservation action plans for the species in different catchments which will include surveying and monitoring to assess the extent of resident populations and any non-native populations; assessing and mitigating identified risks to the viability of populations and creating the right conditions for translocations and assisted migrations of white-clawed crayfish.

### Project Benefits

- People will understand and appreciate the value of these rare creatures.
- River users will have a greater understanding of the biosecurity issues around non-native crayfish.
- We hope to establish a new population of this globally endangered species in the South West Peak.

## Crayfish in Crisis Priority Sites



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Children learn wool carding © Eric Wood



Learning dry-stone walling © PDNPA

## Engaging Communities

### Project Lead

Support Staffordshire

### Duration

January 2017 to February 2021

### Cost

£794,302

### Project Summary

This project will engage those living, working and visiting the South West Peak with the aims, aspirations and activities of the South West Peak Landscape Partnership through a Community Engagement Officer, who will act as the key link between all other project officers and the wider community and also through a community grants scheme managed by a Community Grants Officer. The project aims to build a long lasting legacy in the South West Peak through enhancing the understanding and appreciation of those who live, work and visit the South West Peak; by building a greater sense of “ownership”; and by facilitating practical activities and action by local people contributing to the aims and objectives of the Partnership.

Small grants will be available to community groups of between £500 and £10,000 to help them deliver projects to benefit the local area. A simple grant application form will need to be completed and match funding both in cash and non-cash contributions will be needed. The Community Engagement Officer will help groups through this process and the Community Grants Officer will support two grant assessment panels in evaluating the applications.

### Project Benefits

- Engagement work will encourage people from different communities to get involved, not least through volunteering for project activity.
- Existing and new community groups will be encouraged and supported to apply for project grants.
- People will be able to develop and deliver their own heritage projects to benefit their communities and landscape.
- Local people will get involved in decision making by sitting on the grant assessment panels.

## Future Custodians

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

September 2017 to August 2021

### Cost

£473,143

### Project Summary

Future Custodians aims to inspire young people to make a commitment to the South West Peak through training and work experience. This project offers two kinds of apprenticeship: Countryside Worker and Livestock Farming. These two apprenticeships will run in parallel and be integrated with shared work and training between the two cohorts making this a novel approach.

The particular nature of the South West Peak landscape means that many of the farm holdings are very small (approximately 20 hectares), which would make it very challenging for a single farm to employ a full-time apprentice. Our model shares the employment between a small collaboration of farmers, sharing the cost and maximising the benefit.

The countryside worker apprentices will gain experience working with the variety of partners

in the Landscape Partnership and work across a number of the projects enabling them to

learn and engage first-hand with heritage and landscape management. By sharing work and training opportunities between the two cohorts of apprentices we hope to instill a deeper sense of shared understanding about landscape management from both viewpoints.

Close coordination, supervision and support of the young people, including transportation around the area, is a core part of this project which will be provided by a dedicated officer.

### Project Benefits

- An industry based countryside and environment apprenticeship scheme will have been developed and grown within the partnership.
- A location based mixed farming apprenticeship scheme will have been developed and piloted in conjunction with the upland farming community.
- A new generation will have been trained to the highest standard possible.
- A cross-partner support network and mentor system will have been developed.
- South West Peak heritage will be in better condition.
- There will be greater resilience and potential for succession within farming communities.





Crumbling walls © PDNPA

## Future Farmscapes

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

April 2017 to December 2021

### Cost

£240,466

### Project Summary

The project aims to build stronger working relationships between farmers and other communities of place and interest in the South West Peak – notably the ‘authorities’ (National Park Authority, Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency), conservation organisations (e.g. the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust), the farming representatives (NFU, CLA, Farming Life Centre) and the resident communities.

There is a certain amount of distrust and misunderstanding between different parties in the South West Peak, and some farmers perceive the turnover of staff from the ‘authorities’ as an obstacle to building good working relationships. Farmers’ engagement with the SWPLP and its component projects will be vital to the success of the scheme.

This project will establish a group of ‘farm link workers’ to ensure that this happens, as well as helping to make sense of the variety of projects that the SWPLP is running. It is envisaged that these farm link workers might come from farming families but may be unable to sustain full-time employment in farming (e.g. husbands,

wives, sons or daughters of the ‘lead’ farmer), trusted professional advisors or other trusted individuals. These farm link workers will need to combine farming knowledge with good communication and administrative skills.

The farm link workers will perform a vital engagement role with the farming community with four elements: 1) engage effectively with farmers to earn and maintain trust; 2) act as an integral link between farmers and the SWPLP; 3) raise capacity and empower farmers; 4) signpost national and local funding and support opportunities.

### Project Benefits

- Improved relationships between farmers, landowners and others living and working in the area.
- Improved understanding and communications benefitting all other projects run as part of the LPS that involve interaction with farmers and/or their land.
- Farmers will be more involved in discussing the future of the area and better engaged with other activities and opportunities.
- Other LPS projects are likely to be more successful as a result of more personal communications with farmers through the link workers.
- The Local Farm Grant fund will be awarded for projects that improve the area in general (e.g. in appearance, environment, economy, community).
- Importantly, anyone else living and working in the area should also benefit, and so should any visitors.



Hayes meadow © Karen Shelley-Jones

## Glorious Grasslands

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

April 2017 to December 2021

### Cost

£358,332

### Project Summary

This aim of this project is to enhance ecological connectivity of species-diverse grasslands. The prime purpose is to promote and secure good management and seek opportunities to enhance and restore grasslands, protect existing natural heritage and expand the resource over a larger area, thereby making a more robust landscape of grasslands which will benefit a range of species, support ecosystem services and increase resilience against climate change.

This project will focus on three key locations where existing species-rich grassland clusters have been identified and where there is scope to strengthen this resource. Engagement with farmers, land managers, landowners and the local community will be through survey, management advice, practical enhancement works, support to access grants for conservation management, training and celebration events. Ongoing support will be maintained through the project officer, meadow monitors, leading farmers and partners through the life of the project and beyond.

Good quality meadows will be identified to provide a seed source and a variety of techniques will be used to restore and enhance degraded

habitats, including green hay spreading, machine harvesting and spreading, and hand seeding. To enable enhanced management on some sites, capital works such as securing boundaries are likely to be necessary and some pastures may require scrub and bracken control.

Fungi conservation is still a relatively new concept and more work is needed to understand their management needs. We will identify and establish management guidelines for important sites that could be used more widely beyond the project area. Innovative guidelines for the management and restoration of waxcap grasslands will be developed.

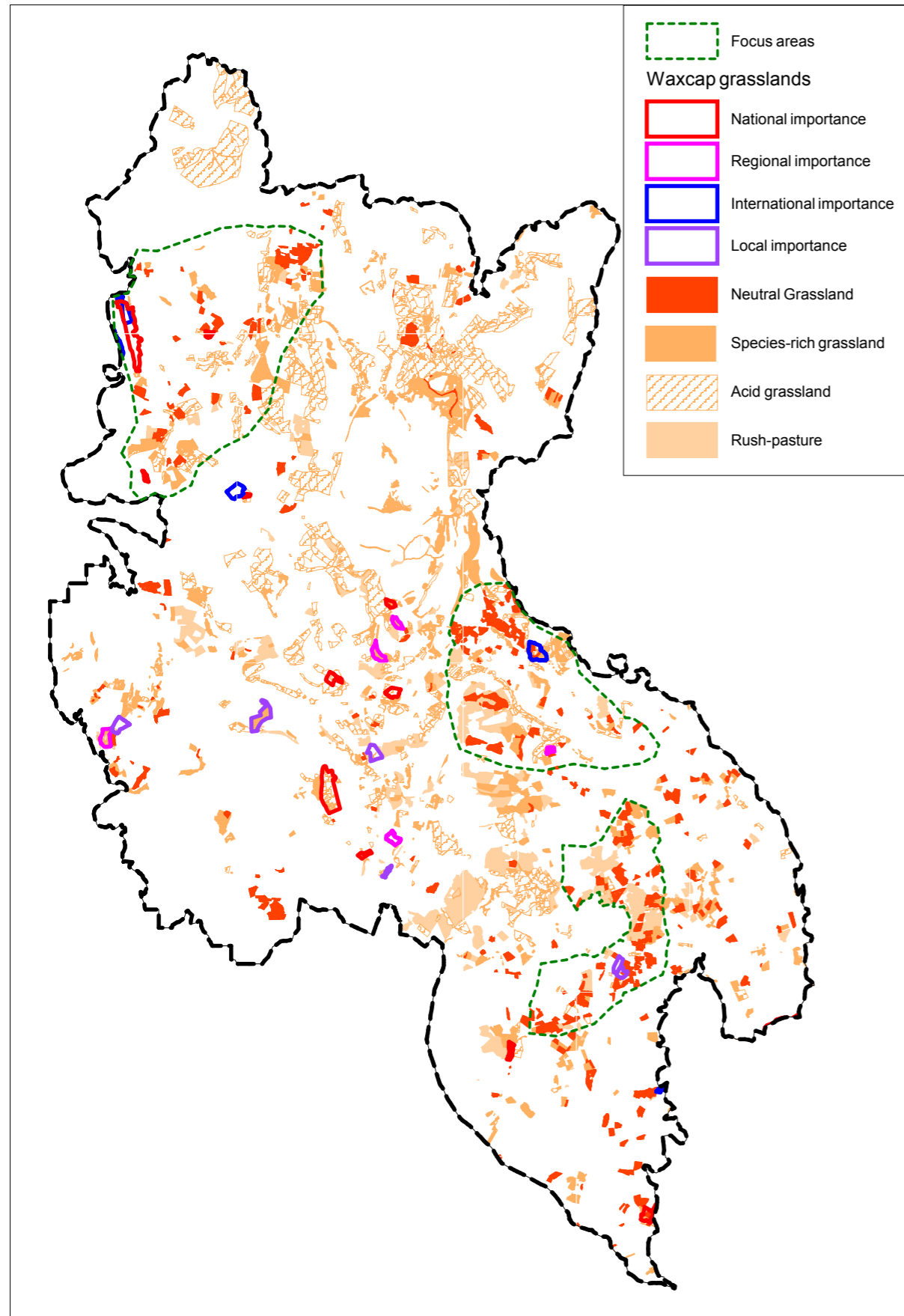
To engage with the local community, a series of walks, talks, information, training and volunteer opportunities will be provided. A local hay meadow scything festival will be organised on the PDNPA Warslow Estate. This will bring communities together, helping them feel less isolated, providing an opportunity to share, value and celebrate natural and cultural heritage.

### Project Benefits

- Better knowledge and understanding of the grassland resource.
- Closer working with farmers and communities to enhance and conserve species-rich grasslands.
- Opportunities for people to get involved in grassland survey and restoration, gaining new skills.
- More resilient grassland landscape supporting a variety of species and still providing a resource for farmers.



## Glorious Grasslands Key Grassland Areas



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Mosaic site visit © PDNPA

## Mosaic

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

April 2018 to October 2020

### Cost

£32,400

### Project Summary

The Mosaic champion model is based on the need to engage more people from under-represented groups in the natural environment. Here we will actively recruit new volunteers from four target under-represented groups: black and ethnic minority community, people with health inequalities, young people and people from deprived communities. Using our existing contacts and the expertise provided by Peak District Mosaic, we will visit communities in key urban centres surrounding the South West Peak and recruit twelve volunteers into champion roles.

Champions will be trained and supported to plan, organise and deliver visits to key places in the South West Peak. They will be expected to introduce people from their own community to the heritage assets of the Landscape Partnership area, sharing their knowledge and interpreting the South West Peak with small groups of visitors. Each champion will be asked to introduce one new group to the area, focusing on a destination of their own choice and will be supported to plan their visit by staff from the Partnership and National Park.

The role of champions is to build a bridge between communities traditionally disconnected from the natural environment and national parks.

### Project Benefits

- A network of highly trained volunteer Champions will exist whose sole focus will be on advocacy of South West Peak heritage.
- Volunteers will understand the special qualities of the South West Peak be they hay meadows, field barns or curlews.
- Innovative routes to understanding the landscape and how to access it will have been developed through a volunteer training scheme called Peakwise People.
- More people from new audience groups will know, understand and value the South West Peak.





## Peak Land Lives

### Project Lead

The Farming Life Centre

### Duration

January 2017 to July 2019

### Cost

£63,925

### Project Summary

Peak Land Lives is a research and oral history project which aims to tell the story of the agricultural heritage of the South West Peak from 1945 to the present. Drawing on personal testimony, it will document the journey of the farmers, and the landscape they have cared for, over the last 70 years, exploring the complex web of factors which has led the South West Peak to the crossroads it has reached today. It will also seek to understand and portray the current challenges faced by those living and working on the land and how they view their future within the South West Peak.

A full colour book will be produced together with photographs, video and sound recordings of interviews with farmers. The proceeds from book sales will go towards delivering small on-farm projects to benefit the landscape.

### Project Benefits

- A record will be established of the effects of environmental and farming policy over the past 70 years on places and people.
- Farmers will have a voice and be able to express their views and thoughts.
- The community will be celebrated and valued.
- There will be better understanding of the 'journey' which has been undertaken by people and place to get to the point reached today.

In the shippon © Christine Gregory





Roaches footpath © Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

## Roaches Gateway

### Project Lead

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

### Duration

January 2017 to June 2020

### Cost

£156,000

### Project Summary

The iconic towering Roaches is one of the most memorable views of the South West Peak and is Staffordshire's gateway to the LPS area. The Roaches marks the dramatic southern-most point of the Pennine uplands with beautiful views stretching as far as Snowdonia, Liverpool Cathedral and Cannock Chase.

This stunning rocky area, covering 395 hectares, is visited by some 100,000 people a year and is a real honeypot destination. The natural heritage protection on the Roaches is mainly because of its upland moor and blanket bog habitats, and the associated birdlife which rely on these fragile ecosystems to rear their young.

The pressure from visitors and erosion from weather has taken its toll on the infrastructure of footpaths. Erosion is making paths impassable in many places and large scars from countless visits are cutting into the beautiful landscape. As well as making access harder, these scars are damaging the wildlife and heritage of the

Roaches and look ugly on the landscape. They are allowing blanket bogs to dry out as water drains quickly away through rapid erosion.

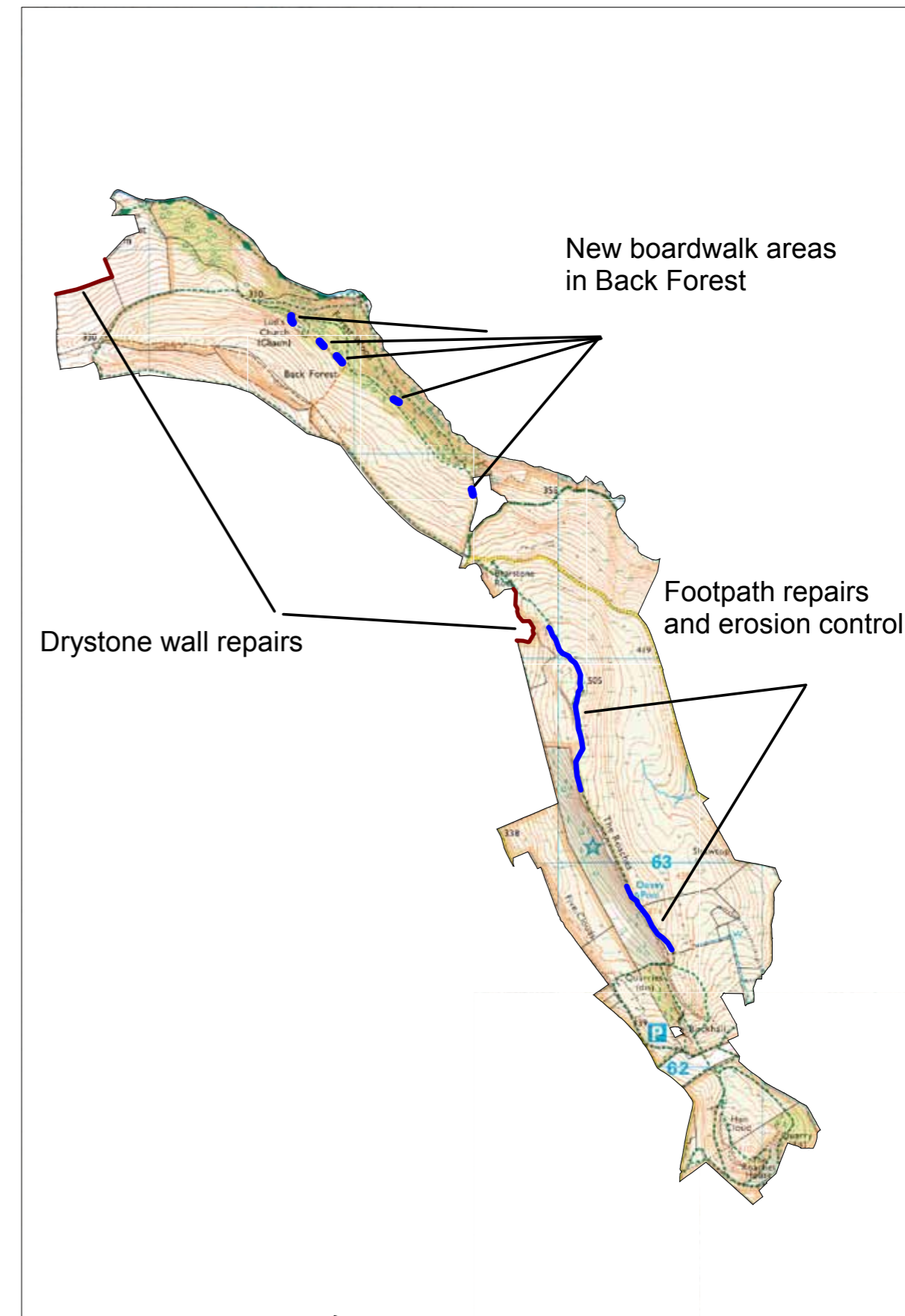
Visitors find it hard to walk on sections of footpath, so they choose to walk on areas of heather, which quickly turn to peaty mud, which in turn rapidly erode, making the scar wider. The scars are so wide they can be seen on aerial photographs.

Roaches Gateway will help to manage this site for multiple benefits. Carefully selected contractors will improve 1,000 metres of key footpaths and will skillfully restore areas of eroded habitat. Furthermore, the historic areas of the Roaches will be restored through the project; 800 metres of landmark boundary drystone wall (built from the 1700s) will be repaired.

### Project Benefits

- People will be involved in the project from the start and will gain knowledge and skills about the landscape and a greater understanding of its heritage.
- Volunteers will receive training in ancient stone footpath pitching techniques and drystone walling, safeguarding the newly repaired footpaths and walls well into the future.
- On and off site interpretation will tell the story of the Roaches and its place in the landscape so more can appreciate and enjoy it.

## Roaches Gateway Project Locations



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Woody debris in river © Nick Mott

## Slowing the Flow South West Peak

### Project Lead

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

### Duration

January 2017 to December 2021

### Cost

£385,390

### Project Summary

Flooding is one of the most challenging and costly realities of life in the 21st century. The natural behaviour of rivers is becoming an increasingly unnatural force in our villages, towns and cities. As climate change combines with human pressures on the land, floods occur more often and leave greater damage when they have gone. Building large concrete barricades is no longer considered the most effective defence against rising floodwaters. With climate change bringing increased rainfall, concrete defences will be unable to cope with the quantities of water flowing downstream. They are also extremely costly to design, build and maintain, and singularly concentrate on the symptoms of flooding, not the causes.

'Slowing the flow' describes a growing movement in the UK which is adopting a more sustainable approach to flood management, one which takes greater account of how nature works and the benefits that nature provides to people. This so-called 'ecosystem approach', working with natural processes rather than against them, is extremely cost-effective. By restoring the river's natural capacity to cope with floods via its wetlands, floodplains and riverbank (riparian) woodlands, the risk of flooding to settlements downstream is lowered without the need for building costly concrete.

Initial estimates show that a sustainable flood management scheme can cost a tenth of the price of an engineered concrete flood defence scheme.

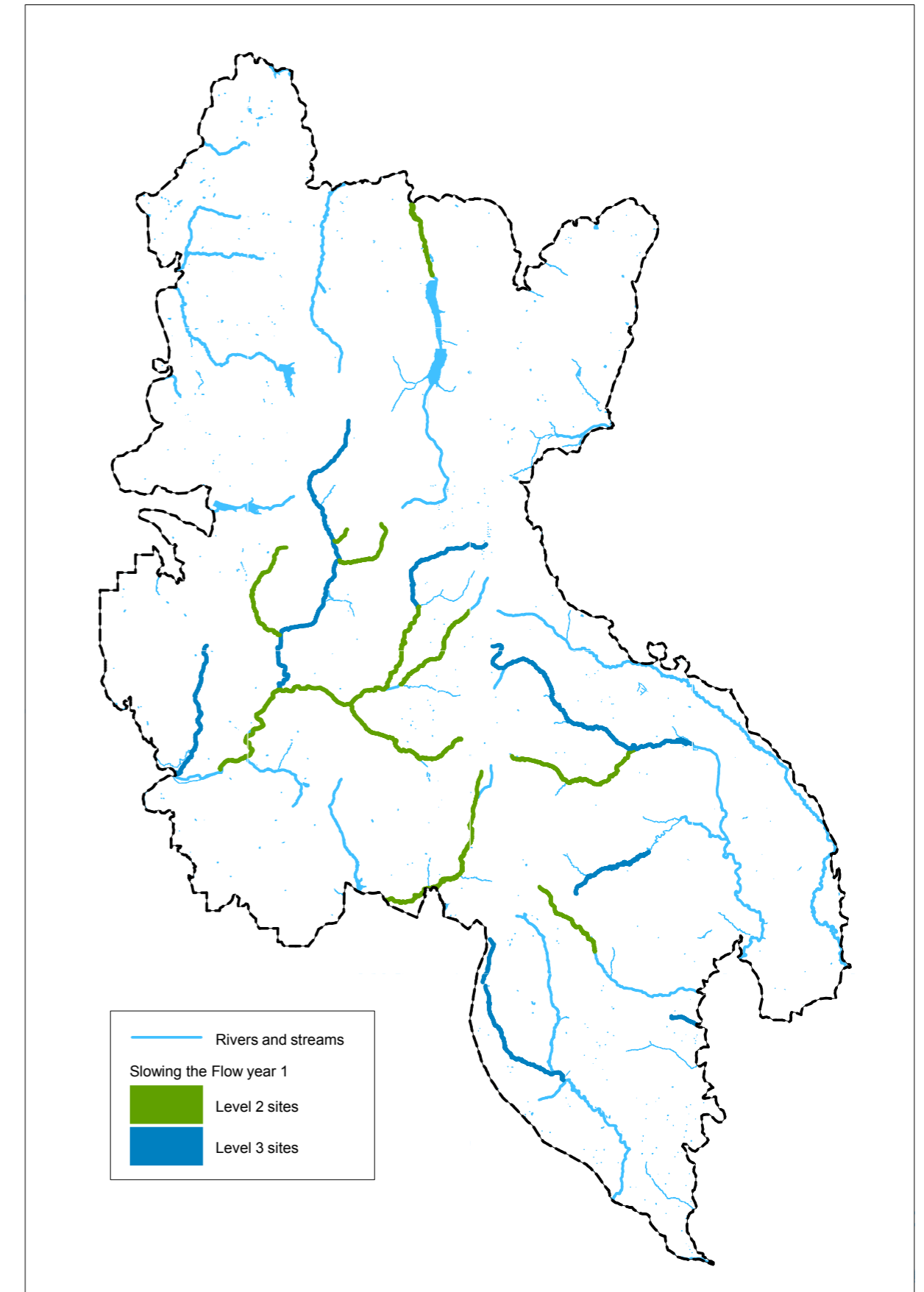
As the riparian and gully native woodlands grow and wetlands mature, their effectiveness actually increases over time. Once the riparian trees are planted and natural elements of the river's flood defence system restored, the costs involved in maintaining them are negligible.

The South West Peak Slowing the Flow Project seeks to demonstrate this new way of thinking in the catchments of the South West Peak. By working with landowners and local communities we hope to implement a range of natural flood measures that will bring multiple benefits to the area's wildlife and people.

### Project Benefits

- Activities will contribute to reducing and slowing agricultural runoff, increasing water filtration rates and reducing siltation.
- Habitat connectivity will be improved through the establishment of vegetated buffer strips, areas of clough woodland adjacent to water courses, installation of woody debris dams, temporary rainwater storage areas and a 'roughening' of slopes through changes in vegetation and grazing regimes.
- Work undertaken will contribute to the ecological health of watercourses, increasing the diversity of macroinvertebrates and maintaining and supporting biodiversity.
- Work will mitigate for some expensive processes at water treatment works, reduce flood risk to local communities, protect raw water sources, contribute to Water Framework Directive targets and increase carbon sequestration.

### Slowing the Flow Project Locations



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Dale View Mine © Karen Shelley-Jones



Tenancy viewing day walking the land © Farming life centre

## Small Heritage Adoption

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

January 2018 to December 2021

### Cost

£73,000

### Project Summary

There exists a wide range of heritage assets across the South West Peak Landscape Partnership Scheme area. These assets range from Bronze Age burial mounds to medieval packhorse routes, from post-medieval turnpike roads to gritstone quarries, lead mines and lime kilns. While a considerable amount is known about the South West Peak area, not every heritage site has been identified and there is no comprehensive up-to-date record for many of the known features. It is not unusual for a relatively minor feature in a settlement, such as a gritstone trough outside the churchyard gate or a milestone, to have more significance for a community than a nationally designated feature on a remote hilltop.

The Small Heritage Adoption Project aims to enable communities to identify, record and research heritage assets across the LPS area. When opportunities arise and project funds are sufficient, then programmes of repair, conservation or consolidation will be initiated. Volunteers will be recruited and trained to undertake identification, recording and, where

possible, conservation management. To provide for the long term sustainability of these heritage assets and provide a legacy for this project and the Scheme, particular features will be adopted by volunteers, who will monitor their condition over time and undertake essential maintenance and conservation management. They will maintain contact with heritage professionals to ensure that works and other activities are appropriate, relative to the heritage asset in question, and that their acquired heritage skills are appropriate for the task proposed.

In addition, and wherever possible and appropriate, these communities will be enabled to use information that they have either generated or inherited to provide further information and interpretation for other users. The purpose of such activities will be to raise interest, awareness and enjoyment of the heritage of the South West Peak and to contribute positively to the social, environmental and economic re generation of the area through such heritage-based initiatives.

### Project Benefits

- Local communities will be able to get involved in identifying, recording, repairing and managing heritage assets now and into the future.
- Craftspeople will undertake/supervise repairs and up-skill community members to undertake future maintenance work.
- Formerly hidden or forgotten small heritage features will be given a new lease of life.

## Uplands Academy

### Project Lead

The Farming Life Centre

### Duration

April 2017 to March 2018

### Cost

£19,782

### Project Summary

The South West Peak Fresh Start Uplands Academy will provide a tailored package of 30 hours of business training to 20 individuals - the next generation of farmers and landowners in the South West Peak. Fresh Start Land Enterprise Centre CIC (FSLEC) is a national community interest company for the farming community which aims to equip those who aspire to get a foot on the farming ladder with the key knowledge, understanding and skills to create and run successful land-based businesses.

A Fresh Start Academy is business focused, with participants following a varied programme to provide an introduction to the many possibilities and facets of getting started with and progressing business ideas. Topics covered within the programme include: understanding the varied assets of an upland farm, capitalising on the environment (soil, grass, habitats, wood, energy), adding value through

diversification, joint ventures and tenancies, financial management and cashflow, raising capital, land tenure, business plan development and presentation, interview coaching and negotiation skills. The training is delivered by agricultural professionals, including farmers and landowners, land agents, bankers, agricultural consultants, accountants, rural surveyors etc.

### Project Benefits

- New entrants into farming will have gained confidence in their skills.
- Industry professionals will give their time to train and mentor new entrants into the farming industry.
- Confident new farmers/tenants with a solid grounding in sustainable resource use will better and more sensitive managers of the landscape.





Child with leaves © Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

## Virtual Visitor Centre

### Project Lead

Peak District National Park Authority

### Duration

January 2017 to March 2018

### Cost

£30,000

### Project Summary

Virtual Visitor Centre is a partnership website which will provide detail on the Landscape Partnership Scheme for partners and beneficiaries. The website will be presented in an engaging and interactive way to encourage partners and participants in the projects to share their thoughts and experiences.

The website will act as a repository for collections of images, videos, soundbites, creative writing, artwork and other responses to the landscape of the South West Peak.

The website will communicate the linking thread between the strands of the LPS; it will provide information on volunteering opportunities, events and activities through different project elements; it will keep partners and the wider public up to date on what is happening and it will provide a mechanism for 'Crowdfunding'.

### Project Benefits

- The website will raise the profile of the South West Peak and its assets.
- More people will have digital access to heritage, which will engage new audiences and build greater understanding.
- Shared messages and information will be available in one location for the Partnership and its beneficiaries.
- The website will include opportunities to donate towards the projects.

## Wild Child

### Project Lead

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

### Duration

January 2017 to December 2021

### Cost

£115,500

### Project Summary

The Wild Child Project aims to reconnect children and their families to the world around them, to inspire a lifelong appreciation for their natural heritage and to build up the confidence to incorporate outdoor play and learning into their daily lives.

Wild Child is very much based around the ethos that people connect with their surroundings when exploring it in a way they choose and lead themselves. Early nature connection has impacts on lifelong, pro-nature behaviours. This connection is best developed through experiencing the natural environment through the senses, through spending time quietly reflecting, exploring, challenging themselves and really getting immersed in an activity. To some degree this is possible through led, formal and guided opportunities – but these do not generate the inherent desire to go out and do it themselves when not in a facilitated environment or activity. Children in particular need to discover their own motivation to engage with their surroundings – this means that we

are merely there to provide the opportunities for them to discover it for themselves.

We will work with families & children (up to 14 years old) through informal education activities to encourage them to enjoy, understand, visit and want to take care of the landscape and habitats of the South West Peak. This will be achieved through a range of activities including Nature Tots (aimed at pre-school children), Wildplay and Family events. We will use art, play, exploration, to give all participants the chance to get stuck in!

Whilst the project will have a Roaches focus, we anticipate this project to have delivery across the whole SWP area. Key sites will be Lyme Park, Macclesfield Forest and The Roaches. As well as delivering fully supported play and tots sessions, we will also offer taster and training days for parents and volunteers to enjoy too - providing support and ideas for self 'led' family days out throughout the project area, and to leave a legacy of volunteers able to facilitate wild play.

### Project Benefits

- Younger children and their families will experience nature in a way which is both fun and educational.
- Children will get to explore 'natural' places with professional support providing the confidence that families need.
- Building strong connections with the natural environment from a young age helps to instil a sense of care for the longer term.





Curlew nest © PDNPA

## Working for Waders

### Project Lead

RSPB

### Duration

January 2017 to December 2021

### Cost

£288,093

### Project Summary

This project brings together a programme of work to support the recovery of breeding wader populations in the South West Peak. Populations of lapwing, curlew and snipe have declined alarmingly over the last 30 years, and despite several years of effort we need to do more to reverse these declines. This project will use a refreshed approach, integrating applied PhD research, evidence-based interventions, biodiversity monitoring, social science, ecosystem services and innovation. This approach will inform how we can work at a landscape-scale to secure and enable the recovery of populations of curlew, lapwing and snipe in the South West Peak. We will fill vital knowledge gaps, improve collaborations with landowners and test how we can effect change.

The Working for Waders approach will link the evidence/research programme (PhD) with action at the individual farm level, applied at a landscape scale. This will lead to a programme of habitat interventions, monitoring of breeding birds and collection of data at the farm level. Project sites will be in identified priority areas

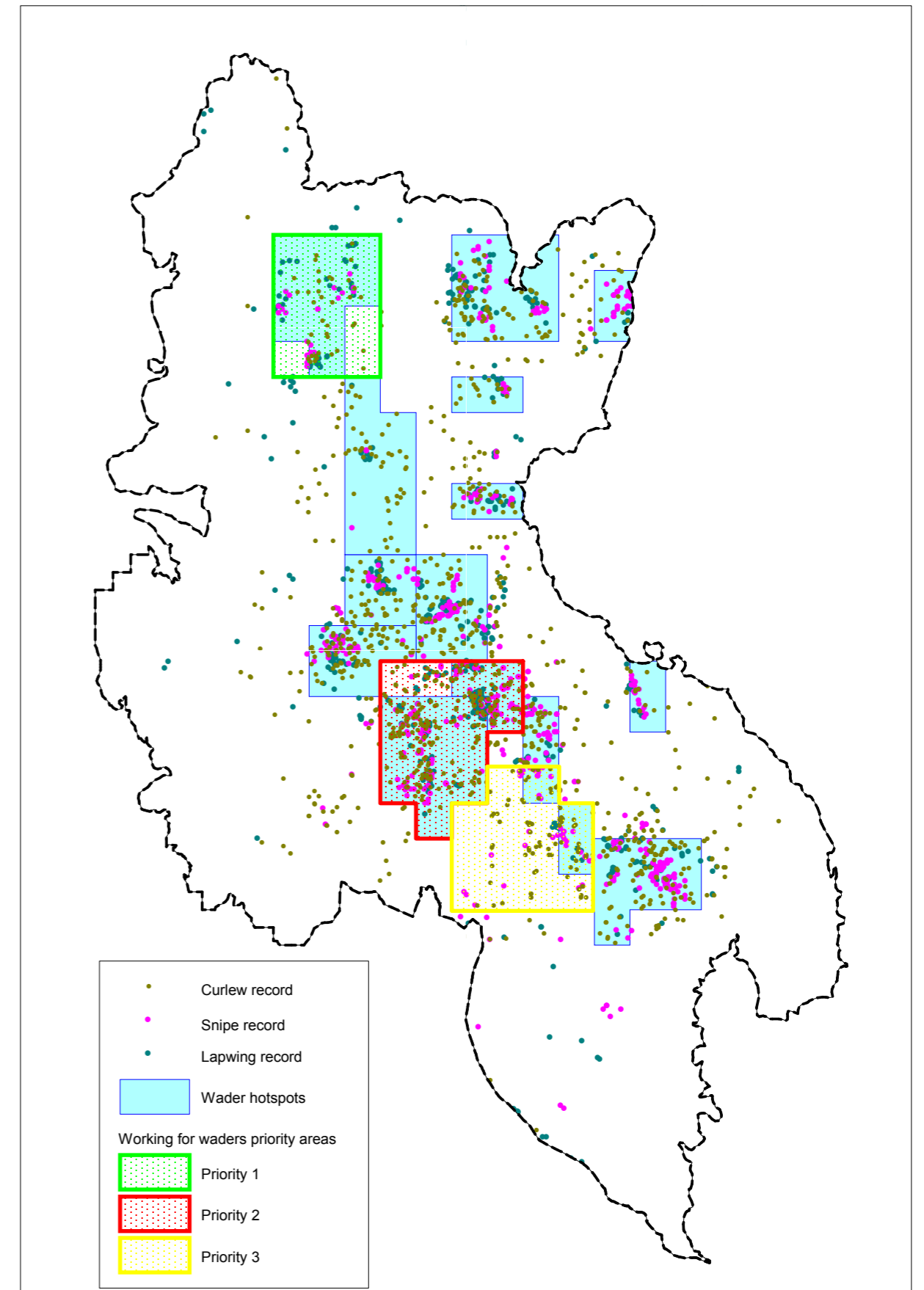
for breeding waders, where there are strong wader populations requiring interventions, and/or significant opportunities to improve habitats and attract larger breeding wader populations.

A key element of the approach is to carry out targeted wader plans for farmers within these priority areas. These will identify the need to further habitat interventions on individual farms. On going support to individual farmers will continue through local volunteer Wader Wardens, with the Future Farmscapes project Farm Link Workers providing a co-ordinating role. A social science element to the PhD research will help us to understand the perceptions of the farming community to breeding wader conservation, and how this changes through the programme. Opportunities for Payment for Ecosystem Services will be explored and experimented with. Rush management is a vital component of land management for waders and provides opportunities for innovation around end uses and small business enterprise.

### Project Benefits

- Improved knowledge to support landowners in managing sites at a landscape-scale for breeding waders in the South West Peak.
- Targeted habitat interventions and understanding the effectiveness of these.
- Improved knowledge of how breeding waders use the landscape.
- Resilient and sustainable populations of breeding waders across the South West Peak landscape into the future.
- Inform other breeding wader projects across the UK and be a crucial part of a national approach to breeding wader conservation.

## Working for Waders Priority Areas



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**SOUTH WEST PEAK**  
LANDSCAPE AT A CROSSROADS



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

**Shelley-Jones, K. 2016.**  
**South West Peak – a Landscape at a Crossroads.**  
**Landscape Conservation Action Plan for the**  
**HLF-funded South West Peak Landscape Partnership**  
**Scheme, Bakewell.**

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