

## **SOUTH WEST PEAK LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME SUMMARY**

### **1. 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.

### **2. Vision**

The South West Peak is a life-support system because it collects our water, takes in our carbon, defines our communities, retains our heritage, provides an escape, promotes health & wellbeing, inspires generations and supports livelihoods.

Our partnership supports a South West Peak that is a healthier and better functioning landscape for people and wildlife, a nationally and internationally recognised place where everyone can make a true connection with their environment and a living landscape where opportunities exist for present and future generations.

### **3. Partnership Outcomes**

#### **Relationships**

- Improved understanding and relationship between different communities (farmers, conservationists, residents, visitors, partners)

#### **Land management**

- Habitats are more diverse and more resilient
- Populations of key species are supported and more resilient
- A move towards economically and environmentally sustainable land management or 'high nature value farming'
- The landscape is managed for multiple benefits

#### **People**

- People have a stronger sense of place, they are engaging with the landscape, have better experiences, and have gained respect and understanding
- People have gained skills and knowledge about the landscape
- People value the landscape and understand the benefits it provides
- People who are currently disconnected from the landscape are supported to build a relationship

#### **Landscape character**

- Historic and built elements of the landscape are recorded, understood, valued and restored
- The distinctive mosaic of natural heritage is maintained and enhanced

### **4. Statement of Intent**

The South West Peak is a landscape at a crossroads. This is where north meets south, and the uplands and lowlands sit side by side. The resulting climate is a key influencer of the distinctive character of the landscape we experience today, including its land use and field pattern, industry, settlement pattern and local vernacular, recreational opportunities, geodiversity and biodiversity. This is a landscape characterised by dramatic rocky outcrops overlooking an intimate mosaic of moorland, grassland, wetland and woodland, divided by dry stone walls or hedgerows.

At a crossroads a traveller often needs to take stock and make decisions: where are we heading, how will we get there, which is the best direction to take? The decisions we make today are important determinants of the future shape, condition and direction of this natural, cultural and economic landscape.

The Landscape Partnership focuses on understanding, strengthening and enhancing the connections between the natural environment, the historic settlement patterns and land-based industries, the present day use and enjoyment of the landscape, and the future resilience to change of this special part of the Peak District.

In particular the Landscape Partnership will help people to:

- Understand and implement an ecosystem approach to caring for the landscape.
- Understand the historic and cultural value of the landscape and how it has been shaped over time.
- Conserve, manage and enhance the built and natural features that characterise the area.
- Deliver a sustainable land management approach capable of supporting current land uses whilst protecting the existing network of habitats and enhancing landscape character.
- Take action to protect the local environment, increase biodiversity and enhance, restore and create a network of diverse habitats which will help to ensure future resilience to change.
- Build skills in traditional building and land management; access and interpretation; wildlife surveying and monitoring; habitat restoration; and community planning.
- Engage in learning, training and gaining skills to understand, interpret and care for their local landscape, traditions and heritage.
- Explore and deliver innovative ways of supporting local businesses which depend upon and benefit the natural and cultural environment.
- Follow an approach that protects and manages the distinctive dispersed settlement, field patterns and other intrinsic characteristics which combine to contribute to a distinctive sense of place.
- Address the decline of key priority species such as farmland waders.
- Get involved in telling and sharing stories about the area – its past, present and future; and supporting residents to become ‘curators’ of their landscape.
- Engage on a deeper, more meaningful level in and around the South West Peak to strengthen connection and involvement with heritage assets and historic culture.
- Promote opportunities for cooperation and volunteering to develop approaches and action so that the benefits of partnership working can be sustained long term.

## **5. Component Projects (and delivery partner)**

### **Future Farmscapes (PDNPA)**

Improving engagement between farmers and other organisations working in the area, to build the concept of high nature value farming and identify opportunities for sustainability. A small team of Farm Link Workers will be pivotal to liaison between the partnership and the farming community.

### **Future Custodians (PDNPA)**

Providing farming and countryside worker apprenticeships for 12 young people with integrated work and training programmes with mentors drawn from across the range of organisations in the partnership.

**Uplands Academy (Farming Life Centre)**

Providing a tailored package of 30 hours of business training to 20 individuals - the next generation of farmers and land managers in the South West Peak.

**Peak Land Lives (Farming Life Centre)**

A research and oral history project, which will tell the story of the agricultural heritage of the South West Peak from 1945 to the present, through a full colour book with supporting audio and visual material.

**Barns & Buildings (PDNPA)**

Identifying, recording and, where possible, repairing, conserving or consolidating traditional field barns by engaging with landowners, local communities, craftspeople and visitors.

**Small Heritage Adoption (PDNPA)**

Small heritage such as bell pits, lime kilns, stone crosses and waymarkers are at risk of loss and degradation through non-intervention and neglect. This project aims to promote the value of these features as part of the cultural heritage of the landscape.

**Roaches Gateway (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust)**

Repairing and improving footpaths using traditional techniques including stone pitching. Historic dry stone wall boundaries will be restored through a combination of contractors and volunteer work. The project will also deliver creative and engaging onsite and off-site interpretation.

**Mosaic (PDNPA)**

New volunteers will be recruited and trained as Community Champions to build a bridge between people traditionally disconnected from the natural environment.

**Better Outside (PDNPA)**

Capital works to rights of way will be followed by the development and delivery of a program of activity, designed to improve health and initiate behaviour change amongst target groups.

**Communities Engage (Support Staffordshire)**

Community engagement officer and community grant fund to enable communities to celebrate their heritage, research it, establish events and make improvements to their local cultural and natural heritage.

**Beyond the Classroom (PDNPA)**

Allowing young geographers and scientists to experience field studies in a unique and special landscape. Their research will be valued and used by the partnership and their skills and knowledge of heritage will have been developed through hands-on experiential learning opportunities.

**Wild Child (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust)**

Wild play activities for families and young children 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.

**Working for Waders (RSPB)**

To understand the drivers of breeding wader population dynamics in the South West Peak and to identify and deliver intervention measures to help achieve sustainable populations.

**Glorious Grasslands (PDNPA)**

Involving communities and providing support to landowners to increase species-rich and unimproved grasslands, which can provide multiple benefits for soil health, flood water management, species diversity, pollinators and human wellbeing.

**Slowing the Flow (Cheshire Wildlife Trust)**

Addressing multiple issues affecting upland catchments by using an approach of 'buffering' and 'roughening' land surrounding feeder streams of the rivers that begin their course in the South West Peak.

**Crayfish in Crisis (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust)**

Developing conservation action plans for this globally endangered species in different catchments of the project area.

**Bigger, Better, More Connected (PDNPA)**

An over-arching interpretation project that aims to develop hard-hitting, impact making messages that inspire people to do more and care more about the landscape.

**Virtual Visitor Centre (PDNPA)**

A partnership website which will provide details about the Landscape Partnership and host a 'virtual visitor centre' as an online interpretive resource.



[www.southwestpeak.co.uk](http://www.southwestpeak.co.uk)



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6. Map of the scheme area

