



Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27

MFFP Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27

Foreword: MFFP Partnership Manager Matt Scott-Campbell

Strategic Focus: First full year of AMP8 delivery and accelerated landscape-scale peatland restoration:

Period: April 2026 - March 2027

The Moors for the Future Partnership working history can be viewed as a collection of key moments where ambition, innovation and collaboration have combined to enable and create much needed change in the condition of the regions Blanket Bogs. Some of these moments have represented genuine step-changes, that have become the New -Normal in terms of what is possible when we work together. The securing of record-breaking investments within the period 2025-30 (AMP8), and the entry into the programme of significant funding linked to national infrastructure resilience linked to peatland health, is another of these significant step-change moments.

The MFFP 2026/27 Business Plan is a reflection of the strong ambition and commitment held by the Partnership as we work ever close to achieving our vision of a Sustainable and Resilient upland landscape. It sets out firm delivery plans for our commitments in the year ahead as optimized to deliver against that vision within our Conservation, Science, Communications, and Business Development activities.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026/27 financial year represents a **defining milestone** for the Moors for the Future Partnership (MFFP). It marks the **first full year of delivery under AMP8** and a significant step-change in the scale, pace and ambition of peatland restoration across the Peak District and South Pennines.

Following Ofwat's approval of the PR24 settlement, MFFP has secured **up to £25 million of AMP8 investment to 2030** from its three water company partners: Severn Trent, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water. This is the **largest funding commitment in the Partnership's history**, positioning MFFP as a nationally significant delivery body for climate resilience, water quality improvement, biodiversity recovery and wildfire risk mitigation.

During 2026/27, MFFP plans to deliver circa **£6 million of capital restoration works**, alongside growth in scientific evidence, communications impact and blended finance development. All activity will continue to operate on a **full cost-recovery basis**, with staffing and capital budgets agreed through Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and established partner governance arrangements.

The organisation is forecast to expand to **approximately 35 FTE**, generating over **£350,000 in corporate overhead** contribution to PDNPA and reinforcing the Partnership's role as a sustainable delivery model within protected landscapes.



STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND DRIVERS

AMP8 and the Water Sector

AMP8 (2025–2030) represents a fundamental shift in the UK water sector, with nearly **90% of investment targeted at new environmental and drinking water outcomes**. This mirrors MFFP's long-established expertise in **upland catchments, nature-based solutions and regulated delivery at landscape scale**.

Climate, Wildfire and Nature Recovery

Accelerating climate volatility, increasing wildfire risk and ongoing ecological degradation reinforce the urgency of large-scale peatland restoration. Delivery in 2025/26 demonstrated both the vulnerability and resilience of upland landscapes, with MFFP maintaining progress despite prolonged drought, wildfire incidents and extreme rainfall events.

Strategic Role of MFFP in 2026/27

During 2026/27, the Partnership will consolidate its position as:

- A **trusted delivery partner** for large-scale regulated environmental investment
- A **centre of excellence** for upland peat restoration science and best practice
- A **platform for blended public, private and philanthropic investment**



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PROGRAMME DELIVERY AND FORECAST

Capital Restoration Programme

- **Estimated capital delivery:** ~£6.0 million
- **Number of capital projects:** 14
- **Primary delivery window:** September 2026 – March 2027

Delivery will focus on restoring degraded upland peat through **re-wetting, revegetation and erosion control**, with all works aligned to bird breeding and environmental constraints.

Geographic Focus

- **United Utilities:** Goyt Valley (post-wildfire recovery), Shining Tor
- **Severn Trent Water:** Upper Derwent Valley, Eastern Moors
- **Yorkshire Water:** South Pennines
- **National Highways:** M62 and Woodhead Pass corridors

The programme builds on completed survey and design activity across **over 12,500 hectares**, ensuring a robust delivery pipeline for the remainder of AMP8.



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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING

MFFP will continue to diversify its income base to support long-term organisational resilience and delivery at scale.

Forecast Project Income 2026/27

Live project delivery – £6.05 million

- AMP8 water company programmes – c. £5.0 million
- National Highways – £450,000
- Stalybridge ROI programme – £600,000

Core vision and enabling funding – £265,000

- Golden Bottle Trust – £50,000
- British Mountaineering Council / ACT – £50,000
- Peak District National Park Foundation – £150,000
- Other donors – £15,000

Business Development Priorities

- DEFRA and wider public sector grant funding
- Blended public-private finance models
- Philanthropic, CSR and ESG-aligned investment

This approach supports the strategic repositioning of peatlands as critical national infrastructure, delivering integrated outcomes for water regulation, carbon storage, biodiversity and climate resilience.



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SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE PROGRAMME

The Science and Evidence Programme underpins delivery credibility, regulatory compliance and blended finance growth by robustly quantifying environmental outcomes.

Key Themes for 2026/27

- Biodiversity recovery, including invertebrates and microbial communities
- Hydrology, carbon dynamics and re-wetting effectiveness
- Wildfire resilience and climate adaptation

Planned Activities

- Expanded biodiversity and vegetation monitoring
- Sphagnum establishment trials and optimisation research
- Integrated re-wetting techniques on severely degraded peat
- Water quality monitoring in priority catchments
- Long-term hydrological and vegetation datasets
- Ongoing development of the Wildfire Database
- Annual Autumn Dipwell Campaign

Science staff will also support AMP8, National Highways and private sector **KPI compliance and reporting**, ensuring funder assurance and consistency across programmes.



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COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

2026/27 is a foundational year for communications, supporting delivery risk management, public understanding and future investment.

Key Priorities

- Delivery of a dedicated **wildfire communications programme**, including a film documenting the Goyt Valley fire recovery
- Targeted digital campaigns and place-based engagement in the Goyt Valley
- Development of the **Moorland Centre proposition**, including interpretation planning, pilot activity and partner consultation
- Public engagement across the Peak District and West Yorkshire, including the final operational year of the Bogtastic van
- Volunteer engagement and closer alignment with PDNPA
- Media relations, case studies and consistent digital content
- Youth engagement, schools programmes and farming community outreach

Communications will increasingly support **green finance, ecosystem services valuation and partnership development**.



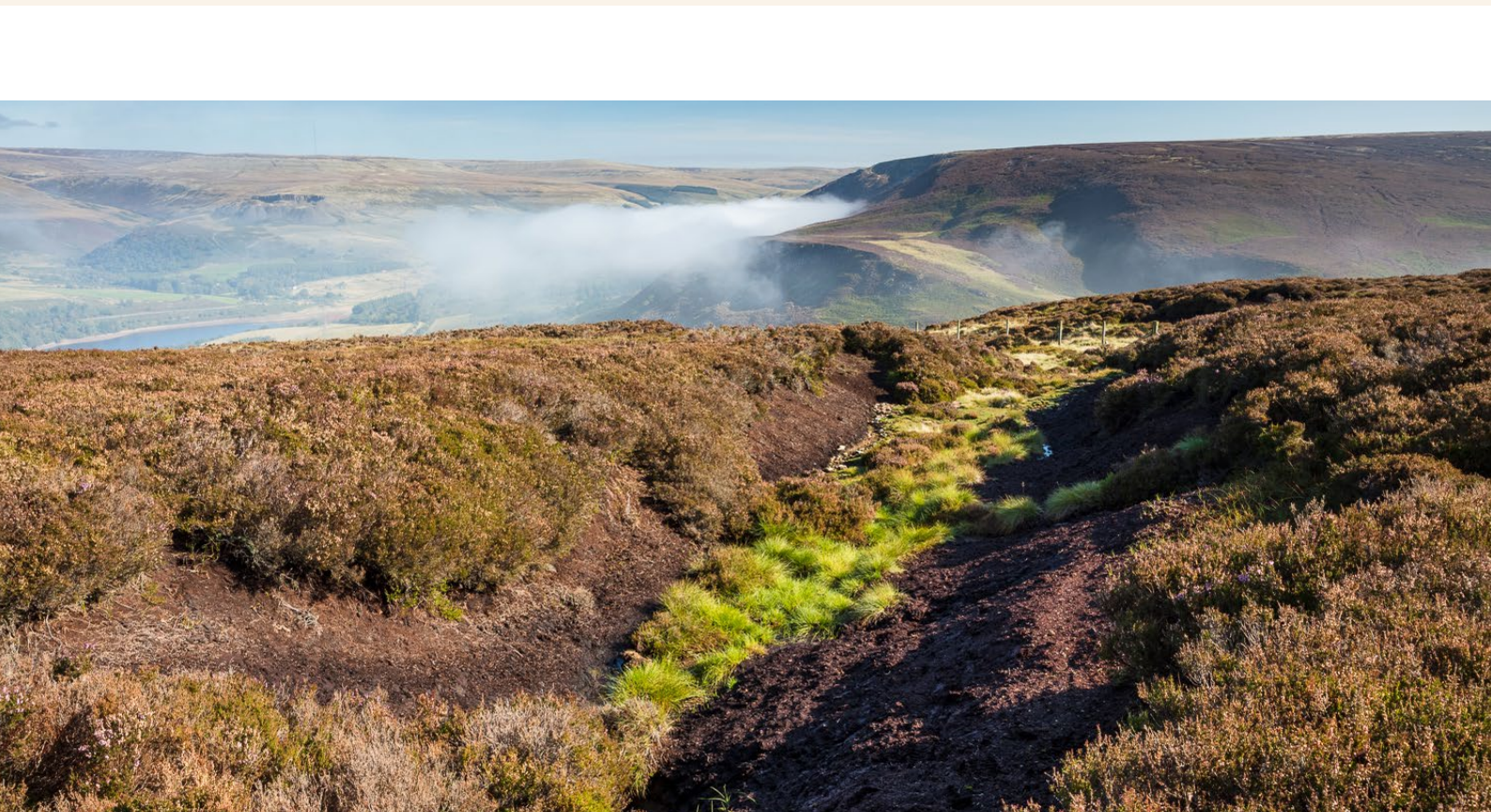
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RISKS AND CAPACITY

The primary delivery risk remains **specialist contractor capacity** in a rapidly expanding restoration market.

Mitigation measures include:

- Early project mobilisation and procurement
- Phased and flexible delivery pipelines
- Ongoing contractor market engagement
- Continued growth in internal Conservation Works capacity



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CONCLUSION

The 2026/27 financial year represents a **step-change moment** for the Moors for the Future Partnership. With secure multi-year funding, a mature project pipeline and an integrated delivery model spanning restoration, science and engagement, MFFP is exceptionally well placed to deliver transformational outcomes for nature, climate, water and communities.

This year will set the pace for the full delivery of **AMP8 and RIS3 commitments**, materially increasing the resilience of upland peatlands in the face of climate change and contributing directly to **Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023–28 Aims 1 (Climate Change) and 2 (Landscape and Nature Recovery)**.

