

# Farming in Protected Landscapes

1951-2021



PEAK  
DISTRICT  
NATIONAL  
PARK



## Introduction

The Defra-funded Farming in Protected Landscapes programme will be open for applications from 1 July 2021. In this our farmer-focused newsletter we explain what the programme can support and how it will work. We wish to encourage strong applications from the Peak District National Park (PDNP) farming and land management community and look forward to discussing your proposals with you before you submit an application.

## Protected landscapes

Our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are special and unique places. They are living, working landscapes that also support a huge range of habitats and species, and they are enjoyed by millions of people every year. By supporting

the farmers, land managers and people who live and work in these areas, we can help protect these exceptional places and support local communities

To help do this, Defra has introduced the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, which will run from 24 June 2021 to 31 March 2024.

Through the programme, farmers and land managers can be supported to carry out projects that:

- Support nature recovery
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage, or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.

The underlined blue links can be clicked to access additional information online





The programme is part of Defra's [Agricultural Transition Plan](#). It has been developed by Defra with the support of a group of AONB and National Park staff from across the country.

In the PDNP, the PDNP team will be awarding circa £1.2 million between now and the end of March 2022.

### **Eligibility**

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is open to all farmers and land

managers (including from the private, public and charity sectors) within the PDNP.

You must manage all the land included in the application, and have control of all the activities you would like to undertake, or you must have written consent from all parties who have this management and control.

Other organisations and individuals can apply, as long as they do this in collaboration with a farmer(s) or land manager(s), or in support of a farmer or group of farmers.

The programme supports activity on any land within the PDNP. It can also support activity on other land where projects can demonstrate benefit to the PDNP, or the PDNP's objectives or partnership initiatives. Most of the funding will be provided for projects within the PDNP boundary.

You can see the National Park boundary by visiting the [MAGIC mapping website](#). Click on 'designations', 'land-based designations' and then National Parks England.



### What the Programme will pay for

The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme will pay for projects that, in the opinion of the Local Assessment Panel (see 'Application assessment' below) provide value for money and meet at least one of the outcomes listed below, under four themes.

#### Climate outcomes

- More carbon is stored in soils and vegetation
- Flood risk is reduced
- Farmers, land managers and the public better understand what different habitats and land uses can store carbon and reduce carbon emissions
- The landscape is more resilient to climate change

#### Nature outcomes

- There is a greater area of wildlife-rich habitat
- There is greater connectivity between habitats
- Existing habitat is better managed for biodiversity
- There is an increase in biodiversity

#### People outcomes

- There are more opportunities for people to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape
- There are more opportunities for more diverse audiences to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape
- There is greater public engagement in land management, such as through volunteering
- Farmers and land managers feel increasingly comfortable with providing public goods

#### Place outcomes

- The quality and character of the landscape is reinforced or enhanced

- Historic structures and features are conserved, enhanced or interpreted more effectively
- There is an increase in the resilience of nature friendly sustainable farm businesses, which in turn contributes to a more thriving local economy

Your project must also help to deliver at least one of the priorities of the PDNP Management Plan, an updated summary of which can be found at [PDNP Management Plan Summary](#). The full current Management Plan can be found at [PDNP Management Plan](#).

For example, the programme in the Peak District might support:

- Action to reduce carbon emissions and increase soil health on farm
- Whole farm planning for conservation, energy efficiency and economic resilience, including in farmer clusters
- Woody debris dams and riverside tree planting for natural flood management
- Restoring and creating wildlife rich habitats as part of nature recovery
- Promoting connectivity between habitats
- Restoring ponds and creating wader scrapes to support a variety of wildlife
- Promoting natural processes for a wilder Peak District





- Replacing stiles with gates on public footpaths to promote easier access
- Creating and promoting a series of farm walks across a cluster of farms, providing new access opportunities, links to the rights of way network and interpretation of farming and of the natural and historic features on the land
- Visitor management improvements at a key site to provide safe access to popular walking routes, reducing congestion for visitors and for local residents
- A pop up camping facility, alongside the provision of new walking trails, linked to nature recovery activities
- Working with new audiences to enable them to experience the Protected Landscape
- Restoring historic features on a farm, such as lime kilns or lead mining heritage
- Gathering data and evidence to inform farming practice which delivers the conservation of natural and cultural assets
- Supporting a locally-branded food initiative which promotes the links between the product and the landscape in which it is produced
- Accessing farm business advice

### Payment rates

If an applicant will not make a commercial gain through a project, they could receive up to 100% of the costs.

Where an applicant would benefit commercially from a project, they could receive between 40% and 80% of the costs through the Programme, depending on how much commercial benefit the project will give them.

The Programme will work alongside – not in competition with – Defra’s existing and new schemes, adding value where it is



most needed. If a potential project can be rewarded through those schemes instead, you will be made aware of them.

If an activity is equivalent to one under Countryside Stewardship (CS), the Programme payment rate will be the same as the CS rate. If not, we will base Programme funding offers on the projected costs of an activity (with final payments made against evidenced costs).

### Maintenance agreements

Capital infrastructure assets (including, but not limited to, fences and gates), should be maintained for 5 years from the date of completion.

Machinery assets (for example a brush harvester for grassland restoration) should be maintained for 5 years from the date of purchase.

The requirement to maintain natural, cultural and access activities (for example, management of grassland, restoration of a limekiln) delivered as part of the programme will cease no later than 1 April 2024.

### How to apply

Before applying, we would encourage you to:

- Read the applicants guide: [Applicants-Guidance.pdf](#)
- Contact us to discuss your application. Ideally, in most cases one of the PDNP team will visit you to discuss your ideas
- To apply, please fill in the [Application Form](#). Applications for the first year of Programme funding should be made between 1st July 2021 and 31st January 2022. Funding will be awarded to successful applicants throughout the application window, rather than after the window closes, so you should submit your application as soon as it is ready.

We will also consider applications for funding in year 2, especially if the projects aim to



begin early in the financial year.

Multi-year awards are possible for longer projects. All first year projects must be completed, claimed and paid for by the end of March 2022.

### Application assessment

Applications for over £5,000 will be judged by a Local Assessment Panel. This kind of system has been used locally before for the PDNP's 'Sustainable Development Fund' and for the LEADER programme.

The Local Assessment Panel will be made up of 8 to 12 people. It will include representatives from the PDNPA, Natural England, representatives from the farming and land management community, and other specialists as required. This will utilise experience and local knowledge of the [Land Managers' Forum: Peak District National Park](#).

We expect that the panel will meet to make decisions every 6 to 8 weeks.

Applications for less than £5,000 will be decided upon by a senior member of the PDNP team.



### Contact us

To find out more, to discuss a project proposal or to request that you are put on our mailing list please contact our team of Farm Advisers and Farming and Protected Landscapes Officers.

**Telephone:** 01629 816270

**Email:** [farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

### More information

- Visit the PDNP website for more information, including about our other work: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/living-and-working/farmers-land-managers](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/living-and-working/farmers-land-managers)
- Speak to the PDNP team – see contact details above.
- Read the guidance for applicants: [Applicants-Guidance.pdf](#)
- Read the [PDNP Management Plan Summary](#)
- Download an [Application Form](#)

### Useful links

- [PDNP news release on Protected landscapes](#)
- [Defra news release on Protected Landscapes](#)
- [Written ministerial statement in Parliament](#)
- [National Parks England news release](#)
- [Funding for farmers in protected landscapes](#)