

**Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area
Management Plan 2026-2031**

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Foreword

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area is undoubtedly one of England's most important landscapes. Its riverside meadows, picturesque villages and rolling farmland, the wildlife it contains and its associations with some of England's finest artists combine to make this a truly special place. The lower valley is rightly nationally designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and many have the aspiration to see more of the Stour Valley, much of which is already recognised as a valued landscape afforded the same designation.

Legislative changes to section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) places a duty on relevant authorities so that they must seek to further the purpose of the National Landscape in their decision making when carrying out any function where it affects the designated landscape or its setting. This will strengthen our hand as we seek to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area for future generations.

We are delighted to be able to include much of the upper Stour Valley in this plan, although we recognise that the Dedham Vale National Landscape is subject to stronger local and national policy to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.

For over 30 years members of the National Landscape Partnership have worked together to care for this area that is cherished by its residents and those that visit. I am particularly impressed by the work of the farming community and volunteers that do so much to shape the landscapes we enjoy today.

In today's rapidly changing world, our landscapes are facing unprecedented challenges. Climate change, habitat loss, and growing pressures from development threaten the very essence of what makes our National Landscape so special.

This management plan sets out a clear vision for the future of the National Landscape and a strategy to deliver it. At its core, this vision aims to strike a balance between conserving and enhancing the area's natural beauty while also supporting thriving communities and facilitating responsible and sustainable access for visitors and residents alike.

We urgently need to recognise that natural beauty is not to be taken for granted and is an essential and life enhancing foundation for a healthy and sustainable future.

I am grateful to all those who have contributed to this excellent management plan. Your dedication and passion for the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area are truly commendable. I look forward to seeing the plan's positive impact for years to come. While I encourage you to read and support delivery of the plan, I equally encourage you to take every opportunity to get out and enjoy the area's special beauty.

Cllr James Finch

Chairman of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area Partnership.

Executive Summary

This management plan seeks to guide the management decisions in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area for the five year period of its lifespan.

It is a legal requirement under section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) for Local Authorities who have part of their area designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now branded as a National Landscape) to produce such a plan and review it every five years. This plan meets that statutory requirement and sets out the policy for management of the Dedham Vale National Landscape.

The plan has been designed to meet the statutory requirement, but it is also for landowners and farmers, local communities, developers and infrastructure providers, grant giving bodies, environmental charities and the National Landscape team to help inform decision making where actions and decisions impact the area.

The plan itself outlines a vision for what the area will be like in 2041 and a series of principles to guide decision making alongside an action plan to enable the delivery of the 2041 vision.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape

The Dedham Vale National Landscape has a unique combination of landscape elements which combine to create a landscape of outstanding beauty worthy of the national designation.

These features are described in the Alison Farmer Associates report: Dedham Vale AONB Natural Beauty and Special Qualities and Perceived and Anticipated Risks and can be downloaded from:

<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Natural-Beauty-and-Special-Qualities-and-Perceived-and-Anticipated-Risks-Final-Report-July-2016-1.pdf>

It notes the special qualities and supporting evidence for the following natural beauty factors:

- Landscape Quality
- Scenic Quality
- Relative Wildness
- Relative Tranquillity
- Natural Heritage Features
- Cultural Heritage

The essence of the Dedham Vale National Landscape is reflected in a quote by the great landscape artist, John Constable RA, that is included in the report highlighted above who painted in the area, which says:

The gentle declivities, the luxuriant meadow flats sprinkled with flocks and herds, and well cultivated uplands, the woods and rivers, the numerous scattered villages and churches with farms and picturesque cottages, all impart to this particular spot an amenity and elegance hardly anywhere else to be found.

Introduction

Protected Landscapes are our most iconic and inspiring places. They were created from 1949, with post-war Britain recognising everyone has a right to access the countryside – from Northumberland’s dark skies to the South Downs’ Seven Sisters. 75 years on, the needs are greater than ever, with nature underpinning our health, economy and climate. That’s why this government will empower Protected Landscapes to become greener, wilder and more accessible.

Covering 25% of England, but half of our priority habitats, Protected Landscapes are essential to nature’s recovery. This government understands that we will not achieve our Environment Act targets or commitment to protect 30% of nature by 2030 without Protected Landscapes.

Recovering this natural capital is essential to ensure sustainable economic growth. Protected Landscapes are fundamental to strengthening the nation's economic health by looking after the natural resources we depend on. Through nature’s recovery, Protected Landscapes protect communities from flooding, fight climate change, enable sustainable food production and create green jobs. They also have a vital role in connecting diverse communities with nature - underpinning the nation’s mental and physical health and reducing the strain on our NHS.

This incredible potential is beginning to be set out in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. However, it will only become reality through the work of Protected Landscapes teams in collaboration with local communities, land managers, public bodies and other partners.

Protected Landscape Management Plans provide the focal point for all partners to agree a local ambition and a pathway to deliver it, shaping the future of our most special places, and therefore the country. It is vital that all partners work together to develop and implement Management Plans. To support this collaboration, we have issued guidance on the Protected Landscapes duty which requires relevant authorities to seek to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes.

In recognising their importance to the nation, this government has committed to reinvigorating Protected Landscapes with new legislation, resources and tools. I look forward to developing this with you and other partners because it is only together that we can protect and enhance these remarkable places for generations to come.

MARY CREAGH, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature, CBE MP

Note on Nomenclature

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, AONB, were rebranded as National Landscapes in November 2023, although the legal designation remains Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. To reflect this, the term National Landscape is used to refer to the legally designated Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Stour Valley project area refers to an area to the west of the National Landscape boundary. It is in essence a countryside management project area that benefits from

having a National Landscape type service associated with it. There has been a long-term aspiration to secure an extension of the current National Landscape boundary to include this area into the Dedham Vale designation. The body responsible for advising the Secretary of State on designations, Natural England, is not actively pursuing an extension of the Dedham Vale at this time.

Designation

A National Landscape is an area designated in England and Wales as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which has been recognised for its exceptional natural beauty and importance to the nation. The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty while allowing people to enjoy its scenic qualities.

The features of a National Landscape contributing to its natural beauty are sometimes articulated through Natural Beauty indicators or factors, these are:

- Landscape quality
- Scenic quality
- Relative wildness
- Relative tranquility
- Natural heritage features
- Cultural heritage

Responsibilities

All relevant authorities, such as ministers of the crown, any public body (including government departments, statutory undertakers, and other authorities), and any person holding public office have a duty to the National Landscape.

I suggest we put a full stop after proactive duty. All relevant authorities operating within the Dedham Vale National Landscape or its setting, 'must seek to further the statutory purpose of its designation. Relevant authorities are required to actively take steps to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of these areas when exercising their functions.

The Management Plan

This management plan formulates the policy to enable constituent local authorities to manage and carry out their wider functions whilst also fulfilling their duty under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) obligations. It is the principal vehicle for ensuring that the statutory purposes of the National Landscape are met. It is a material consideration in the planning process.

This management plan forms the National Landscape policy for local authorities in the Dedham Vale National Landscape. By endorsing this management plan, the local authorities have committed to working together to deliver its plan principles and to have regard to the plan when exercising their wider responsibilities.

The Role of Partnership

The National Landscape Partnership was formed in 1993, (as the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Partnership) and comprises public, private and voluntary sector organisations who are committed to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape.

The Partnership's role is to act as an advocate for the National Landscape and oversee the delivery of the management plan. Many of these partners are public bodies who have a duty to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the National Landscape as set out in section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).

Other partners are from the environmental, farming, business and tourism sectors. Many of these partners have an interest in delivering the statutory purpose of the National Landscape through their organisational plans and actions.

Review of Previous Plan

The previous plan (2021-26) included a series of management policies. Actions developed from that plan includes:

- Project activity to enhance the area's nature including habitat works such as wetland creation, hedge planting and grassland management.
- Project activity to improve sustainable access to the area, including replacing stiles with accessible gates, creating access for all paths and promoting walking and cycling.
- Encouraged groups that were not currently benefiting from access to the National landscape by providing funding, training and escorted trips.
- Supported the aspiration to secure a Dark Sky Community designation by providing grant funds to the Dedham Vale Dark Sky Community and publishing a lighting guide.
- Engaged with Natural England and communities in relation to National Landscape boundary review aspiration.
- Promoted the purpose of the National Landscape to communities and professionals via social media, eNewsletters and public events.
- Conserved and enhanced the National landscape by securing funding to underground low voltage power cables in the Box and Brett Valleys. Investments worth around £1.3mn.
- Secured c£500,000 of Landscape Enhancement Initiative funds for projects to deliver conservation and enhancement works (new hedgerows, providing grazing infrastructure, enhancements to national landscape features, pond restoration etc.).
- Supported local tourism providers to maximise economic, social and wellbeing, including providing grants for easy access paths, all terrain mobility scooters, accessible transport for National Trust site visitors.
- Three years of project delivery from the National Landscapes Nature Recovery Plan drawn from the targets set out in the Colchester Declaration. Including wetland creation, new hedgerows for dormice, river restoration projects, many funded through grants received from public and private sources.
- Distributed around £30,000 per year to communities, businesses and charities for projects to deliver conservation and enhancement and access projects via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funded Sustainable Development Grants.

- Funded projects to address the drivers of climate change through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, the Sustainable Development Fund and direct action.
- Undertook several projects to slow down flood water by creating and maintaining in line ponds, wetlands and drainage ditches.
- Facilitated over 1,000 community volunteer days each year to enable action to deliver National Landscape purpose.

Background and Context

The Protected Landscapes of England

Protected landscape is a term used to describe National Landscapes and National Parks. In England more land is designated as a National Landscape than National Park, at around 15% of the land mass across 34 areas. For National Parks the area is about 9% across 10 areas.

National Landscapes Association

The National Landscapes Association is a UK-based national charity dedicated to ensuring that the country's most outstanding landscapes are beautiful, thriving places accessible to everyone. It supports the UK's network of 46 National Landscapes, 34 in England, 5 in Wales (1 that crosses the English Welsh border) and 8 in Northern Ireland.

Protected Landscape Partnership

The Protected Landscapes Partnership is a collaboration in England between National Landscapes Association, National Parks England, National Trails UK and Natural England.

The partnership was born from recommendations in the independent Landscapes Review (2019), led by Julian Glover. This recognised the dedication and effectiveness of local efforts in protected landscapes and recommended establishing a more formal forum for collaboration to amplify these efforts.

Summary of legislation

National Landscapes are designated for their natural beauty and significance. Several key pieces of legislation govern the designation, conservation and enhancement, and management of them:

- **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949)**

Established the legal framework for designating National Landscapes as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This was amended and updated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act in the year 2000, which is the legislation now used to designate AONBs.

- **Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)**

Section 85 provides protection for National Landscapes and their natural beauty. An update of the 2000 Act in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) requires that local authorities, public bodies and statutory undertakers (relevant authorities) must seek to further the purpose of the National Landscape (to conserve and enhance natural beauty) when performing their functions.

Section 89 (2) requires relevant local authority to prepare, publish and adopt a five year management plan.

Furthermore, it enabled the establishment of management boards or Joint Advisory Committees to oversee their management. It introduced a statutory duty to produce National Landscape management plans and a need to review them every five years.

- **Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)**

Reinforces the role of National Landscapes in the spatial planning system with National Landscapes being given the same level of planning protection as National Parks.

- **Environment Act (2021)**

Strengthened environmental protection measures, including a focus on biodiversity and nature recovery within National Landscapes. Required the government to consider how designated landscapes, including National Landscapes, contribute to national environmental improvement plans.

- **National Planning Policy Framework (As Updated Dec 2024)**

Sets out policies for planning decisions related to National Landscapes. Emphasises great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Landscapes. Notes that permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. The National Planning Policy Framework is regularly updated.

- **National Planning Practice Guidance (first published 2014)**

An extensive online resource of detailed policy guidance provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Along with the National Planning Policy Framework it sets out how the Government envisages the day to day working of the planning system in England to operate. It is subject to frequent updates and revision.

Other Relevant Legislation

- **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981):** Protects wildlife habitats and biodiversity within National Landscapes.

In conclusion, the legal framework for National Landscapes in England ensures their protection, sustainable management, and enhancement. The combined effect of legislation encourages landscape conservation while balancing economic well-being, public enjoyment and environmental stewardship.

Purpose of Management Plan

The purpose of this National Landscape management plan is to:

- 1. Meet the legislative requirement** placed on relevant local authorities.
- 2. Conserve and enhance natural beauty.** The plan sets out how landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage, tranquillity and scenic qualities will be protected and improved.
- 3. Guide decision-making.** The plan acts as a strategic framework for local authorities, landowners, and partners when making decisions that affect the National Landscape, including but not limited to planning and land use.
- 4. Promote sustainable development.** The plan encourages economic, environmental and social development that is in harmony with the natural environment, supporting local communities while contributing to the purpose to conserve and enhance natural

beauty. Adverse effects on the integrity of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, and Devil's Dyke SAC, must be avoided.

5. Facilitate collaboration. The plan seeks to bring together stakeholders such as local authorities, landowners and farmers, conservation groups, and communities to work collectively toward shared goals for the National Landscape.

6. Raise awareness and understanding. The plan seeks to raise awareness of the National Landscape and the benefits that can accrue from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation.

Relationship with other plans and strategies (summary)

This National Landscape management plan does not exist in isolation. It has important relationships with other plans, strategies, and policies at national, regional, and local levels:

- **Local Plans.** Local authorities must have regard to the management plan when preparing their Local Plans and making planning decisions. While not part of the statutory development plan, the National Landscape management plan is a material consideration when determining planning applications.
- **The National Planning Policy Framework** gives great weight to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in a National Landscape.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategies.** The Dedham Vale and Stour Valley has part of its area in the Essex and Suffolk strategy areas. The National Landscape management plan and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy have many shared goals, and the delivery of National Landscape purpose will support the delivery of the strategies.

Essex and Suffolk County Councils are the responsible authorities in relation to the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. These responsible authorities have engaged with the Dedham Vale National Landscape during the development of the strategies, and it is anticipated that they will continue to work in partnership during the delivery phase. The Dedham Vale National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan will help inform the development and delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

- **Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements.** These plans and statements can and should support the delivery of National Landscape purpose by influencing the design of the built environment and spatial distribution of development.
- **Local National Landscape Guidance.** The Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Partnership endorse and promote several guidance documents and position statements to support others in decision making where proposals may impact on the National Landscape. These include the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Guidance on the Selection and Use of Colour in Development (2018)

and the Lighting Design Guide for the Dedham Vale and Essex & Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscapes (2023).

- **National Policy Statements.** Set out the national policy framework guiding the delivery of large-scale energy projects and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects National Policy Statements recognise the statutory duty of National Landscape, to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Major development may still take place in a National Landscape if it is deemed by decision makers that there is an overriding public need, but harm to the National Landscape should be avoided where possible and if not possible should be minimised, mitigated and compensated for.
- **The Planning and Infrastructure Bill:** At the time of developing this management plan the Planning and Infrastructure Bill was making its way through Parliament. If the Bill receives Royal Assent, it will change how environmental enhancements are developed and funded through the planning process.
- **Government Funding and Agri-Environment Schemes.** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) provides direct support for core funding for National Landscape teams. In addition, DEFRA has funded a programme for farmers and landowners to deliver projects that deliver National Landscape purpose known as the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

The Environmental Land Management Schemes, while often reviewed, although not directly linked to National Landscapes, may provide funds to deliver National Landscape purpose. National Landscapes are an area targeted for the Landscape Recovery programme.

- **30 by 30** is a global and national conservation target to protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030. In 2020, the UK Government pledged to meet the 30 by 30 target in England. Around 26% of England's land is designated for nature, including National Landscapes and National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, Special protection area and Ramsar sites. It is considered that only about 3–4% is effectively managed for nature recovery.

Colchester Declaration

The Colchester Declaration is a collective commitment (subject to appropriate funding) made by National Landscapes to step up action for nature recovery and climate resilience, recognising the urgency of the biodiversity and climate crises.

It was launched at the Landscapes for Life Conference in Colchester in July 2019.

Landscapes Review

The Landscapes Review, often referred to as the Glover Review, is a landmark independent report on England's protected landscapes, (a collective name for National Landscapes and National Parks) published in September 2019. It was commissioned by the UK Government and led by Julian Glover and a panel of experts.

The review had a mission to assess if protected landscapes are:

- Fit for the 21st century.
- Delivering for nature, people, and communities.
- Aligned with government goals for environmental protection and public access.

The review concluded that while protected landscapes have great value, they are:

- Not doing enough for nature recovery.
- Not accessible enough to a diverse population.
- Often underpowered and underfunded.
- Lacking strong, unified leadership.

The report included 25 proposals for change. Many of these proposals have been implemented, including:

- Development and delivery of a Nature Recovery Plan in the Dedham Vale.
- Government funding for a Farming in Protected Landscapes programme that is delivering on a people, place, place, nature and climate agenda.
- Development and delivery of a Landscapes for All programme in the Dedham Vale National Landscape.
- Government funding for projects to support the delivery of 30 by 30 and access improvements via the Dedham Vale National Landscape team.

Environment Improvement Plan

The Environment Improvement Plan 2023 is the Government's legally binding plan for delivering environmental targets in England. It builds on the 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) and is a key requirement of the Environment Act (2021).

It sets out how the government will improve nature, air and water quality, resource use, and climate resilience across the country.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape is a delivery partner for many of the Environment Improvement Plan's goals, especially around landscape scale nature recovery, climate action, and public access to nature. This management plan is required to align with the Environment Improvement Plan.

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (summary and targets)

The Protected Landscapes (a collective name for National Landscapes and National Parks) Targets and Outcomes Framework is a strategic tool developed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and partners, to guide and assess how protected landscapes contribute to national environmental goals.

The targets are informed by the Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) and align with nature recovery and the 30 by 30 target.

Of the ten Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) Goals, see below, there are three that have been used to inform the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. These are Goals 1, 7 and 10 (in bold).

Environment Improvement Plan Goals

Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife

Goal 2: Clean air

Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water

Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides

Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste

Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably

Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change

Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards

Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity

Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement

Nationally, Protected Landscapes are collectively being asked to deliver on the following targets which have been informed by goals 1, 7 and 10:

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework:

- 1. Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline)**
2. Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.
3. For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
4. Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.
5. Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

6. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.
7. **Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.**
8. **Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).**
9. Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.
10. Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

For targets 1, 7 and 8 (highlighted in bold), individual Protected Landscapes are required to set ambitious spatial targets for their contribution towards the overall totals. To assist Protected Landscapes, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) proposed apportioned targets. The Dedham Vale targets set in appendix 2 have been influenced by these figures, the local characteristics of the area, and the Dedham Vale Nature Recovery Plan, published in 2021.

The targets are set for the National Landscape area and are not the specific responsibility of one organisation or partner. Work to monitor progress against the targets will be undertaken by Natural England who will issue updates on progress against targets.

Progress to achieve these ambitious targets will require a significant input from a range of partners and organisations.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and others will provide information to Natural England, as resources allow, to support the gathering of the monitoring information. For further detail on the Dedham Vale National Landscapes response to the Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework please see appendix 2.

Climate Change Adaptation Plan (summary, see also appendix 3]

The Government's third National Adaptation Programme introduces the requirement for all Protected Landscape (a collective name for National Landscapes and National Parks) bodies to produce Climate Change Adaptation plans by 2028.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape Climate Change Adaptation Plan is included in this management plan, see appendix 3. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan element has regard to relevant guidance and Government policy. It is envisaged the Climate Change Adaptation Plan element included in this plan will be reviewed on the same five year cycle as the National Landscape management plan.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape can play a part in delivering on national climate goals, including the Government's target to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The full Dedham Vale National Landscape Climate Change Adaptation Plan risk assessment is contained in appendix 3. This includes a description and assessment of:

- Areas of impact.
- Headline projections of what is anticipated from the effects of climate change.
- Projected direct and indirect impacts.
- Risks and opportunities.
- Likelihood of impacts.
- Proposed Actions

This description and assessment will cover three areas of the Dedham Vale National Landscape:

- Built environment.
- Natural environment.
- Farming and Forestry.

Those that have endorsed this Dedham Vale National Landscape management plan will work with and support with the delivery of the actions identified in the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (as seen in appendix 3) being undertaken by the relevant responsible authorities.

Natural Beauty and Special Qualities

National Landscapes have been designated for their natural beauty under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949). The act does not define what natural beauty is, although it is widely accepted that it goes beyond what a landscape character assessment says. Natural beauty is not just the look of the landscape, but also includes wildlife, cultural heritage, and the way people experience the area.

In 2011 Natural England, the Government advisor on the natural environment, published *Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England*. This includes six features which should be assessed for an area to be deemed suitable for National Landscape designation, they are:

- **Landscape Quality:** The integrity and condition of landscape features (woodlands, hedgerows, etc.) the visual, ecological and functional intactness of an area. The presence of traditional farming patterns or land use and the level of human impact or degradation.
- **Scenic Quality:** The presence of any striking, memorable views or visual composition. Contrasts in texture, color, and landform. Balance of open and enclosed spaces.
- **Relative Wildness:** Sense of remoteness, a relative lack of human interference, a sense of openness and exposure or enclosure and isolation and a sense of the passing of time and a return to nature.
- **Relative Tranquility:** The presence of or perceptions of a natural landscape. Peaceful and calm and evidence of natural soundscapes and dark skies. Freedom from noise/light pollution and disturbance and minimal built development. Freedom from intrusive human activity (traffic, industrial noise, inappropriate light, etc.). Peaceful and calm landscape character.
- **Natural Heritage Features:** Presence of semi-natural habitats (woodlands, heaths, wetlands). Rich biodiversity or important species/habitats. Geodiversity: rock formations, landforms, soils.
- **Cultural Features:** Historic field patterns, ancient routes, or archaeological sites. Traditional buildings and settlement forms. Cultural associations (literature, art, customs).

In addition to the natural beauty, National Landscapes have special qualities. Special qualities are the unique characteristics that define the distinctiveness, identity, and value of a National Landscape. These describe the archetypal aspects of the natural beauty of the landscape. They encompass a range of factors that contribute to the area's distinct character, significance and sense of place. They communicate a nuanced understanding of the natural beauty of the landscape and may draw upon:

- Cultural associations.

- Perceptual qualities.

In the Dedham Vale National Landscape these Natural Beauty and Special Qualities are described in a publication called *Dedham Vale AONB Natural Beauty and Special Qualities and Perceived and Anticipated Risks* which is available at:

<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Natural-Beauty-and-Special-Qualities-and-Perceived-and-Anticipated-Risks-Final-Report-July-2016-1.pdf>

The natural beauty associated with the Dedham Vale National Landscape has been captured by artists over many centuries, notably by the great landscape artist John Constable, a member of the Royal Academy, but also by other artists and the views experienced today.

The Stour Valley project area is a cherished area adjacent to the Dedham Vale National Landscape. Part of the Stour Valley project area has been assessed as having features that are compatible with the National Landscape designation. It is a long held aspiration for the Dedham Vale National Landscape to be extended to the west of its current boundary.

The assessment of part of the Stour Valley project area that concludes it meets the criteria for the National Landscape designation can be downloaded from:

<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Final-Report-Stour-Valley-Project-Area-Valued-Landscapes-Assessment.pdf>

Parts of the Stour Valley project area have been assessed as being a Valued Landscape. A Valued Landscape is one that holds special importance to people, communities, and the nation due to its distinctive qualities, which can include natural, cultural, aesthetic, historic, ecological, or recreational significance.

Valued Landscapes are not nationally designated like National Landscapes, but they are still given weight in planning decisions through the references to them in the National Planning Policy Framework and can be locally recognised as being important. Parts of the Stour Valley project area are defined as a Valued Landscapes because of their :

- Scenic beauty: The views and landforms.
- Perceptual qualities: The tranquility and sense of remoteness.
- Cultural importance: The field systems and associations with artists.
- Ecological value: Its biodiversity in rivers, woodlands and meadows.
- Recreational opportunities: Its walking, riding and boating opportunities.
- Historical evolution: How settlements have evolved in the surrounding landscape.
- Local identity: A sense of place and local pride.

Plan Evidence

This Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan draws on the development and delivery of previous plans, local and national policy and drivers of change.

A summary of the delivery of the previous plan is outlined elsewhere in this plan.

Local and national policy has evolved since the previous plan. This includes revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework, revisions of Local Plans and the development of further Neighbourhood Plans.

Towards the end of the last plan period there have been revisions to the National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-5 (Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy and National Policy Statement for electricity Networks Infrastructure respectively). These are particularly relevant to the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.

The changes in national energy policy are focused on meeting net zero targets. This includes the generation of more sustainably produced electricity, along with increasing demand for electricity new energy infrastructure is being built and proposed. This includes proposals for new electricity transmission lines to cross the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.

National policy has evolved from the previous plan with legally binding requirements relating to nature recovery and climate change.

An overview of the changes to policy drivers of change are listed in the relationship with other plans and strategies section above.

The Government's response to the Landscapes Review of 2019 in 2022 steered National Landscape bodies to do more for nature, inclusion and climate. This has been supported by additional Government funds for delivering access for all and supporting nature enhancement through projects that deliver on the 30 by 30 requirements outlined in the Environment Improvement Plan 2023.

Society is also changing. A new Government was elected in 2024 with new priorities. These include growing the economy, planning reform including a commitment to build 1.5million new homes and deliver 150 major infrastructure projects, delivering net zero and tackling climate by securing power through clean energy, these priorities will undoubtedly impact on the Dedham Vale National Landscape and its ability to deliver statutory purpose.

Examples of the drivers of change include:

- **Political:** Changes to legislation and political focus.
- **Economic:** International relations, Government policy and development.
- **Environmental:** Climate change, agricultural policy and land use.
- **Social:** Use of leisure time, social dynamics (population, inclusion, skills and pride)

The development and implementation of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan draws on local reports and studies. A summary of national legislation that will influence the delivery of this management plan is listed elsewhere in this management plan. A summary of the locally relevant documents is listed below:

- **State of the AONB:** A report outlining the indicators that form the baseline of knowledge of the Dedham Vale National Landscape:
<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Dedham-Vale-and-Stour-Valley-State-of-the-AONB-Report-2018.pdf>

- **Landscape Character Assessment:** An older document that is still relevant in assessing the key landscape features of the Dedham Vale National Landscape:
<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Dedham-Vale-Landscape-Character-Assessment.pdf>

See also the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment that includes the Essex elements of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.
<https://suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

and the Natural England produced National Character Areas, the South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland (National Character Area 86) is most relevant.
<https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/south-suffolk-and-north-essex-clayland/>

and county and district level Landscape Character Assessments designed to understand landscapes and, in some cases, provide guidelines for landscape enhancement.

- **Stour Valley Heritage Compendia** (including the Dedham Vale National Landscape) with chapters on artistic heritage, built heritage, landscape history, natural history, prehistory, Stour Navigation:
<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/managing/reference-library/stour-valley-heritage-compendia/>

- **Volume and Value of Tourism** in the Dedham Vale National Landscape:
<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Dedham-Vale-National-Landscape-Report-2023.pdf>

and in the Stour Valley project area:
<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Stour-Valley-Project-Report-2023.pdf>

- **Dedham Vale Nature Recovery Plan**
<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/DV-AONB-NRP-FINAL.pdf>

- **Designated sites** in the Dedham Vale National Landscape

<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Designated-Sites-in-the-Dedham-Vale-AONB-Aug-2020.pdf>

And relevant guidance documents:

Lighting Guide for the Dedham Vale and Essex & Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscapes.

<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Lighting-Guidance-in-National-Landscapes.pdf>

- **Guidance on the selection and use of colour in development**

<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Dedham-Vale-Use-of-Colour-Guidance.pdf>

- **Natural Beauty and Special Qualities of the Dedham Vale National Landscape**

<https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Natural-Beauty-and-Special-Qualities-and-Perceived-and-Anticipated-Risks-Final-Report-July-2016-1.pdf>

Location of Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area

The Dedham Vale National Landscape is in the east of England on the Essex Suffolk border. It straddles the River Stour and extends 3 or 4 kilometres either side of the river. Around 44% of the National Landscape is in Essex with 56% in Suffolk. It runs from Manningtree in the east to near Bures in the west.

At just over 90 square kilometres (9,058 hectares or around 35 square miles) it is the fourth smallest National Landscape in England.

The Stour Valley project area abuts the western boundary of the Dedham Vale National Landscape. It follows either side of the River Stour upstream to near the Cambridgeshire border. It covers an area of 302 square kilometres (107 square miles) and runs through the settlements of Long Melford, Clare, Kedington and Great Bradley.



Vision of Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area in 2041

The Dedham Vale National Landscape

The Dedham Vale National Landscape is subject to a wide variety of challenges and opportunities to deliver its purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Many of these are described in the drivers of change section but can be summarised as the influence of local and national policy, infrastructure developments, climate change and the aspirations of society. The vision outlined below sets out how many would wish to see the National Landscape develop over the lifetime of this plan and beyond.

The National Landscape has the legal purpose is 'to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area'. These places are living communities, they feed the nation, protect nature and climate and provide opportunities for the whole nation to make memories with loved ones, and the opportunity to enjoy the best of what the countryside has to offer.

National Landscapes place emphasis on benefiting people and wildlife by increasing, improving and joining-up wildlife-rich places at scale. The Lawton Report called 'Making Space for Nature, an independent review of England's wildlife sites and the connections between them, called for 'more, bigger, better and joined up'. The Dedham Vale National Landscape seeks to support the delivery of this aspiration.

The vision:

By 2041, the Dedham Vale National Landscape will be a thriving, resilient landscape where nature, heritage, and local communities flourish together. This cherished rural countryside, immortalised by the internationally renowned artist John Constable, will be safeguarded through sustainable land management, biodiversity restoration, and climate-conscious policies.

A rich mosaic of gently rolling economically viable farmland, ancient woodlands, and meandering rivers will be conserved and enhanced for future generations. Wildlife will thrive in connected habitats, and the River Stour will remain a lifeline for both nature and people.

Local communities and visitors from all sections of society will experience a deeper connection to the landscape, with access to well-maintained footpaths, immersive cultural experiences, and responsible tourism that supports the rural economy. Farming, traditional crafts, and regenerative land use will reinforce Dedham Vale's distinct character, balancing conservation with livelihoods.

Through collaboration with stakeholders, landowners, and residents, the Dedham Vale National Landscape will stand as a beacon of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and environmental sustainability, an inspiring example of how people and nature can thrive in harmony.

The Stour Valley project area

By 2041 the Stour Valley project area will be a thriving agricultural area with many features of the historic and cultural heritage conserved and celebrated. It will be a landscape cherished by many residents and visitors and cared for by the farming and

environmental sectors to deliver multiple societal benefits, including food, wildlife, recreational opportunities and an outstanding landscape.

Opportunities to conserve and enhance the landscape across different sectors including the agriculture, nature and recreation sectors will have been taken to shape a landscape that benefits everybody.

The Stour Valley project area has significant opportunity to contribute to enhancing nature and access. Projects such as the anticipated Connecting Constable and Gainsborough Country Landscape Recover Project has great potential to support the delivery of this aspiration. The Local Nature Recovery Strategies, adopted in 2025, will support the delivery of enhanced nature for the area.

Themes

Place

The Countryside

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area is a place that provokes feelings of pride. There is significant evidence of the area being inhabited by humans over millennia but in more recent times the work to protect the area and its features was brought into sharp focus in 1938 when proposals to demolish a coaching arch at the Sun Inn in Dedham acted as a catalyst to raise awareness of the importance of the natural and historic features in the area. These were the first steps in the Dedham Vale securing its status as a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970. This pride continues to this day as communities come together to protect the features that contribute to this outstanding landscape.

Farmed Landscape

Much of the land in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area is in private ownership and used for agricultural purposes. There are exceptions with areas being owned by charitable organisations with objectives sympathetic to the purpose of the designation. The farmed environment has shaped much of what is enjoyed by many. Agriculture can and does contribute to the purpose of the National Landscape, particularly where there is financial support.

Landscape

The Dedham Vale National Landscape is one of England's most cherished. It's gently rolling farmland, interspersed with ancient hedgerows, traditional wood pastures, lowland grazing meadows with the meandering River Stour and its tributaries cutting through the area.

The farmed landscape, with its isolated farmsteads, is interspersed with small villages and hamlets with timber-framed cottages and grand historic churches .

It is best known for its association with the painter John Constable, who immortalised the area's pastoral scenes in his 19th century masterpieces, such as *The Hay Wain*, the self-titled *Dedham Vale* and *The Cornfield*. Part of the Dedham Vale National Landscape, between Dedham, Flatford and East Bergholt is known as Constable Country, a name some believe to be attributed to the Victorian novelist WM Thackeray who exclaimed 'This is Constable's Country' while passing through the area and recognising the scenery.

Villages

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project is a relatively sparsely populated area with most people living in village settlements or isolated dwellings or farmsteads. Many of these villages can trace their history back to the Saxon period and are listed in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Most of the settlements have a distinctive settlement pattern with dwellings clustered around small angular greens or tyes. Medieval churches have often been built in

prominent positions and knapped in flint reflecting the areas prosperity and the importance of religion during the time of construction.

Villages show a rich heritage of building styles, reflecting changing building techniques, fashions and relative wealth over the centuries of development but many retain a core of medieval timber framed buildings. Beyond the villages there are a series of isolated farmsteads and manorial halls (often moated) reflecting the areas agricultural heritage and accumulated wealth.

Historic Environment (archaeology and heritage)

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area has a rich historic landscape. The area includes features typical of a prehistoric landscape, with a possible Neolithic Longbarrow, and ring ditch cropmarks, which likely represent Bronze Age funerary monuments. Additionally, there is a Neolithic Cursus monument at Stratford St Mary which overlooks the River Stour. Records for the known historic environment can be obtained from The Suffolk Heritage Explorer and the Essex Heritage Gateway.

The area has features of a prehistoric landscape, with a possible Neolithic Longbarrow, and ring ditch cropmarks, which likely represent Bronze Age funerary monuments. Additionally, there is a Neolithic Cursus monument at Stratford St Mary which overlooks the River Stour.

The River and Tributaries

The River Stour is a defining feature of the area. Much of the area's appeal to people, the value to wildlife and local economy is based around the river. Once it was a vitally important trade link boosting commerce between London and Europe to the Stour Valley and Sudbury. Goods such as bricks and wool travelled downstream and 'night soil' (fertiliser in the form of droppings of horses drawing carriages in London) coming upstream.

The River Stour has a right of navigation by unpowered craft such as canoes and kayaks from Brundon Mill to Cattawade. There are specific rights for powered historical craft to use parts of the navigation, including licences held by the River Stour Trust runs electrically powered passenger boat trips from Sudbury and between Flatford and Dedham in the summer months.

The River Stour plays a vital role in the Ely Ouse to Essex Water Transfer Scheme transporting water from Denver in Norfolk, to Abberton and Hanningfield reservoirs, to provide a public water supply in Essex. In the early 2000s, Essex & Suffolk Water increased the capacity of the relatively close Abberton Reservoir by 60% and increased its daily pumping capacity at its river intakes. When natural (unsupported) river flows are high, a greater volume of water can be abstracted and used to fill the enlarged Abberton Reservoir. This means that the likelihood of the Ely Ouse to Essex Water Transfer Scheme being needed in the medium term is reduced.

The combined effects of licenced water abstractions for agricultural use and that for public water supply means that for prolonged periods very little water flows into the estuary. During periods of very low flow the water company is required to operate their

intakes to ensure that water flowing into the reach downstream of Stratford St Mary is allowed to continue and discharge to the estuary. These low flows are monitored for ecological purposes by the Environment Agency.

People

Residents

Natural England estimate that there are 8,100 residents living in the Dedham Vale National Landscape. Many of these people live in the larger villages of Dedham, East Bergholt, Nyland and Stoke by Nayland. It is estimated that the average age of the population is 47, compared to the average for England that is 40.

97% of the population identify themselves as white, 2% as mixed/multiple ethnic and 1% as Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh. This compares to the English average of 81% white, 9.7% Asian or British Asian, 4.2% Black, Black British, Caribbean or African, 2.9% Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups and 2.2% other ethnic group.

Many residents are proud to live in the Dedham Vale National Landscape. Figures for the Stour Valley project area are not available, but some estimates have put the population at around 15,000.

Visitors

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area is understandably a popular destination for visitors. Many are drawn to the landscape, recreational opportunities and hospitality.

It is estimated that in 2023, 1,024,100 people visited the Dedham Vale National Landscape. For the Stour Valley project area this figure was 920,100.

Volunteering

There are many opportunities to volunteer in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. In the environment sector environmental Non-Government Organisations such as the National Trust, RSPB and the two (Essex and Suffolk) Wildlife Trusts offer opportunities at their sites. The National Landscape team offer a range of opportunities including conservation and access tasks, a voluntary youth ranger programme and citizen science projects that contribute around 1,500 volunteer days per year. Community groups and many parish councils offer opportunities. This outstanding community effort goes a long way to support the delivery of the National Landscape purpose.

In addition to contributing to the conservation and enhancement of the area, volunteers benefit in other ways, building societal cohesion, improving their own physical and mental health, learning new skills and gaining knowledge.

Recreation

While recreation is not a specific purpose of the National Landscape designation, unlike National Parks that have a remit for enjoyment and understanding, there are many opportunities for recreation in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.

Opportunities for outdoor recreation include walking, riding (cycles and horses) and kayaking. Where those undertaking these activities do so with respect to the environment, residents, farming operations and wildlife they are to be encouraged.

National Landscapes can provide benefits to everyone and should not be seen as a playground for some.

Recreational pressures can sometimes detract from the area delivering purpose, to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Large scale recreational facilities and noisy or intrusive pastimes are likely to have a negative impact on the defined natural beauty qualities of the area, particularly its relative tranquillity.

In 2023 the Dedham Vale National Landscape tourism contributed £68,622,130 to the local economy and supported 1,494 jobs. For the Stour Valley project area these figures are £50,103,000 and 1,290 jobs.

Rural economy

The economy of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area is dominated by agriculture and tourism. These are traditionally low income sectors. In the Dedham Vale National Landscape, the average earning per calendar month is £2,600. This compares favourably to the English national average of £2,350 but the figures are likely to be skewed by those on higher incomes choosing to live in the Dedham Vale National Landscape but working elsewhere. The area is within commuting distance of London where salaries have traditionally been higher than other parts of England.

House prices in the Dedham Vale National Landscape are on average 10 times the mean gross annual household income, compared to 8 times in England and 9 times in rural areas of England.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape has 620 registered businesses, made up in the following way:

25	Accommodation & food service activities
60	Administrative & support service activities
60	Agriculture, forestry & fishing
15	Arts, entertainment & recreation
90	Construction
40	Education, health, and social work
15	Finance
25	Information & communication
50	Manufacturing
N/A	Mining/ quarrying, and utilities
95	Professional, scientific & technical services
15	Public administration and defence; other services
30	Real estate activities
N/A	Transport & storage
80	Wholesale & retail trade, repair of motor vehicles

Where figures are not presented (N/A, Not Available) data is suppressed due to sample size.

Landscapes for All

National Landscapes have been designated for the nation for everyone to benefit from. Public funds, through funding for the National Landscape team and grants, are made available for the areas and therefore any benefits available should be available to everyone.

Many organisations work to encourage and support underrepresented groups to enjoy the benefits of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. This is supported by the finding of the Government funded Landscapes Review of 2019, that included the following commentary and proposal:

We want our nation's most cherished landscapes to fulfil their original mission for people, providing unrivalled opportunities for enjoyment, spiritual refreshment and in turn supporting the nation's health and wellbeing

Proposal 7: A stronger mission to connect all people with our national landscapes, supported and held to account by the new National Landscapes Service

Nature

Nature is important for society and is intrinsic to the delivery of natural beauty in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. Nature is a very broad term, but the benefits of restoring nature can have a positive impact on:

- Air and Water quality.
- Reducing the drivers and impacts of climate change.
- Enhancing soil health.
- Enriching biodiversity.
- Enhancing mental health.
- Inspiring cultural and community identity.
- Supporting social cohesion.
- Contributing to economic wellbeing through tourism and conservation efforts.

And be conserved and enhanced for its own sake.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area provides a home for over 1,500 plant species, 175 bird and almost 1,000 moth species. There are 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Dedham Vale National Landscape (2 in favourable condition, 3 in unfavourable recovering condition and 1 not recorded). Collectively, these Sites of Special Scientific Interest cover approximately 138 hectares, accounting for about 1.5% of the total land area of the Dedham Vale National Landscape.

There are many policy drivers to support nature enhancement in play in the area. They are listed elsewhere in this plan but include the Government initiative for 30 by 30 and more locally delivered initiatives such as Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain and the National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan.

Some highlights of the wildlife in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area are listed below:

Flora

- Bluebells: Almost half the world's bluebells are found in the UK. They grow in ancient and semi-natural woodlands and can be found growing in many places in the area including Arger Fen.
- Black poplar: One of Britain's most endangered native timber trees, the black poplar grows in boggy conditions near ditches and floodplains and can be spotted along the banks of the River Stour. They grow up to 30 metres and can be identified by their shiny, dark green, triangular leaves.

Fauna

- Dormouse: These tiny mice have a body between 6-9cms and soft, golden-brown fur, black eyes and a long feathery tail. They eat nuts, seeds and berries before the winter hibernation and in spring will find blossoming flowers of trees such as hawthorn and oak. The dormouse population is in sharp decline, with numbers estimated to have fallen by 52% since 1995.
- Hedgehog: Once a common site in gardens and field margins this well-known mammal is an opportunistic feeder is nocturnal and hibernates between November

and March. It is estimated that hedgehog populations have declined by 50% in rural areas since 2000.

Aquatic

- Otter: A large, powerful mammal with grey-brown fur, a broad snout and pale underside, the otter can grow up to 80cms and can live between 5-10 years. Otters are listed as Near Threatened on the global International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species and are a Priority Species in the UK and Europe.
- Great crested newts: The largest of the UK's three native species of newt, grow up to 17cm in length. They can be identified by their dark brown or black colour, distinct 'warty' skin and a bright orange underside with irregular black blotches. In the spring, males develop an impressive, jagged crest along their back. This species is in decline.

Bird

- Swifts: A medium-sized bird well-known as a superb flier which can even sleep on the wing. They are easily identifiable with their scythe-like wings and short-forked tail. Swifts are migrating birds, spending around 3 months in the UK however, there has been a decrease in their breeding numbers.
- Barn owl: A distinctive bird, the barn owl has a heart shaped face, buff back and wings with a white chest (although females have a slightly spotted chest). They are nocturnal and mainly eat small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews.

Nature, and wildlife in particular, is a characteristic feature of natural beauty. In a country where nature has been depleted by 19% since 1970, 1 in 6 species are assessed at risk of extinction in Great Britain. This figure includes 43% of bird species that are threatened, 31% of amphibians and reptiles that are at risk and more than 50% of the United Kingdom's flowering plant species have seen a decline in distribution.

Climate

Climate change may be considered one of the most significant long term challenges for the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. Elsewhere in this management plan is a summary of the process of developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan forms appendix 3 of this plan.

The changing climate will impact all areas of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. Climate change is one of the causes already starting to shape the National Landscape. These impacts over time are likely to be significant and profound. They will include:

- **Land use:** Decisions relating to the use of land, including for agricultural purposes, will be influenced by a changing climate. This may include consideration of changes to rainfall patterns influencing choice of crops or livestock, increasing disease and pests and ability to plan farming activity and lowering farm yields.
- **Built environment:** New nationally significant infrastructure projects transmitting more sustainably produced electricity through the area. Local development may be designed to reduce the impacts of climate change and change local vernaculars.
- **Natural heritage:** Pressure on existing biodiversity due to a changing climate, for example availability of water (too much or too little). Conditions may allow for non-native invasive species to thrive at the expense of existing species. Pressures on aquatic species due to volumes and temperatures of water in rivers, tributaries and streams.
- **Societal changes:** Greater demand for recreational opportunities in the area due to a change in climate.

Drivers of climate change

The emission of greenhouse gases from a variety of sources including:

- The burning of fossil fuels.
- Release of methane from livestock, landfill and fossil fuel extraction.
- Release of other gases from agricultural & industrial processes and manufacturing.
- Energy production such as coal fired power stations.
- Land use decisions such as deforestation and some farming practices.

are the main driver of climate change.

Carbon

Carbon sequestration through some forms of land management that may be compatible with National Landscape purpose can reduce a significant driver of climate change by locking up carbon dioxide in soils and plants.

Net Zero

A drive to net zero by 2050 as legislation requires can reduce the drivers of climate change by reducing emissions from transport, electricity generation and changes to societal practices.

Climate change is an overarching issue and impacts almost all efforts for the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. The delivery of the Dedham Vale National Landscape Climate Change Adaption Plan, as seen in appendix 3, will help the ambition to reduce the drivers of climate change and ultimately help conserve and enhance natural beauty.

Drivers of change

The Dedham Vale National Landscape has been constantly changing for millennia, including since it was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970. The area is a working landscape and there should not be an aspiration to preserve the area, but to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. There are many drivers of change in the area, including:

Policy

Local and national policy that influences the Dedham Vale National Landscape changes and evolves over time. Revisions to Local Plans, the National Planning Policy Framework, National Policy Statements can all influence development decisions, but the statutory purpose of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation remains fixed and changes in policy should reflect this.

Agricultural policy has changed significantly in recent years. Some changes have been to the benefit of the Dedham Vale National Landscape, such as the provision of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. Other policies such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the Environmental Land Management Scheme, including the Landscape Recovery programme have the potential to make significant gains in delivering purpose for the area.

Infrastructure

As society evolves the demand for infrastructure increases for communication purposes, the provision of utilities (such as electricity, gas and water) and transport (road and rail). The convenience of modern life make the demand for new infrastructure impossible, and in many cases undesirable, to resist.

With the appropriate implementation of policy, good design and recognition of the national significance of designated landscapes negative impacts can be avoided, minimised, mitigated against and ultimately compensated for.

The Stour Valley project area has seen a significant increase in proposals for solar arrays. It is considered that this is in part due to the Government aspiration for Net Zero and in part due to the opportunities to connect to the National Grid. The Stour Valley project area does not benefit from the same levels of planning policy as the Dedham Vale National Landscape, although the areas defined as Valued Landscapes do benefit from additional protections. Where such applications are made, they will be assessed against impacts on the area and the best environmental outcomes will be sought.

Climate

As outlined elsewhere in this management plan climate change is happening and its effects are impacting the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. Scientists suggest that if all emissions were to stop immediately then the climate would continue to change. There is a need to not only address the drivers of climate change but adapt to the changing climate when making decisions on land use management.

Societal aspirations

Much as landscapes evolve so do societal aspirations. Many people strive for environmental sustainability and to live in affordable and appropriate housing. At a personal level many people wish to live a fulfilling life that may include good health and wellbeing, enjoying positive experiences in their leisure time and enjoying a sense of community and undertaking self-development.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area can help deliver these aspirations through the long term effective management of the areas to provide the necessary opportunities.

Strategy Aims for each theme

This management plan has five themes: Place, People, Nature, Climate and Drivers of Change. For each of these themes there is an associated strategy which is designed to support the delivery of the vision of the plan.

Strategy Aims for the Place Theme

- The *Countryside* will deliver National Landscape purpose for all of society throughout the management plan period.
- The *Farmed Landscape* will support National Landscape purpose by taking advantage of any targeted grant schemes available.
- The features that form the National Landscape will be conserved and enhanced by relevant bodies during the plan period to benefit the purpose of designation.
- *Villages* will develop to meet local requirements, guided by local and neighbourhood plans that acknowledge their setting in a designated landscape.
- The *Historic Environment* will be further understood and conserved by relevant bodies to support delivery of National Landscape Purpose.
- Safeguard key views and vistas, particularly those associated with historic artworks and cultural heritage, from visual intrusion or degradation.

Strategy Aim for the People Theme

- *Visitors* from all sections of society will enjoy the area without causing significant harm to the purposes of designation.
- *Volunteers* from local communities and those facilitated by relevant organisations will contribute to conserving and enhancing natural beauty.
- *Recreation* facilities will enable all members of society to benefit from the National Landscape while not causing significant negative impact on the reasons for designation.
- The *Rural Economy*, including farming and the visitor sectors, will thrive, and thus enable sustainable land management and increased understanding of the area.
- The area will be a *Landscape for All* with enhanced accessibility and opportunities for all of society to benefit from the National Landscape, taking opportunities to embed Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework Standards and Principles.

Strategy Aim for the Nature Theme

- *Native flora and fauna* in the National Landscape will see increasing range and at special sites be managed appropriately to enhance nature in the area.
- *Fauna* in the National Landscape will see increasing range and at special sites be managed appropriately to enhance nature in the area.
- *Aquatic Species* in the National Landscape will see increasing range and at special sites be managed appropriately to enhance nature in the area.
- *Birds* in the National Landscape will see increasing range and at special sites be managed appropriately to enhance nature in the area.
- Delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Strategy Aim for the Climate Theme

- *Land Use* managers of agricultural land and other land in the National Landscape will be supported to reduce drivers of climate change and adapt to a changing climate.

- New development in the *Built Environment* will be designed to reduce the drivers of climate change.
- *Natural Heritage* (wildlife) will be supported by habitat management projects to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Support nature based solutions that absorb carbon and reduce drivers and risks of climate change that support the National Landscape's purpose and delivery of the Nature Recovery Plan
- Information about the impacts of climate change and measures that can be taken will be available to everyone in *society*.

Strategy Aim for the Drivers of Change Theme

- Local and National *Policy* will develop and be updated to reflect the significance of National Landscapes.
- New *Infrastructure* developers will respect the National Landscape when developing proposals.
- All sections of society will work to reduce the *Climate Change* drivers.
- All members of the community will support *Societal Aspirations* to support the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty.

Management Plan Principles

The aim of this management plan is to guide the delivery of National Landscape purpose in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) requires the production and review of a National Landscape management plan that requires policy for the management of the National Landscape and for the Local Authorities to discharge their function in relation to them.

The management plan does not and cannot formulate land use planning policies but provides evidence to assist in the policy and decision-making processes, including planning.

The status of the management plan combined with the thorough process of management plan making and review means that the National Landscape management plan is a material consideration in planning matters and should be afforded weight as part of good decision making.

Place Principles

- 01 Support work that contributes to and protects the statutory purpose of the National Landscape, including conserving and enhancing defined features of landscape quality, scenic quality, relative wildness, tranquillity and natural and cultural heritage.
- 02 Natural beauty, special qualities, local distinctiveness and natural resources of the Dedham Vale National Landscape will be conserved and enhanced in the design (including materials and colour), scale, siting, landscaping and appropriate lighting of new development.
- 03 Ensure that development and changes to land use and land management cumulatively conserve and enhance the features, character and qualities of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.
- 04 Support understanding and activities to support relative tranquillity, remoteness and dark night skies within the Dedham Vale National Landscape.
- 05 Resist proposals, projects and programmes that negatively impact the natural beauty, landform, landscape character, special characteristics, including in the setting and views to and from the Dedham Vale National Landscape.
- 06 Historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements and buildings in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area will be maintained and strengthened. The use of sustainably sourced locally derived materials for restoration and conversion work will be encouraged. New developments will be expected to apply appropriate design guidance and to be complementary to local character in form, siting, scale, contribution to settlement pattern and choice of materials.

- 07 Major development should avoid the Dedham Vale National Landscape in line with national policy. Where it is decided that such development will take place in or in the setting of the Dedham Vale National Landscape an assessment of the impacts on the defined natural beauty features should be undertaken. Such proposals should seek to minimise and mitigate negative impacts. Residual impacts should be compensated for with measures to deliver the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.
- 08 The removal or mitigation of identified landscape detractors will be pursued.
- 09 The targeting of public agricultural payments to make a positive, landscape scale contribution to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and supporting public reflecting the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.
- 10 Farm diversification activities will be supported if they help achieve the vision, aims and principles of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.
- 11 Proposals for conversion from agricultural land to leisure use and the creation of both agricultural and non-agricultural structures must demonstrate that there will be no individual or cumulative negative impact on the landscape character and qualities of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.
- 12 A collaborative long term 'farm cluster' approach to support the farming and landowner community to support the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31 will be pursued.
- 13 Support work to conserve and enhance the river and its tributaries landscape quality and wildlife habitat.

People Principles

- 14 Support initiatives to make improvements to the Rights of Way Network to overcome barriers provide and improve countryside access, health and well-being opportunities, including, connecting with NHS social prescribing, enhanced way-marking, signposting and maintenance, new access. Support for investment in access from Environmental Land Management schemes and other opportunities. It will be ensured that Adverse effects on the integrity of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, and Devil's Dyke Special Area of Conservation, will be avoided.
- 15 Support work to enhance promoted routes and increase appropriate access in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. It will be ensured that Adverse effects on the integrity of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, and Devil's Dyke Special Area of Conservation, will be avoided.

- 16 Support initiatives to encourage more sustainable tourism including sustainable transport to and from the area and for travel within the area. It will be ensured that Adverse effects on the integrity of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, and Devil's Dyke Special Area of Conservation, will be avoided.
- 17 Support projects to broaden the appeal, understanding and engagement with the area to groups that are currently underrepresented in the current visitor profile.
- 18 Promote work to increase understanding of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.
- 19 Support volunteering opportunities in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area, particularly those that contribute to the delivery of natural beauty.
- 20 Business development opportunities will be encouraged where they contribute to the viability of communities and meet the purpose and principles of the National Landscape designation. It will be ensured that Adverse effects on the integrity of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, and Devil's Dyke Special Area of Conservation, will be avoided.
- 21 Support projects to broaden the appeal, understanding and engagement with the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area to groups that are underrepresented in the current visitor profile.

Nature Principles

- 22 Work in partnership to deliver on the apportioned targets in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.
- 23 Deliver the Dedham Vale National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan and support delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- 24 Support projects to create a greater understanding and connection between people and wildlife while at the same time seek to increase understanding of and reduce visitor pressures on sensitive sites such as Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation.

Climate Principles

- 25 Support nature based solutions that absorb carbon and reduce drivers and risks of climate change that support National Landscape purpose.
- 26 Support low carbon initiatives appropriate to the National Landscape designation.
- 27 Engage communities to increase understanding, share best practice and promote action on climate action.

Delivery Plan

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Partner
Place	01	Support work that contributes to and protects the statutory purpose of the National Landscape, including conserving and enhancing defined features of landscape quality, scenic quality, relative wildness, tranquillity and natural and cultural heritage	Project activity.	Various
Place	02	Natural beauty, special qualities, local distinctiveness and natural resources of the Dedham Vale National Landscape will be conserved and enhanced in the design (including materials and colour), scale, siting, landscaping and appropriate lighting of new development.	Determining planning applications . Influencing plan making and policy development	Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team
Place	03	Ensure that development and changes to land use and land management cumulatively conserve and enhance the features, character and qualities of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area	Determining planning applications. Influencing plan making and policy development	Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team
Place	04	Support understanding and activities to support relative tranquillity, remoteness and dark night skies within the Dedham Vale National Landscape	Influencing planning decisions and raising awareness.	National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society
Place	05	Resist proposals, projects and programmes that negatively impact the natural beauty, landform, landscape character, special characteristics, including in the setting and views to and from the Dedham Vale National Landscape	Influencing planning decisions and land management decisions.	Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society
Place	06	Historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements and buildings of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area will be maintained and strengthened. The use of sustainably sourced locally derived materials for restoration and conversion work will be encouraged. New developments will be expected to apply appropriate design guidance and to be complementary to	Determining planning applications.	Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Partner
		local character in form, siting, scale, contribution to settlement pattern and choice of materials.		
Place	07	Major development should avoid the Dedham Vale National Landscape in line with national policy. Where it is decided that such development will take place in or in the setting of the Dedham Vale National Landscape an assessment of the impacts on the defined natural beauty features should be undertaken. Such proposals should seek to minimise and mitigate negative impacts. Residual impacts should be compensated for with measures to deliver the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.	Influence development and determination of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project proposals.	Planning Inspectorate, Project Proposers, Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society
Place	08	The removal or mitigation of identified landscape detractors will be pursued.	Make use of Ofgem allowance for undergrounding low voltage power cables. Make use of Landscape Enhancement Initiative programme.	National Landscape team and appropriate partners
Place	09	The targeting of public agricultural payments to make a positive, landscape scale contribution to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and supporting public reflecting the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.	Applications to appropriate sources of grants, for example Landscape Recovery Programme, Farming in Protected Landscapes, Environmental Land Scheme	Farmers, landowners, farmer clusters, National Landscape team, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust
Place	10	Farm diversification activities will be supported if they help achieve the vision, aims and principles of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.	Project activity	Asset owners, appropriate partners
Place	11	A collaborative long term 'farm cluster' approach to support the farming and landowner community support the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31 will be pursued.	Development and delivery of Landscape Recovery programme and Farming in Protected Landscape funded projects	Stour Valley Farmer Cluster, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, National Landscape team
Place	12	A collaborative long term 'farm cluster' approach to support the farming and landowner community to support the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31 will be pursued	Development applications	Asset owner, Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Partner
				Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society
Place	13	Support work to conserve and enhance the river and its tributaries landscape quality and wildlife habitat.	Project Activity	Landowners, River Stour Trust, Environment Agency, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, National Landscape team
People	14	Support initiatives to make improvements to the Rights of Way Network to overcome barriers provide and improve countryside access, health and well-being opportunities, including, connecting with NHS social prescribing, enhanced way-marking, signposting and maintenance, new access. Support for investment in access from Environmental Land Management schemes and other opportunities.	a) Delivery of the Highways Authority Rights of Way Improvement Plans in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. b) Make use of any grants and additional funds to enhance access.	a) Highways Authorities. b) Highways Authorities, National Landscape team, communities
People	15	Support work to enhance promoted routes and increase appropriate access in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.	a) Works to routes. b) Raise awareness of routes and appropriate use.	a) Highways Authorities, National Landscape team, communities. b) National Landscape team.
People	16	Support initiatives to encourage more sustainable tourism including sustainable transport to and from the area and for travel within the area.	Promotions of sustainable tourism to area.	Tourism bodies, National Landscape team, Local Authorities.
People	17	Support projects to broaden the appeal, understanding and engagement with the area to groups that are currently underrepresented in the current visitor profile.	Delivery of National Landscape team Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity strategy.	National Landscape team and relevant partners.
People	18	Promote work to increase understanding of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.	Promotional projects.	National Landscape team, Local Authorities, tourism bodies.
People	19	Support volunteering opportunities in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area,	Facilitate volunteering opportunities.	National Landscape team, RSPB, National

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Partner
		particularly those that contribute to the delivery of natural beauty.		Trust, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, Community and special interest groups, Parish Councils.
People	20	Business development opportunities will be encouraged where they contribute to the viability of communities and meet the purpose and principles of the National Landscape designation.	Raise awareness of opportunities for sustainable businesses in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.	Local Authority economic development teams, National Landscape team.
People	21	Support projects to broaden the appeal, understanding and engagement with the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area to groups that are underrepresented in the current visitor profile.	Delivery of National Landscape team Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity strategy.	National Landscape team and relevant partners.
Nature Principles	22	Work in partnership to deliver on the apportioned targets in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.	a) 715.47 ha (7.9 % of total Dedham Vale National Landscape area) of restored or created wildlife rich habitats by 2042 b) 300 hectares (3.3%% of total Dedham Vale National Landscape area) by 2050 to increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined).	Landowners and farmers (using Environmental landscape Management scheme funding (including Landscape Recovery), Landscape Enhancement Initiative Scheme funding, National Landscape team, Forestry Commission, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, RSPB.
Nature Principles	23	Deliver the Dedham Vale National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan and support delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.	Deliver plan. Raising awareness of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies, project activity and influencing planning decisions and policy.	Landowners and farmers (using Environmental landscape

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Partner
				Management scheme funding, including Landscape Recovery), Landscape Enhancement Initiative Scheme funding, National Landscape team, Forestry Commission, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, RSPB, Volunteers.
Nature Principles	24	Support projects to create a greater understanding and connection between people and wildlife while at the same time seek to increase understanding of and reduce visitor pressures on sensitive sites.	a) Promotional activity including publications, events. b) Develop strategies for individual areas of pressure.	a) National Landscape team, Local Authorities, National Trust, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, RSPB. b) National Landscape team, Tourism bodies, Social Media influencers, Local Authorities, National Trust, Forestry England, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, RSPB.
Climate Principles	25	Support nature-based solutions that absorb carbon and reduce drivers and risks of climate change that support National Landscape purpose. Woodland Carbon Code and the emerging Woodland Water Code.	Project activity	National Landscapes Association, National Landscape team, Local Authorities, Landowners (using Environmental landscape

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Partner
				Management scheme funding)
Climate Principles	26	Support low carbon initiatives appropriate to the National Landscape designation.	Project activity	Local Authorities, Landowners (using Environmental landscape Management scheme funding).
Climate Principles	27	Engage communities to increase understanding, share best practice and promote action on climate action.	Promotional activity including publications, events.	National Landscape team and partners.

Monitoring and Evaluation

National Monitoring:

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

The Government is currently developing a Targets and Outcomes Framework for Protected Landscapes. Natural England are required to collate data relating to these targets. Reporting against the Dedham Vale National Landscape will be reported as required.

Local Monitoring:

The Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership will seek to develop a monitoring programme over the lifespan of this management plan.

The National Landscape team will provide information to funding partners and those advocating for National Landscapes as required. This may include providing The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) information on its investments in the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and relating to any additional funds targeted for specific proposals. Data may be provided to the National Landscapes Association for the purposes of providing data to DEFRA relating to its investment and for the purposes of advocating for National Landscapes.

Data available to the National Landscape is in some cases limited and there is little resource currently available to improve it and interpret it.

Measurements of success from the local theme and principle indicators contained in this management plan are likely to be drawn from:

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Monitoring	Partner
Place	01	Support work that contributes to and protects the statutory purpose of the National Landscape, including conserving and enhancing defined features of landscape quality, scenic quality, relative wildness,	Project activity.	Number of projects.	Various

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Monitoring	Partner
		tranquillity and natural and cultural heritage			
Place	02	Natural beauty, special qualities, local distinctiveness and natural resources of the Dedham Vale National Landscape will be conserved and enhanced in the design (including materials and colour), scale, siting, landscaping and appropriate lighting of new development.	Determining planning applications .	Number of applications giving significant weight to National Landscape considerations.	Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team
Place	03	Ensure that development and changes to land use and land management cumulatively conserve and enhance the features, character and qualities of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area	Determining planning applications.	Number of proposals giving significant weight to National Landscape considerations.	Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team
Place	04	Support understanding and activities to support relative tranquillity, remoteness and dark night skies within the Dedham Vale National Landscape	Influencing planning decisions and raising awareness.	Number of events.	National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society
Place	05	Resist proposals, projects and programmes that negatively impact the natural beauty, landform, landscape character, special characteristics, including in the setting and views to and from the Dedham Vale National Landscape	Influencing planning decisions and land management decisions.	Number of proposals that would cause significant harm to the National Landscape turned down.	Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Monitoring	Partner
Place	06	Historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements and buildings of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area will be maintained and strengthened. The use of sustainably sourced locally derived materials for restoration and conversion work will be encouraged. New developments will be expected to apply appropriate design guidance and to be complementary to local character in form, siting, scale, contribution to settlement pattern and choice of materials.	Determining planning applications.	Number of settlements and buildings maintained in a way to contribute to natural beauty.	Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society
Place	07	Major development should avoid the Dedham Vale National Landscape in line with national policy. Where it is decided that such development will take place in or in the setting of the Dedham Vale National Landscape an assessment of the impacts on the defined natural beauty features should be undertaken. Such proposals should seek to minimise and mitigate negative impacts. Residual impacts should be compensated for with	Influence development and determination of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Number of major development proposals giving significant weight to National Landscape. b) Number and magnitude of compensation payments. 	Planning Inspectorate, Project Proposers, Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Monitoring	Partner
		measures to deliver the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.			
Place	08	The removal or mitigation of identified landscape detractors will be pursued.	Make use of Ofgem allowance for undergrounding low voltage power cables. Make use of Landscape Enhancement Initiative programme.	Number of features contrary to National Landscape purpose removed or mitigated against.	National Landscape team and appropriate partners
Place	09	The targeting of public agricultural payments to make a positive, landscape scale contribution to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and supporting public reflecting the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.	Applications to appropriate sources of grants, for example Landscape Recovery Programme, Farming in Protected Landscapes, Environmental Land Scheme	Amount of investment into the National Landscape from public agricultural payments.	Farmers, landowners, farmer clusters, National Landscape team, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust
Place	10	Farm diversification activities will be supported if they help achieve the vision, aims and principles of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31.	Project activity	Number of activities supported.	Asset owners, appropriate partners
Place	11	A collaborative long term 'farm cluster' approach to	Development and delivery of	Number of farmer cluster projects to support National Landscape purpose.	Stour Valley Farmer Cluster, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, National Landscape team

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Monitoring	Partner
		support the farming and landowner community support the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31 will be pursued.	Landscape Recovery programme and Farming in Protected Landscape funded projects		
Place	12	A collaborative long term 'farm cluster' approach to support the farming and landowner community to support the aims of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan 2026-31 will be pursued	Development applications	Number of conversions where no significant impact on National Landscape purpose.	Asset owner, Local Planning Authorities, National Landscape team, Dedham Vale Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Suffolk Preservation Society
Place	13	Support work to conserve and enhance the river and its tributaries landscape quality and wildlife habitat.	Project Activity	Number of projects.	Landowners, River Stour Trust, Environment Agency, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, National Landscape team
People	14	Support initiatives to make improvements to the Rights of Way Network to overcome barriers provide and improve countryside access, health and well-being opportunities, including, connecting with NHS social prescribing, enhanced way-marking, signposting and maintenance, new access. Support for investment in access from Environmental Land Management schemes and other opportunities.	a) Delivery of the Highways Authority Rights of Way Improvement Plans in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. b) Make use of any grants and additional funds to enhance access.	a) Number of projects improving access to National Landscape. b) Magnitude of additional funds made available.	a) Highways Authorities. b) Highways Authorities, National Landscape team, communities

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Monitoring	Partner
People	15	Support work to enhance promoted routes and increase appropriate access in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.	a) Works to routes. b) Raise awareness of routes and appropriate use.	a) Number of projects. b) Number of interventions to increase awareness.	a) Highways Authorities. b) Highways Authorities, National Landscape team, communities
People	16	Support initiatives to encourage more sustainable tourism including sustainable transport to and from the area and for travel within the area.	Promotions of sustainable tourism to area.	Number of sustainable tourism initiatives undertaken.	a) Highways Authorities, National Landscape team, communities.
People	17	Support projects to broaden the appeal, understanding and engagement with the area to groups that are currently underrepresented in the current visitor profile.	Delivery of National Landscape team Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity strategy.	Number of groups engaged that have positive outcome.	National Landscape team and relevant partners.
People	18	Promote work to increase understanding of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.	Promotional projects.	Number of events.	Tourism bodies, National Landscape team, Local Authorities.
People	19	Support volunteering opportunities in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area, particularly those that contribute to the delivery of natural beauty.	Facilitate volunteering opportunities.	Number of volunteer days facilitated.	National Landscape team and relevant partners.
People	20	Business development opportunities will be encouraged where they contribute to the viability of	Raise awareness of opportunities for sustainable businesses in the	Number of opportunities in delivery.	National Landscape team, Local Authorities, tourism bodies.

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Monitoring	Partner
		communities and meet the purpose and principles of the National Landscape designation.	Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.		
People	21	Support projects to broaden the appeal, understanding and engagement with the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area to groups that are underrepresented in the current visitor profile.	Delivery of National Landscape team Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity strategy.	Number of engagements, events and promotions	National Landscape team, RSPB, National Trust, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, Community and special interest groups, Parish Councils.
Nature Principles	22	Work in partnership to deliver on the apportioned targets in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.	a) 715.47 ha (7.9 % of total Dedham Vale National Landscape area) of restored or created wildlife rich habitats by 2042 b) 300 hectares (3.3%% of total Dedham Vale National Landscape area) by 2050 to increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined).	National Natural England reports on the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework	Local Authority economic development teams, National Landscape team.
Nature Principles	23	Deliver the Dedham Vale National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan and support	Deliver plan	Reports to Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership.	National Landscape team and relevant partners.

Theme	Ref	Principle	Action	Monitoring	Partner
		delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.			
Nature Principles	24	Support projects to create a greater understanding and connection between people and wildlife while at the same time seek to increase understanding of and reduce visitor pressures on sensitive sites.	a) Promotional activity including publications, events. b) Develop strategies for individual areas of pressure.	a) Number of activities and publications. b) Number of strategies delivered.	Landowners and farmers (using Environmental landscape Management scheme funding (including Landscape Recovery), Landscape Enhancement Initiative Scheme funding, National Landscape team, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, RSPB.
Climate Principles	25	Support nature based solutions that absorb carbon and reduce drivers and risks of climate change that support National Landscape purpose.	Project activity	Number of projects.	Landowners and farmers (using Environmental landscape Management scheme funding, including Landscape Recovery), Landscape Enhancement Initiative Scheme funding, National Landscape team, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, RSPB, Volunteers.
Climate Principles	26	Support low carbon initiatives appropriate to the National Landscape designation.	Project activity	Number of projects.	a) National Landscape team, Local Authorities, National Trust, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, RSPB.
Climate Principles	27	Engage communities to increase understanding, share best practice and promote action on climate action.	Promotional activity including publications, events.	Number of promotions, information packs and events.	b) National Landscape team, Tourism bodies, Social Media influencers, Local Authorities, National Trust, Essex and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, RSPB.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Glossary

Appendix 2: Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

Appendix 3: Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Appendix 4: Partnership Working

Appendix 5: Relationship with Planning

Appendix 6: Resourcing

Appendix 7: Maps

Appendix 1:

Glossary

The following terms are used when discussing the management of National Landscapes. A brief explanation is given for each term.

AONB/Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:

An area of land designated by government for the purpose of conservation and enhancement of natural beauty.

Biodiversity:

Short for biological diversity, refers to the variety of all living organisms on Earth.

Biodiversity Net Gain:

Qualitative or quantitative measures to enhance and support biodiversity in order to leave it in an improved state.

Carbon sequestration:

Removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks (oceans, forests or soils) through physical or biological processes.

Climate change adaptation:

Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Climate change mitigation:

Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Cultural heritage:

Includes tangible culture such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art and artefacts, as well as intangible culture such as folklore, traditions, language and knowledge and natural heritage including culturally significant landscapes.

Colchester Declaration:

The Colchester Declaration is a collective commitment (subject to appropriate funding) made by National Landscapes to step up action for nature recovery and climate resilience, recognising the urgency of the biodiversity and climate crises.

Dedham Vale National Landscape:

One of 34 National Landscapes in England designated as an Areas of Outstanding.

DEFRA/Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

A Government department that provides up to 75% of core funding to National Landscape staff team. Responsible for policy and regulation on the natural environment.

Environment Improvement Plan:

The Environment Improvement Plan 2023 is the Government's legally binding plan for delivering environmental targets in England. It builds on the 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) and is a key requirement of the Environment Act (2021).

Geodiversity:

The range of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms

Infrastructure:

Physical structures that enable society to operate eg roads, railways, communications masts, electricity transmission networks, water supplies.

JAC/Joint Advisory Committee:

A group of Local Authority funding partners providing financial support, strategic guidance and scrutiny for the National Landscape team.

Landscape:

Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. (European Landscape Convention)

Landscapes Review:

In 2018 the Government commissioned journalist Julian Glover, supported by an advisory group, to carry out a comprehensive review of Protected Landscapes in England. It considered whether the protections for National Parks and National Landscapes were still fit for purpose, what could be improved, and whether current definitions and systems are still valid. The final report was published on 21 September 2019 and the Government responded in January 2022.

Local Planning Authority:

A public body responsible for planning matters in a specific local area. This includes preparing local development plans, making decisions on planning applications, and enforcing planning controls.

National Landscape:

The brand for the legally designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

National Landscapes Association:

A national charity which works to make sure the UK's most outstanding landscapes are beautiful, thriving places that everyone can feel part of. We support the UK's network of National Landscapes to help them to be as effective as possible.

National Landscape purpose:

The primary purpose of the National Landscape is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

National Landscape Management Plan:

A strategic framework designed to guide the long-term conservation and enhancement of an Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is updated every five years and a statutory requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects:

Large scale major development projects in relating to energy, transport, waste, waste water and water that are handled by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State makes the final decision about whether a proposal should be granted development consent.

Natural Beauty:

A term used to designate but not defined in legislation. One definition is: Natural beauty is not just the look of the landscape, but includes its flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features, and its cultural and historic associations. It is the relationship between people and place over time. (Dr Sally Marsh).

Navigation (River Stour):

A 1705 Act of Parliament that gave powers to named commissioners to deepen channels, create locks & weirs and remove obstacles to navigation on the river.

Partnership:

When written with an upper-case P it relates to an alliance of statutory agencies, local authorities, charitable organisations, voluntary organisations, and membership organisations that have a particular interest in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.

Protected Landscapes:

A general term used to describe National Landscapes and National Parks.

Relevant Authorities:

Any public body or statutory undertaker whose functions may affect land within a National Landscape. This includes government departments, local authorities, and other public bodies as well as organisations that have legal powers or duties to carry out public services or infrastructure works.

Section 85 (Countryside and Rights of Way Act, (2000)):

Legislation that requires relevant authorities when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty in England, must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.

Section 245 (Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023)):

Legislation that updated section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) that placed a new burden on relevant authorities.

Special Qualities:

Features and characteristics that, taken together, give a National Landscape its identity and make it outstanding. They are the elements of landscape, biodiversity, heritage, and culture that contribute to its natural beauty and sense of place. (Dr Sally Marsh).

Stour Valley project area:

The mid and upper part of the of the Stour Valley that is not National Landscape but widely perceived to be of significant value.

Sustainable Tourism:

Tourist activity which ensures the long-term protection and preservation of natural, cultural and social resources and contributes in a positive and equitable manner to the economic development and well-being of individuals, working or staying in protected areas.

Valued Landscape:

An area that is particularly appreciated by communities, visitors, or professionals for its distinctive qualities, such as: natural beauty, cultural or historical associations, recreational value, scenic quality, ecological richness or sense of place or tranquillity.

Appendix 2: Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has apportioned targets to individual Protected Landscapes. The Dedham Vale targets have been influenced by the area's Nature Recovery Plan, published in 2021.

For the Dedham Vale National Landscape, which is 9,059 hectares, the targets are:

a. 715.47 ha (7.9 % of total Dedham Vale National Landscape area) of restored or created wildlife rich habitats by 2042.

The Environmental Improvement Plan states that farming schemes are expected to contribute 80 to 100% of the target to restore or create wildlife rich habitats. Other mechanisms to deliver this target include:

- Connecting Constable and Gainsborough Country Landscape Recovery Project.
- Delivery of Dedham Vale Nature Recovery Plan.
- Work undertaken by environmental Non-Government Organisations.
- Work of volunteers
- Delivery of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
- Privately funded work
- Work funded by small National Landscape grants.

The targets are set for the National Landscape and not for an individual organisation or partner and requires working closely together. Natural England will monitor progress against the targets.

b. Restore approximately 0.53 hectares (0.0059 % of total Dedham Vale National Landscape area) of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050

As the 0.53 hectare target in the Dedham Vale National Landscape would make a minimal contribution to the national target and require significant resource to deliver, the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership decided on 28 March 2025 it would contribute 0 hectares to this target. It is considered that other Protected Landscapes with significant areas of peaty soils, should deliver on this target as it could be done with more efficiency.

c. Set ambitious target of 300 hectares (3.3%% of total Dedham Vale National Landscape area) by 2050 to increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined). This would be over the The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) apportioned target of 271.75 hectares

The delivery of this target is anticipated to be delivered by:

- Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Planning Grant, England Woodland Creation Offer.
- Government funded Agri-Environment schemes such as Environmental Land Management.
- Connecting Constable and Gainsborough Country Landscape Recovery Project.

- Delivery of Dedham Vale Nature Recovery Plan.
- Work undertaken by environmental Non-Government Organisations.
- Work funded by small National Landscape grants.
- Work of volunteers.
- Delivery of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
- Privately funded work.

Work to monitor progress against the targets will be undertaken by Natural England who are responsible for monitoring progress and issuing updates on progress against targets.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape will provide information to Natural England as resources allow to support the gathering of the monitoring information.

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife	1. Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions that establish wildlife-rich habitat on land or water where such habitat is currently absent. • Actions should result in an increased extent of wildlife-rich habitat • Actions must be outside of protected site (reserves) designated before 30th January 2023 	DEFRA and all land managers/stakeholders	Natural England will be responsible for monitoring progress	NA but actions carried out after 30th January 2023 count towards this target	715.47 ha	715.47 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Landscape Recovery projects e.g. Connecting Constable and Gainsborough Country (Suffolk Wildlife Trust) • Future Landscape recovery projects • Opportunity mapping as previously carried out in our Nature Recovery Strategy • Our own work using volunteers • The work of ENGO's • Private 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of long term DEFRA funding for agri-environment schemes that enable actions which would be included in the target • Competing priorities for land use (food production and security, solar farms, housing, etc...) • Lack of land management advisors for farmers to promote nature-friendly farming • Lack of support for farm clusters • Political climate/distrust 	715.47 ha represents an ambitious target for creating new habitat within the Dedham Vale National Landscape and will require consistent funding being available to landowners to deliver habitat creation

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
								landowners and farmers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FiPL funded projects • DEFRA funding for agri-environment schemes • independent land management advisors consistently funded to facilitate trust and cooperation with land managers during transition to nature-friendly farming • Work with farm clusters • Focussing work off-reserve 		

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
	2. Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 204.	<p>SSSI's are Sites of Specific Scientific Interest are protected and designated under the Countryside and Wildlife Act (1981).</p> <p>"Each SSSI is legally protected and selected because it contains special features. These could be threatened habitats, characteristic, rare and endangered species or important geology" Natural England</p>	Natural England and organisations managing SSSI's in the Dedham Vale. These are Cattawade Marshes (RSPB) and Arger Fen (SWT)	Natural England SSSI condition assessments (not currently up to date)	Current baseline unknown. Most up to date condition assessments found that of the 6 SSSI sites in the Dedham Vale (at Cattawade Marshes and Arger Fen), 2 were assessed as favourable, 3 unfavourable – recovering and 1 unknown. Baseline = 33.3%	NA	NA	Funding for ENGO's, national land management schemes targeted at SSSI management, positive partnership working between stakeholders, raised awareness, Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Lack of funding, lack of data	Dedham Vale National Landscape will look to support SSSI management which results in condition improvements via seeking or signposting external funding towards the land managers of SSSI's within the Dedham Vale.

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
	3. For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028	"Actions on track" refers to the site having up-to-date assessment to manage the site to favourable condition/maintenance in favourable condition. A site can only be considered to have actions on track, if its condition assessment is "up to date".	Natural England	Natural England	Of 6 SSSI's in the Dedham Vale none have up to date condition assessments and therefore none can be defined by NE as having "actions on track" therefore Baseline = 0%	NA	NA	Natural England resource to carry out condition assessments and highlight actions required to bring sites into favourable condition	Natural England capacity	Condition assessments are not currently up to date

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
	<p>4. Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042</p>	<p>Priority habitats are a focus for conservation action in England based on habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Priority Habitat Inventory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined priority habitat total area in Dedham Vale National Landscape: 2,068.29 ha • Combined priority habitat percentage cover of this Protected Landscape: 22.83% <p>Priority habitats present within Dedham Vale National</p>	DEFRA - ELMS or other agri-environmental grant schemes	PHI - Natural England	10 priority habitat types present in Dedham Vale National Landscape	NA	NA	Availability of agri-environment schemes	Unavailability of agri-environment schemes	<p>Encourage partners and landowners to manage land within appropriate and available agri-environment schemes.</p> <p>Contribute to work on sites outside of SSSI's with volunteer conservation work parties.</p> <p>Seek and direct funding where possible to schemes and projects that encourage favourable</p>

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
		Landscape: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh • Deciduous woodland • Good quality semi improved grassland • Lowland dry acid grassland • Lowland fens • Lowland meadows • No main habitat but additional habitats present • Purple moor grass and rush pastures • Reedbeds • Traditional orchard 								and sustainable management practices.

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
	5. Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030	DEFRA funding through ELMS (Environmental Land Management schemes) covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFI (Sustainable Farming Incentive): pays farmers to adopt and maintain sustainable farming practices that can protect and enhance the natural environment alongside food production, and also support farm productivity (currently not receiving applications) • Countryside Stewardship: targeted actions relating to specific locations, 	DEFRA through agri-environment schemes	No current indicator	Unknown	NA	NA	Availability of agri-environment schemes to support nature friendly farming Advice for farmers to adopt best practice	Unavailability of agri-environment schemes Lack of advice and support to understand nature friendly farming opportunities	Work with farmers already delivering nature friendly farming and promote awareness of best practice and funding available. Support the Stour Valley Farm Cluster and other land managers and seek to provide advice, guidance and demonstrations of best practice and what the benefits for nature are.

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
		features and habitats. • Landscape Recovery: bespoke, longer-term, larger scale projects to enhance the natural environment								Highlight funding available and seek further external funding to facilitate nature friendly farming techniques

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change	6. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels	The main drivers of emissions within protected landscapes are energy consumption, visitor travel and agriculture. Greenhouse gas emission mitigation can involve carbon sequestration via restored ecosystems, avoiding the release of carbon into the atmosphere and through increased ecosystem resilience	DEFRA	No current indicator. Specific measuring/ monitoring of greenhouse gas emission levels to the Dedham Vale National Landscape area would be required	Unknown	NA	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant nature restoration projects at landscape scale e.g. Landscape Recovery projects. Financial incentives/ grants and green finance need to be in place to ensure that landowners do not lose out by embracing habitat restoration. • Wider government policy around sustainable travel and energy production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unavailability of funding for agri-environmental/regenerative agricultural practices • Government policy changes regarding net zero could lessen the commitment to reduced emissions nationally 	The Dedham Vale National Landscape will promote sustainable transport options for accessing the Dedham Vale e.g. cycle routes, public transport. The NL team have also created a Climate Change Adaptation Plan to highlight key priority areas to mitigate the likely effects of climate change.

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
								e.g. the roll out of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure • Continued funding for agricultural schemes e.g. SFI, ELMS, FiPL etc		

	<p>7. Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050</p>	<p>To count towards the target, peat will need to be under restoration management. Defra is developing a peatland restoration register which will provide a dynamic record of all government-funded peatland restoration in England. Restored peat will be measured using the peatland restoration register</p> <p>Peat restoration work that started from autumn 2021 can count towards the target</p> <p>What peat qualifies:</p> <p>Restoration of deep peat (peaty soils defined as being organic carbon rich soils with a depth exceeding</p>	<p>DEFRA/Natural England</p>	<p>Current location of peaty soils is taken from Natural England Peat Layer data</p>	<p>Deep Peaty soils within the Dedham Vale National Landscape amounts to 1.27 ha</p>	<p>0.53 ha</p>	<p>0 ha</p>	<p>Peatland restoration has significant opportunity to deliver major benefits for nature and for carbon sequestration nationally</p>	<p>experience within NL SECH/DV teams in terms of peatland restoration</p> <p>No peatland restoration occurring within DV currently</p> <p>0.53 ha in Dedham Vale would make a minimal contribution to the national target and require significant resource, and it is therefore more appropriate for other protected landscapes with significant areas of peaty soils, potential for restoration and skills and expertise present to deliver this target</p>	<p>Dedham Vale National Landscape have considered peatland restoration but has chosen to not contribute to this national target for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inexperience within NL SECH/DV teams in terms of peatland restoration • No peatland restoration occurring within DV currently • 0.53 ha in Dedham Vale would make a minimal contribution to the national target and require significant
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	<p>30cm).</p> <p>Deep peat (over 40cm) should be prioritised.</p> <p>Peatland restoration has significant benefit for the environment including in carbon sequestration, flood prevention, habitat services and water filtration.</p>								<p>resource, and it is therefore more appropriate for other protected landscapes with significant areas of peaty soils, potential for restoration and skills and expertise present to deliver this target</p>
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Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
	8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target is about getting more trees and woodland in the landscape including hedgerow trees, infield trees, small copses, wood pasture and traditional orchards. It is not just about the establishment of large new areas of woodland (but these can be included where appropriate) Woodlands are defined as 'an area of trees...with at least 20% of that area covered in tree canopy cover or which could sustain tree canopy cover' 	DEFRA and all land managers/stakeholders	Natural England/Forestry Commission	current tree cover in DV NL: 1789.64 ha	271.75 ha	300 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in tree planting schemes and funding for these Successful partnership working and information sharing Successful data capture Provision of specialist advice that is adequately resourced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for agricultural land to continue food production Landscape character Complexity and availability of funding Availability of grant support for in-field trees, wood pasture, agroforestry, wet woodland, and maintenance of trees in hedgerows Deer pressure 	Opportunity mapping taking into account agricultural land grade and suitability for tree planting suggests there are enough locations to achieve an ambitious target beyond the initial apportioned spatial target suggested by DEFRA

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees outside woodland means: Areas of trees at least 0.1 ha which are not woodland and are not hedgerows, Single trees or groups of trees more than 2m in height with an area of less than 0.1 ha, Hedgerow trees. • Hedgerows cannot be included 								

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement	9. Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme	<p>"We want our nation's most cherished landscapes to fulfil their original mission for people, providing unrivalled opportunities for enjoyment, spiritual refreshment and in turn supporting the nation's health and wellbeing." (Landscapes Review)</p> <p>National Landscapes are committed to making Protected Landscapes more accessible for people of all ages and abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds.</p>	Government	Local indicators	unknown	NA	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate budget available to Dedham Vale National Landscape team to allocate staff capacity to access for all objectives and projects • If National Landscapes were given a secondary purpose, like National Parks have to "Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks by the public" • Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget constraints on National Landscapes, in particular short term settlements, meaning mid to long term planning for resource allocation is challenging 	<p>Support and encourage projects which improve and enable access to areas within the Dedham Vale National Landscape</p> <p>Identify and seek to address barriers facing under-represented and/or diverse groups which limit equal access to the Dedham Vale National Landscape</p>

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

Environmental Improvement Plan Goal	Target	Background	Key delivery responsibility	Data source/metric	Baseline	Proposed DEFRA apportionment (where relevant)	Actual target set by Dedham Vale National Landscape	Key enabling factors	Key limiting factors	Comments
								working with local authorities Rights of Way team to make best use of available funding		Use of small grant schemes for accessibility projects

	<p>10. Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes</p>	<p>Historic England identifies historic sites that are most at risk of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.</p> <p>"Heritage at Risk sites come in many forms - from grand to simple buildings and structures, to large visible earthworks and to less visible buried remains. Many issues threaten these sites, from environmental to human impact." (Historic England)</p>	<p>Historic England</p>	<p>Heritage at Risk Register</p>	<p>In the Dedham Vale there are seven Scheduled Monuments which cover a total area of 20 ha.</p> <p>There is 1 Registered Park and Garden and 675 listed buildings.</p> <p>There are 12 conservation areas</p> <p>1 site within Dedham Vale National Landscape is currently on Heritage at Risk register: Wissington Ring Ditch. The main risk</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Regular monitoring of the Heritage at Risk register</p>	<p>The main existing threats to heritage are lack of management, arable ploughing and intrusive modern development.</p>	<p>Dedham Vale National Landscape will continue to promote and conserve the heritage assets of the area.</p> <p>The Dedham Vale National Landscape, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the area will continue to monitor the Heritage at Risk register for the addition of features to highlighted assets that require management or protection</p> <p>The Dedham Valke National Landscape and its partners</p>
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				<p>to the arch-aeological features is from arable ploughing in the fields where the ditch cluster is located, and the condition is following a declining trend.</p>				<p>continue work to preserve the positive characteristics of the area through the planning system.</p>
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Appendix 3: Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Introduction

This plan looks at the likely impacts of climate change on the special qualities and character of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and suggests key mitigations to limit these impacts. This plan seeks to influence and act as a guide to decision making, as well as to assist local communities to consider the changing climate when taking future decisions around land use and activity within the Dedham Vale National Landscape.

Background

The Government's third National Adaptation Programme introduces the requirement for all Protected Landscape (a collective name for National Landscapes and National Parks) bodies to produce Climate Change Adaptation plans by 2028.

In order to fulfil this requirement work was undertaken to scope the most relevant areas to assess and recommend actions. In developing this approach, a risk assessment was undertaken (see following pages) across a wide range of the most significant factors: Built Environment, Natural Environment and Farming and Forestry.

It is envisaged the Climate Change Adaptation Plan element included in this plan will be reviewed on the same five year cycle as the National Landscape management plan.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape can play a part in delivering on national climate goals, but it is recognised this will only be part of the action necessary to achieve the Government ambition.

The following Dedham Vale National Landscape Climate Change Adaptation Plan risk assessment includes a description and assessment of:

- Areas of impact.
- Headline projections of what is anticipated from the effects of climate change.
- Projected direct and indirect impacts.
- Risks and opportunities.

- Likelihood of impacts.
- Proposed Actions

This description and assessment will cover three areas of the Dedham Vale National Landscape:

- Built environment.
- Natural environment.
- Farming and Forestry.

Those that have endorsed this Dedham Vale National Landscape management plan will work with and support with the delivery of the actions identified in the Climate Change Adaptation Plan being undertaken by the relevant responsible authorities.

Likelihood of a risk or opportunity occurring is rated 1 to 5

Likelihood	1	Rare
	2	Unlikely
	3	Possible
	4	Likely
	5	Almost Certain

The impact of a risk or opportunity is rated from -5 to +5

Risk	-5	Catastrophic
	-4	Major
	-3	Moderate
	-2	Minor
	-1	Slight
No Change	0	No Change
Opportunity	1	Slight
	2	Minor
	3	Moderate
	4	Major
	5	Fantastic

Risk/Opportunity Matrix: The combination of likelihood and impact leads to a scoring of risks and opportunities

Risk	-5	Catastrophic	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25
	-4	Major	-4	-8	-12	-16	-20
	-3	Moderate	-3	-6	-9	-12	-15
	-2	Minor	-2	-4	-6	-8	-10
	-1	Slight	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
No Change	0	No Change	0	0	0	0	0
Opportunity	1	Slight	1	2	3	4	5
	2	Minor	2	4	6	8	10
	3	Moderate	3	6	9	12	15
	4	Major	4	8	12	16	20
	5	Fantastic	5	10	15	20	25
			Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost certain
			1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood							

Impact

Rating	definition
Catastrophic	It would result in a massive negative impact to this feature
Major	It would result in a significant negative impact to this feature
Moderate	It would result in a moderate negative impact to this feature
Minor	It would result in a small negative impact to this feature
Minimal	It would result in negligible negative impact to this feature

Impact

Rating	definition
Fantastic	It would result in a massive improvement of this feature
Major	It would result in a significant improvement to the condition of this feature
Moderate	It would result in a moderate improvement to the condition of this feature
Minor	It would result in a small improvement to the condition to this feature
Slight	It would result in a modest benefit to this feature

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
Historic buildings	Warmer, wetter Winters and hotter, dryer Summers. Individual extreme	Key historic buildings may be vulnerable to damage	Increased risk of fire damage	2	-4	-8	3	-4	-12	3	-4	-12	Identify historic buildings most at risk, make a comprehensive record and develop a scheme of investigation if necessary/feasible. Work with sector bodies to develop local risk
			Damage to buildings due to soil shrinkage and subsidence	2	-3	-6	3	-3	-9	4	-3	-12	

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
	weather events		Historic building may become more susceptible to decay and damage from damp, water ingress and higher humidity.	2	-3	-6	3	-3	-9	4	-3	-12	<p>assessments to identify key vulnerabilities, the historic building most at risk.</p> <p>Develop and prioritise action plans for highly vulnerable buildings, structure and features.</p> <p>Follow the latest guidance from Heritage England and statutory bodies to ensure adaptation and alterations follow best practice in terms of building conservation.</p>

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
			Damage and deterioration of heritage assets caused by flooding or water-logging.	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
			Increased severity of storms leading to increased severity of episodes of significant damage to historic buildings e.g. damage to ruins and masonry	2	-3	-6	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
Archaeology	Warmer, wetter winters and hotter, dryer summers	drought and flooding (d) leading to increase in extremes (high and low) of soil moisture content	Changes in preservation conditions caused by higher humidity and soil moisture and PH leading to degradation of quality of remains	2	-2	-4	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	<p>Work with sector partners to improve data and evidence on the hydrological impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Identify archaeological assets that are vulnerable or at risk - record and protect if appropriate.</p>
Scheduled monuments and features	More severe seasonal storms	Loss or damage to archaeological assets caused by extreme weather events.	Damage and degradation of scheduled monuments caused by flooding, waterlogging or increase soil erosion caused by run off as a result of severe weather events.	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	<p>Identify structures at risk, make a comprehensive record and develop a scheme of investigation if necessary/feasible.</p> <p>Work with sector bodies to develop local risk assessments to identify key vulnerabilities, prioritised action plan for highly vulnerable sites.</p>

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
Planning pressures - new development	Wetter Winters	damage to housing and infrastructure (D)	poorly designed new developments are susceptible to flooding damage using construction material that contribute negatively towards climate change. Hard surfaces which encourage run off, flooding and pollution else-where	4	-3	-12	-4	4	-16	4	-5	-20	<p>Encouragement for sustainable building techniques and materials.</p> <p>Highlight the benefit of the natural floodplain and how these can be enhanced to deliver benefit for nature. SUDS, net zero, BNG, shade and landscape around new development sympathetic to climate of the future</p>

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
		floodplain disruption (ID)	Where existing land was mitigating flooding pressure and is developed, this can then cause flooding else-where	3	-3	-9	3	-3	-9	4	-4	-16	Need for considerations across catchment and design that accommodates floodplain improvements
	Energy related development e.g. solar, wind, cables, pylons, etc. Driven by low carbon electricity generation nearby	More green energy infrastructure (D)	Opportunity: cleaner, greener energy. Potential for positive impact on landscape and ecosystem function though these assets may still change or alter the extant landscape character.	2	3	6	3	3	9	3	4	12	Prepare for and accommodate landscape change. Develop green infrastructure plans and nature-based solutions to help build resilience to climate change at a landscape scale.

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
			Opportunity: if designed well these could be along-side land management that supports pollinators/ grazing, etc	2	3	6	3	3	9	3	4	12	
			risk: Poor design could lead to loss of green/ bio-diverse spaces, e.g. species rich meadows	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	Guidance on good design required

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
	Hotter Summers	Increase in development pressure for building adaptation and alterations e.g. solar panels	Opportunity for new design codes or sustainable build policies to improve resilience and provide cleaner, greener energy	2	4	8	3	4	12	4	4	16	<p>Develop design codes that result in more sustainable building and schemes, with the best design, layout and materials to make them resilient to climate change.</p> <p>Support opportunities for community-based renewable energy production where they deliver additional social and economic benefits locally.</p>

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
Planning or development responses to climate change impacts	Major infrastructure developments e.g. rail, water, power transmission, road		Impacts on landscape character and on iconic or distinctive views within and from the Protected Landscape. Introduction of technology and new infrastructure will impact on the character and historic feel of the landscape	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	4	-4	-16	<p>Ensure the planning process takes account of the new requirement to 'Seek to Further'.</p> <p>Ensure all relevant bodies are aware of their duties under S85 of the CRoW Act (2000), as amended.</p> <p>Ensure that the Protected Landscapes are effectively considered and represented in national and regional planning discussions i.e. Regional and Local Area Energy Plans (RAEP/LAEP's)</p>

Built Environment – Development Management, Planning and Infrastructure

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
Towns and settlements	Hotter Summers	health stress on residents (D) Air quality impacts (ID)	Heat stress and exhaustion becoming more common (elderly particularly at risk) Increased exposure to poor air quality for residents and vulnerable groups causing impacts on public health (respiratory illness and risk of premature death).	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	4	-5	-20	<p>Promote the role for Green Infrastructure (GI) and Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) to enhance the resilience of urban areas.</p> <p>Increase permeability of urban surfaces and use of rain gardens to improve storage and infiltration.</p> <p>Encourage an increase in urban trees to provide ecosystem service benefits within towns and villages.</p> <p>Promote the value of trees, parks and other Green Infrastructure.</p>

Natural Environment – Species diversity, habitats, water, soils and resource protection.													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
Grasslands	warmer/wetter winters and hotter, dryer Summers	Impacts on grasslands of greater incidences of drought	changes in species composition and declines in diversity	3	-3	-9	4	-4	-16	4	-5	-20	Target project funding and environmental grant funding towards measures that increase resilience to a changing climate. Work with partners and specialists to collect and use of appropriate seed stock in habitat restoration or creation of new habitat. Encourage land management practices that support pollinators. Use of natural pest controls or pest resistant crop species to reduce the need for pesticide use.
			Reductions in insect populations because of the above and knock on impact on other species within food chains	3	-3	-9	4	-4	-16	4	-5	-20	

Natural Environment – Species diversity, habitats, water, soils and resource protection.													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
			Fragmentation of some habitat types will limit their adaptive capacity	3	-3	-9	3	3	-9	3	-4	-12	<p>Increase habitat connectivity and the permeability of the landscape to wildlife.</p> <p>Undertake adaptive management and ensure that areas of valuable habitat are bigger, better managed and joined up. Increase the quality and habitat diversity of wildlife sites.</p>

Natural Environment – Species diversity, habitats, water, soils and resource protection.													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
Hedgerows		Impacts upon species diversity in hedgerows due to changes in climatic conditions and vulnerability of some species to temperature change (ID)	Decline in species diversity and loss of resources to wildlife. Loss of species due to drought stress and an overall decrease in the ecological connectivity of the wider landscape.	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	<p>Promote the benefits of hedgerows and encourage best practice in terms of their management. Improve habitat connectivity, help retain soils, manage surface run-off and increase the permeability of the landscape to wildlife.</p> <p>Develop projects and policies that encourage the retention of hedgerows and that encourages new planting.</p>

Natural Environment – Species diversity, habitats, water, soils and resource protection.													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
Woodlands		Impacts on woodland habitat due to greater incidence of drought and water deficit (ID)	Loss of biodiversity e.g Loss of veteran or landscape trees that are more susceptible to increased temperatures, water stress or are less drought tolerant e.g. Beech	3	-3	-9	4	-4	-16	4	-5	-20	Research on which tree species may be most impacted by changes in climatic conditions.
			Broadleaved and native woodland will see changes in species type and composition.	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	Plan ahead in terms of planting schemes, select species that may be more resilient to prevailing climatic conditions in the medium/long term.
			Changes in species and composition of woodland ground flora due to a shift in climatic conditions.	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	Encourage landowners to join approved woodland management plans and apply the UK Forestry Standard and UK Woodland assurance standard
												Encourage best practice woodland management techniques to adapt to changing	

Natural Environment – Species diversity, habitats, water, soils and resource protection.													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
			Extended periods of dry weather, and increase in dry vegetation in the understorey, may increase the risk of forest fires.	2	-3	-6	3	3	-9	3	-4	-12	climatic conditions. Promote the benefits of wood pasture, landscape, in-field and boundary trees.
			Opportunity for some tree species to expand their range	2	2	4	3	3	9	3	3	9	New planting schemes should include rides to mitigate fire risk but also to create marginal habitat
	Warmer wetter winters	Less frost and warmer damp conditions would increase the prevalence of pests, diseases (ID)	Damage and loss of landscape trees to disease and fungal bacteria such as phytophthora e.g. Ash, Horse Chestnut and Beech.	2	-3	-6	3	-3	-9	4	-4	-16	Plan ahead in terms of planting schemes, select species that may be more resilient to prevailing climatic conditions in the medium/long term

Landscape Character and related special qualities													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
Landscape character and features	Hotter, Drier Summers	Land use change as the result of changes to climatic conditions.	Reversion to natural grasslands from arable may build on the existing character of the landscape. This would therefore be an opportunity	2	1	2	3	2	6	3	2	6	<p>This may be within the scope of acceptable change for some landscape types.</p> <p>Grasslands that are priority habitats or species-rich will need to be buffered and resilience built at a landscape scale where possible.</p>

Landscape Character and related special qualities													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
			Increased woodland planting or cover will have an impact on the visual character and pattern of the landscape.	2	-1	-2	3	-2	-6	3	-3	-9	Develop and use woodland opportunity mapping to support local level planning and as a starting point for discussions with landowner and farmers. Promote tree planting schemes in locations that have less impact on the areas landscape character, e.g. valley sides rather than valley

Landscape Character and related special qualities													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
												<p>bottoms.</p> <p>Impact is mitigated by the positive benefits of tree planting for the landscape and for climate change</p> <p>Target woodland planting in areas where it enhances landscape character</p> <p>Consider how successional planting can be supported</p>	

Landscape Character and related special qualities													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
													through woodland grant schemes or project delivery. Research on suitability and climate resilience of tree species for future schemes
			Impact upon wide open, expansive, characteristic or iconic views.	2	-2	-4	3	-3	-9	3	-3	-9	Target woodland planting in areas where it enhances

Landscape Character and related special qualities													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
												landscape character	
			Loss of veteran or landscape trees due to heat stress, disease or more severe storms will have an impact on landscape character, visual amenity and the cultural heritage of the landscape	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	4	-5	-20	<p>Research on suitability and climate resilience of tree species for future schemes.</p> <p>Ensure standard trees are planted in hedgerows to provide continuity with existing landscape features</p>

Landscape Character and related special qualities													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
	Land management responses to the impacts of climate change and climatic conditions	Change of land use e.g. from meadows to arable	Changes in the variety and contrast of the landscape from changed agricultural practices in response to an extended growing season leading to an impact on the visual qualities and landscape character	2	-2	-4	3	-3	-9	4	-4	-16	Support and promotion of agri-environment scheme options which are sympathetic to existing landscape character (grazing)
		Increase in cultivated area and removal of field boundary features (D)	Impact upon historic landscape character and biodiversity. Loss of field patterns and historic boundary features.	2	-2	-4	2	-4	-12	2	-4	-12	Ensure that existing Landscape Character Assessments are up to date. Highlight the importance of historic or distinctive

Landscape Character and related special qualities													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
												field patterns and boundary features.	
		Re-instatement of historical boundaries	Opportunity to bring back boundaries which were previously lost	3	4	12	3	4	12	3	4	12	Use previously collected opportunity mapping and continue to encourage planting of hedgerows to build nature connectivity and restore historical land use pattern

Landscape Character and related special qualities													
Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	
				1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		1 to 5	-5 to 5		
		Greater intensification of agricultural practices and changes in land use patterns (ID)	Historic and/or designed landscapes may see significant changes and a loss of character and integrity.	2	-4	-8	3	-4	-12	3	-4	-12	<p>Ensure that any available Historic Landscape Character (HLC) data is used to inform the development of any schemes that result in land use change at a significant scale.</p> <p>This may present opportunities to restore or enhance features that have been lost or degraded</p>

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
Local Economy	Wetter winters leading to increased occurrences and severity of flooding	Harm to businesses (D and ID) Flood damage (D)	Damage to business property/resources, damage to infrastructure	3	3	9	3	4	12	4	4	16	Advocate for sustainable drainage/flood plain restoration
			Increased costs: Insurance costs go up, expensive flood mitigation, etc... leading to businesses unviable	3	3	9	3	4	12	4	4	16	Work with natural processes as much as possible and 'make space for water' to deliver Natural Flood Management where appropriate.
Tourism and Recreation	Wetter winters leading to increased occurrence and severity of flooding	Damage to tourist infrastructure	Flood damage to walks/paths	3	2	6	3	3	9	3	4	12	Work with SCC ROW to ensure materials used on major routes are resilient to being overtopped

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
													where appropriate
	Warmer/ wetter winters and hotter/dryer Summers	Increase in number of people accessing DV for tourism and recreation	Rise in staycations - good for the economy and less carbon intensive travel from flying	2	3	6	3	3	9	4	3	12	Promote opportunities for local and small businesses and help develop a stronger local tourism economy especially in the sectors of food, drink and accommodation
			Rise in staycations - increased visitor pressures in environmentally	3	3	-9	4	3	-12	4	4	-16	Promote opportunities for off-season or winter tourism. Work with partners and

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
			sensitive areas e.g. Flatford, Dedham, etc										recreation interest groups to manage and promote recreational access and to provide a greater variety of recreational activities. Promote sustainable options and routes Promote wide range of activities within DV to spread impact of increased numbers of visitors
			Increased amounts of people wanting to access outdoor green spaces for leisure and tourism - inadequate infrastructure (parking and bins)	3	3	-9	4	3	-12	4	4	-16	
			Impact on relative tranquillity of the area from above	3	3	-9	4	3	-12	4	4	-16	

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
			Negative impact on habitat from disturbance e.g. for nesting birds	3	3	-9	4	3	-12	4	4	-16	Promote environmental awareness of local habitats. Promote balance of encouraging access in appropriate areas, and exclusion from environmentally sensitive sites e.g. at specific times of year
			More opportunities for local and small businesses and a stronger local tourism economy especially food, drink and	3	4	12	4	4	16	4	4	16	Promote tourism opportunities that encourage sustainable and responsible tourism

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
			accommodation.										
Community Life and resilience	Increased occurrence of drought	Water shortages	water rationing	4	-2	-8	4	-2	-9	4	-3	-12	promote responsible water usage and water management systems e.g. rainwater harvesting
	Wetter winters	flooding	Adverse effect on health and wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable groups. Risk of being cut off	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	Ensure emergency planning considers the needs of rural communities within the protected areas.
			Direct physical injuries and deaths due to	2	-5	-10	3	-5	-15	4	-5	-20	

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
			extreme weather events										
			Home damage	3	-3	-9	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	<p>Ensure emergency planning considers the needs of rural communities within the protected areas.</p> <p>Work with natural processes as much as possible and ‘make space for water’ to deliver Natural Flood Management where appropriate.</p>

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
		Climate conditions effects on farming/ food production	Increased food prices	2	-3	-6	3	-3	-9	4	-3	-12	Support community based food production e.g allotments
	Hot Summer Temperatures	exposure to extreme heat or excessive sun.	Increase in heat stress and related illnesses and health impacts for vulnerable groups and communities.	3	-4	-12	4	-4	-16	4	-5	-20	Encourage an increase in tree planting to provide ecosystem service benefits within towns and villages. Promote the value of trees, parks and other Green Infrastructure in terms of health and climate resilience.

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
Legislative and regularity drivers	Environment Act, Environmental Improvement Plan, PLTOF	Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)	<p>Opportunity to link with development of LNRS strategies and support their delivery.</p> <p>Development of carbon markets, BNG and other green finance/economy measures can help to address funding gap for Nature recovery</p>	2	4	8	3	4	12	4	5	20	<p>Engage with the wider Local Nature Recovery network partnerships. Makes sure local LNR strategies are supported and link effectively to delivery plans across the Protected Landscapes.</p> <p>Build on the existing work of the National Landscape Association to deliver a green finance platform and pipeline of investable projects across the protected landscape</p>

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
													family. Promote opportunities for green finance investment e.g. Connecting Constable and Gainsborough County Landscape Recovery Project
Access	Hotter drier summers	Increased risk of wildfires on some open access areas.	Some areas of extensive habitat or open access land are at increased fire risk at times of drought or dry weather.	3	-3	-9	4	-4	-16	4	-5	-20	Work with landowners/organisations to make sure wildfire monitoring and warning systems are in place Ensure that open access areas

Community and Economy – Local Economy, tourism, community life, community resilience.

Area of Impact	Headline Projection	Projected Impact Direct (D), Indirect (ID)	Risks and Opportunities	2020 (Short Term)			2050 (Medium Term)			2080 (Long Term)			Proposed Action
				Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	Likelihood 1 to 5	Impact -5 to 5	Risk	
													have wildfire management plans in place and staff are trained with the necessary equipment and emergency procedures.

Appendix 4: Partnership Working

In order to effectively deliver National Landscape purpose, it is important that many organisations, often with diverse priorities, work together.

As an African proverb says:

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

It is a statutory obligation for Local Authorities to consider the purpose of the National Landscape designation. This obligation was strengthened in section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) that updated section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) that required relevant authorities that they must seek to further the purpose (to conserve and enhance natural beauty) when making decisions that affect land in a National Landscape.

Other organisations, from the public, private, and third sectors have a legitimate interest in the purpose of the National Landscape and how they affect their own objectives. It is for this reason that working together is important in conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape and special qualities of the Stour Valley project area.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Local Authorities fund a small National Landscape staff team to help meet this duty. A wider National Landscape Partnership of organisations representing the environmental, agricultural and business sectors has been formed to support delivery of the National Landscape management plan.

A wide section of society contributes in a significant way to meet the purpose of the National Landscape and contributes to maintaining the special qualities of the Stour Valley project area. The Government commissioned Landscape Review of Protected Landscapes identified partnership working as a key strength of the National Landscapes.

There are many local community groups that work to improve their local environment and the features of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.

Appendix 5: Relationship with Planning

Planning is one of the key areas to support the delivery of National Landscape purpose, to conserve and enhance natural beauty. There are many factors, including policy and guidance when determining planning applications that may impact the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area.

Planning applications are determined by Local Planning Authorities. Individuals and organisations with an interest in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area may engage in planning processes in an effort to ensure National Landscape purpose is considered when those determining applications are balancing sometimes conflicting policy drivers.

The following topics are regularly considered when determining development proposals in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area:

- **Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley management plan:**
A National Landscape management plan is a material consideration in planning decisions, especially for proposals that may affect the character, appearance, or setting of the National Landscape.
- **National Planning Policy Framework:**
A key document in the English planning system. It sets out the government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. It is regularly updated.
- **Local Plans:**
A Local Plan is a statutory document prepared by a Local Planning Authority that sets out policies and proposals for land use in an area.
- **Setting (of a National Landscape):**
Refers to the area immediately surrounding a National Landscape that may not be included in the designated AONB, but still has a visual, sensory, or landscape connection to it. The setting can significantly influence the character, views (to and from), and experience of the National Landscape itself.
- **Major Development:**
The National Planning Policy Framework states that major development proposals are likely to be refused in a National Landscape or its setting unless it meets exceptional circumstances and is in the public interest.
- **Dedham Vale National Landscape guidance:**
Locally produced guidelines that provide detailed advice on how development proposals can meet the statutory purpose of the National Landscape.
- **Consideration of Stour Valley project area:**
Local Planning Authorities operating across the Stour Valley project area are responsible for determining planning applications within this area. As these authorities have endorsed this plan and contributed to the development of the Valued Landscape work it is anticipated that the management plan principles and

recommendations in the Valued Landscape Assessment for the Stour Valley project area are given appropriate weight in determining applications. It is anticipated that where planning permission is awarded in the Stour Valley project area it will not significantly negatively impact those defined qualities of the area that make it important to residents and visitors.

- **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment:**
A process used to evaluate and quantify the effects of a proposed development on the landscape and visual amenity. This is often requested for development proposals in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. It helps to assess how a project may impact the landscape character and views within an area, as well as the people who experience those views.
- **Design and Access Statement:**
A short, formal document that can accompany planning applications that outlines the design principles and rationale behind a proposed development. It explains how the design responds to the site context and how access has been considered for all users.
- **Biodiversity Net Gain:**
A mandatory requirement for most planning applications under the Environment Act (2021) in England. It requires that all new developments deliver at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity compared to the baseline.
- **Local Environment Management Plans:**
A document that outlines how the natural environment will be protected, enhanced, and managed on and around a development site, both during construction and after completion.
- **Historic Impact Assessment:**
A document used in the planning process to assess the effects of a proposed development on heritage assets, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas.
- **Historic Environment:**
All aspects of the environment that have been shaped by human activity over time. This includes both visible and hidden heritage features, whether designated or non-designated, and encompasses a wide range of places and objects that contribute to our understanding of the past.

Appendix 6: Resourcing

The delivery of action to conserve and enhance the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area does not fall on a single organisation. The National Landscape staff team seek to coordinate activity to deliver this management plan. Some individual organisations have statutory responsibilities to the National Landscape (relevant authorities) while other organisations have aims that will support the delivery of the management plan. By coordinating work, greater achievements can be made.

The list below outlines many of the resources available to deliver the management plan and associated roles:

- **National Landscape staff team:**
A group of professionals that coordinate activity and directly contribute to work to conserve and enhance natural beauty in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area. The staff team reports to a Joint Advisory Committee made up of Local Authority funding partners.
- **Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership:**
An informal grouping of organisations that work together to deliver the management plan. Made up of Local Authority funding partners, environmental Non-Government Organisations, Government Agencies, Representatives of membership organisations representing the farming and business communities.
- **Public funds:**
 - **DEFRA grant**
Funds made available by the Government to fund the staff team and coordinate work of the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership.
 - **DEFRA additional funds**
Additional discretionary funds made available by the Government to support specific areas of work.
 - **Farming in Protected Landscapes**
A DEFRA funded grant programme that supports farmers and land managers in National Parks and National Landscapes to deliver projects relating to people, place, nature and climate.
 - **Grants**
Funds secured by the National Landscape team and others to deliver the management plan. (see below in external funding).
 - **Agri Environment Schemes**
Government funded grant programme usually applied by landowners and farmers to deliver environmental benefits. Many programmes provide grants that can be used to deliver management plan principles and enhance natural beauty features.
- **External funding to deliver purpose**
 - **National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Grants made available to preserving and promoting the nation's heritage. Its primary purpose is to support projects that aim to protect, conserve, and celebrate the UK's diverse cultural and natural heritage.

- **Landscape Enhancement Initiative**
A programme designed to support the restoration and improvement of Protected Landscapes, often with a focus on areas of natural beauty, cultural significance, or environmental importance. This type of initiative typically aims to enhance the aesthetic, ecological, and recreational value of landscapes, while also fostering environmental sustainability and community engagement.
- **Low Voltage Undergrounding (Ofgem Allowance)**
Under Ofgem's (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets) price control framework, the regulator provides an allowance to network operators to fund specific projects, including the undergrounding of low-voltage networks in Protected Landscapes. This allowance is a part of the investment strategy for improving the overall resilience of the electricity grid.
- **Crowd funding**
A method of raising money or financial support for a project, business, or cause by collecting small amounts of money from many people, typically via the internet.
- **Sponsorship**
A company, organisation, or individual provides financial or in-kind support to an event, activity, individual, or organization in exchange for brand exposure, marketing opportunities, and other benefits.
- **Section 106**
A provision in UK planning law under the Town and Country Planning Act (1990). It allows local authorities to enter into legal agreements with developers as a condition for granting planning permission. These agreements are typically used to secure contributions from developers to mitigate the impact of development on the local community and environment.
- **Other Planning Gain**
Includes Community Infrastructure Levy. Section 111 agreements and compensatory payments may be used by some Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project proposers to offset impacts of development.
- **Philanthropic**
Financial support provided by individuals, foundations, or corporations with the primary aim of promoting the public good or advancing charitable, environmental, educational, cultural, or social causes. Unlike investments expecting financial returns, philanthropic funding is usually donated with no expectation of repayment or profit, though it may come with conditions or goals for impact.
- **Stour Valley Environment Fund**
A fund is managed by Essex Community Foundation. The Stour Valley Environment Fund is both donation seeking and grant giving, and provides a channel through which individuals, families, companies or charitable trusts can support the Stour Valley landscape.
- **Sustainable Development Fund**

Funds made available via The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) channeled through a grants programme known as the Sustainable Development Fund to support projects in the Dedham Vale National Landscape that support environmental, social and economic gains.

- **Biodiversity Net Gain Credits**
A conservation finance mechanism in the UK that allows developers to offset biodiversity losses from their projects by purchasing credits that fund habitat creation or restoration elsewhere. This is part of the Biodiversity Net Gain policy under the Environment Act (2021).
- **Carbon Offsetting**
A way for individuals, companies, or organizations to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by investing in projects that either reduce, remove, or avoid an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.
- **Corporate and Social Responsibility**
A business model where companies integrate social, environmental, ethical, and economic concerns into their operations and interactions with stakeholders. It goes beyond just making a profit. It is about doing business responsibly and contributing positively to society.
- **Volunteering**
The act of giving time, energy, and skills freely and willingly to benefit others or support a cause such as delivering this management plan without expecting financial reward.
- **Your Natural Partner**
The National Landscapes Association initiative to link potential funders with projects that support National Landscape purpose.