Photo by Matt Rigby

Sheffield Lakeland
The Next 10 Years

Sheffield Lakeland
Partnership

Made possible with
Heritage Fund

**Sheffield &
Rotherham**
Wildlife Trust

EXECUTIVE **SUMMARY**

This Working Strategy sets out how the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership will continue to work together towards our shared vision for the Sheffield Lakeland landscape as National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) funding comes to an end in March 2024. It is a framework for future action with a focus on nature recovery.

This document has been called a 'Working Strategy' because it will continue to be shaped and developed over time with other partners and stakeholders, in particular the farmers and communities in the Sheffield Lakeland area. This Strategy will also contribute to the South Yorkshire and Peak District National Park Local Nature Recovery Strategies and therefore will need to both inform and respond to those plans as they develop.

As a result of the NLHF funded project, the Partnership has a much greater knowledge of the Sheffield Lakeland area. This has been collated and analysed to provide a series of recommendations to inform the future work of the Partnership beyond March 2024, which have been incorporated into this Working Strategy. As a result, the Partnership has developed a refreshed Strategy Framework as follows:

Rob Miller

Nichola Baker

By 2033 we want to see a more natural and resilient Sheffield Lakeland landscape that is cherished, understood and valued now and in the future.

Our partnership shares a vision for a Sheffield Lakeland in which a resilient network of priority habitats and species thrive alongside the area's living, productive landscape, rich heritage, vibrant communities and strong traditions, responding and adapting to climate change.

This is a landscape of moorland and gritstone edges, intersected by native woodland cloughs with upland streams flowing in to wetlands and reservoirs surrounded by pastures – all rich in wildlife, alive with the call of the curlew and lapwing. Crossed by historic trade routes and dry stone walls, the network of paths and bridleways help to connect all Sheffield communities to the countryside on their doorstep, benefitting their health and wellbeing.

As part of the upper catchment, the landscape holds back and stores rainwater as it flows from the moorlands into the streams and rivers of the Little Don, Ewden Beck, Loxley and Rivelin before reaching the River Don, Sheffield City Centre, Rotherham Town Centre and beyond.

Through collaborative working and positive management, the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership will work with the community that live and work in the landscape to balance the needs of wildlife, agriculture, forestry and recreation in the face of a changing climate.

As a result of the work of the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership, working together with the local community:

OUTCOME 1:

→ **Sheffield Lakeland is a more resilient landscape, responding and adapting to climate change**

→ **Ambition:** Overall increase in flood water attenuation and reduction in wildfire habitat loss

OUTCOME 2:

→ **Nature is in recovery and delivering more benefits for the people of Sheffield and beyond**

→ **Ambition:** More land and water great for nature by 2033 - contributing to 30% land and water great for nature by 2030

→ **Ambition:** Overall increase in natural capital, especially the value of carbon storage and water quality by 2033

OUTCOME 3:

→ **A diverse community enjoy, value and help look after the landscape**

→ **Ambition:** A more diverse community of visitor enjoy and help look after the Sheffield Lakeland landscape.
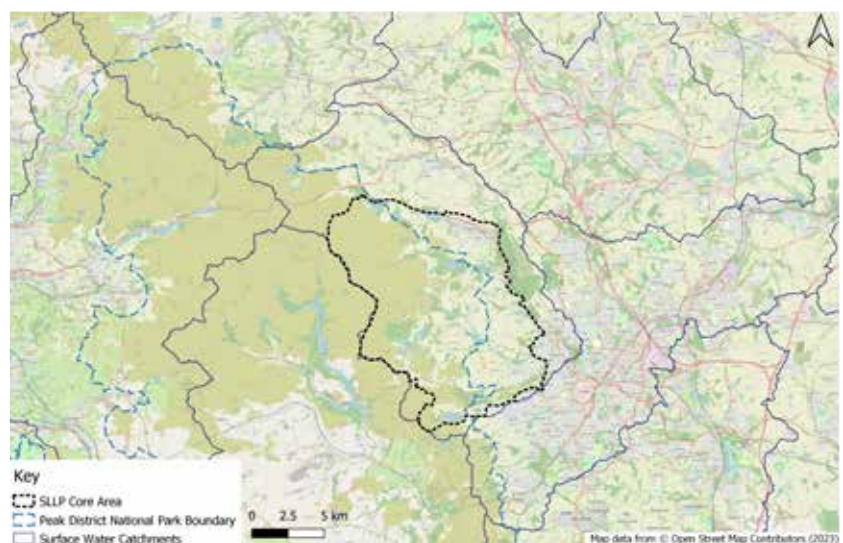
SHEFFIELD LAKELAND PARTNERSHIP LOCATION
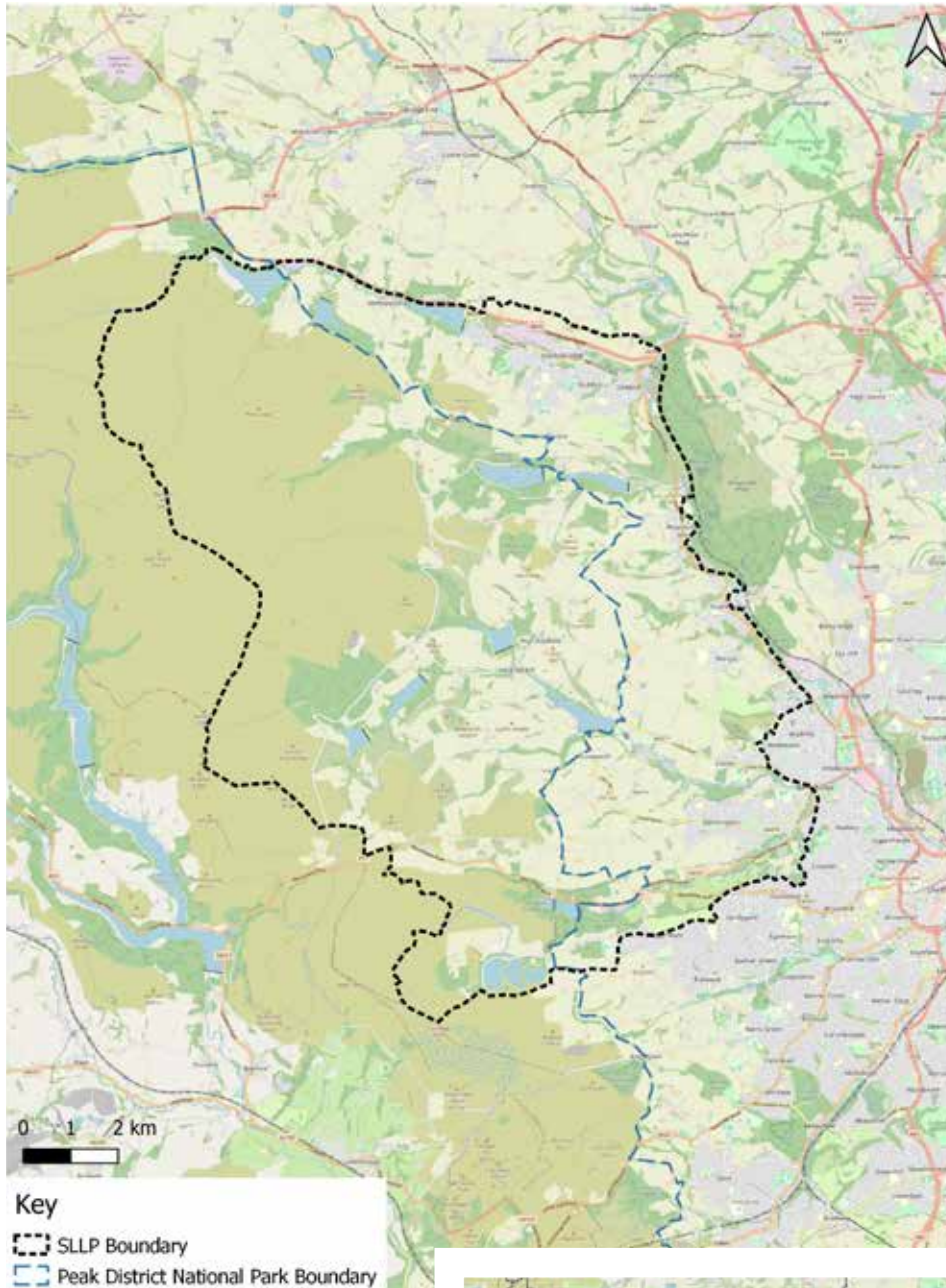
A revised map of the Sheffield Lakeland landscape area can be found below.

The dashed-lined boundary indicates the main focus of activity, but there is recognition that, going forwards, the Partnership needs to be flexible, responding to needs and opportunities as they arise, for example, by working across the full Upper Don catchment.

Key

SLLP Boundary

Peak District National Park Boundary

SHEFFIELD LAKELAND PARTNERSHIP WIDER LOCATION

Key

SLLP Core Area

Peak District National Park Boundary

Surface Water Catchments

Map data from © Open Street Map Contributors (2023)

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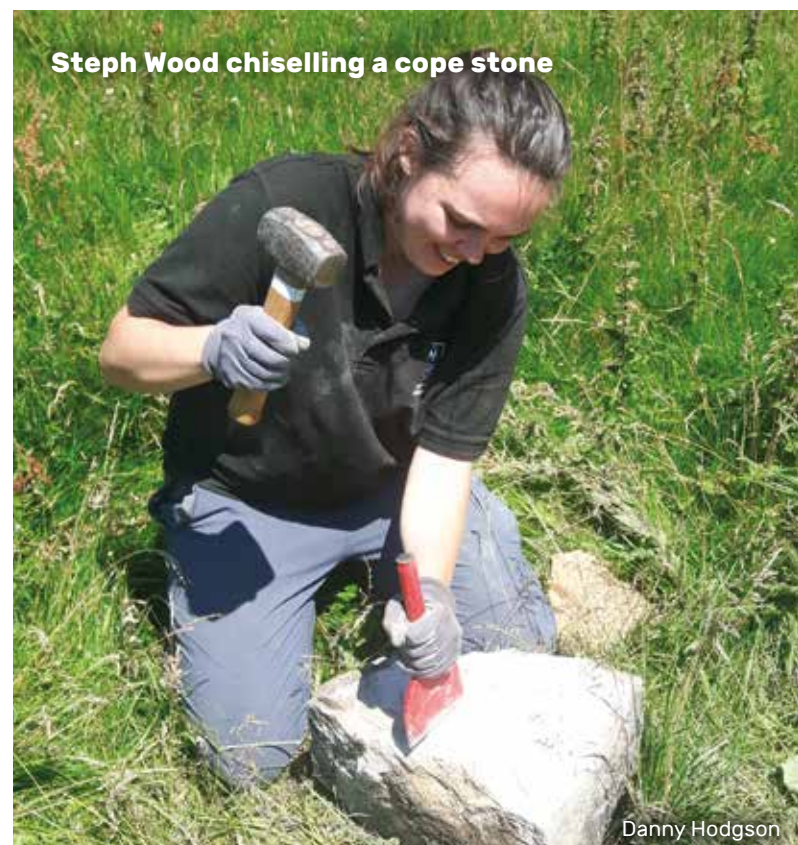## Background to the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership

The Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership (SLLP) was established in 2015 to bring together key partners who agreed to work towards the following vision and outcomes:

A wilder, more natural and resilient landscape of native clough woodland descending down from the moorland slopes to the reservoirs, streams and farmlands below, alive with the call of curlews and lapwings, and crossed by a lattice work of drystone walls and accessible paths and byways. A landscape that provides clean air and water, supports wildlife, helps to reduce flooding and improves peoples' health and wellbeing. A landscape for everyone to value, enjoy, understand – to feel part of.

— **Outcome 1:** A more connected and resilient landscape

— **Outcome 2:** Bigger, better and more joined up natural environment for people and wildlife

— **Outcome 3:** Better recorded and valued cultural heritage celebrated by local people and visitors

— **Outcome 4:** A better understanding of the local heritage with more people getting involved to help look after it – a landscape for all to learn about, value, experience and enjoy.

The SLLP secured National Heritage Lottery Funding (NHLF) in 2016, contributing to a total budget of £3.4M over five years finishing in April 2024.

Through the NLHF funded project, the Partnership has delivered a wide range of nature recovery interventions, natural flood risk management, volunteer activities, inclusive engagement opportunities and much more. An overview of the projects outputs can be found overleaf.

Steph Wood chiselling a cope stone
Danny Hodgson

REPORTING AGAINST **HF OUTCOMES**

People will:
develop skills, be trained, have learned and volunteered

OUR TARGET:
37,518

ACTUAL:
87,476
people developed skills, were trained, have learned and volunteered

DIFFERENCE:
⬆**133%**
more people engaged with by the project

VOLUNTEERING CONTRIBUTION:
£375,000

803 people attended events — ⬆ **5%**

1,484 people volunteered — ⬆ **76%**

1,811 people learned about heritage — ⬆ **39%**

10,439 people developed skills or training — ⬆ **140%**

72,939 people engaged with SLLP online — ⬆ **168%**

Heritage will be:
better managed, identified and recorded

ACTUAL:
42
aspects* of **heritage better managed**

DIFFERENCE:
⬆20%
increase on our target

ACTUAL:
124
aspects* of **heritage better dentified/recorded**

DIFFERENCE:
⬆16%
increase on our target

*Includes partnership, plans, sites, surveys, routes, group set-up.
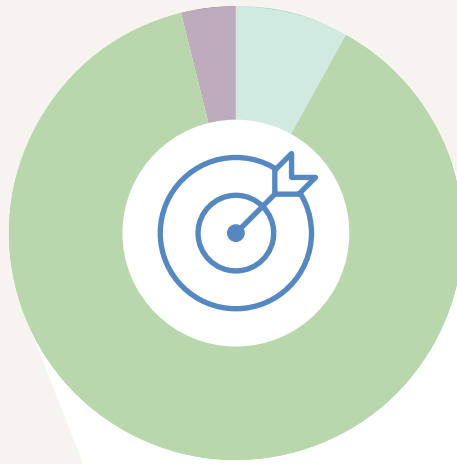
DIFFERENCE:
⬆14%
increase on our target
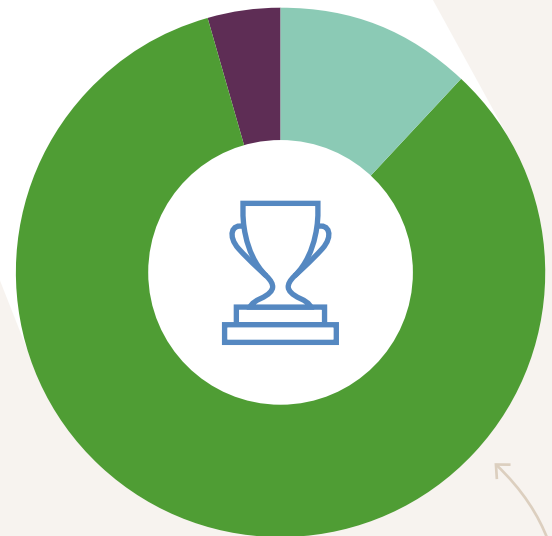
■ **644ha** of **heritage land area** in better condition

■ **228** **heritage sites/features** in better condition, including ponds, nature reserves, woodlands, routes, historical features

■ **1,811m** of **heritage DSW** repaired or in better condition

Sheffield City Council

Sheffield Hallam University
Knowledge Applied

NATURAL ENGLAND

Made possible with
Heritage Fund

Sheffield & Rotherham
Wildlife Trust

Environment Agency

YorkshireWater

Sheffield Lakeland Partnership

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

As a result of the NLHF funded project the Partnership has a much greater knowledge of the Sheffield Lakeland area. This has been collated and analysed to provide a series of recommendations to inform the future work of the Partnership beyond March 2024.

An overview, analysis and recommendations of the current situation in the Sheffield Lakeland area is set out in the Appendices and includes:

1. Overview of Sheffield Lakeland landscape and community

2. Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership: Case Studies

3. Key Drivers of Change in the Landscape

4. Strengths and Weaknesses of HLF SLLP Delivery 2018 – 2023

5. Independent Evaluation of SLLP

6. Other Related Organisations and Strategies

7. Sheffield Lakeland Nature Recovery Strategy

Owlet weigh-in

Dean Rea

Key recommendations for actions resulting from the review of the Landscape, Partnership Case Studies, Key Drivers, Strengths & Weaknesses include:

— Invest and grow the relationship with landowners and tenant farmers in Sheffield Lakeland with the aim of delivering more for nature, climate and people with them.

— Continue to work with and enable farmers to deliver nature based solutions, with the new agri-environment schemes (ELMs) presenting a real opportunity to invest in 'natural capital'. Use mapping information and local relationships to target farmers and increase area of land / farms brought in to the SLLP 'cluster'.

— Invest in farm advice and support.

— Working at scale and planning ahead presents an opportunity for up front Asset Management Plan engagement with Yorkshire Water to draw down future investment

— Potential to scope out further woodland work, linking to the Woodland Trust's sites, Ancient Woodland Inventory review and the SY Woodland Partnership.

— Ensure future activities continue to engage and involve the public and under-represented communities.

— Continue to rethink, develop and innovate new ways of working, learning from practice and research.

— Continue to be aware of other Strategies and make connections to SLLP activities as needed.

— Continue good communication between partners, especially those delivering on the ground.

— Seek opportunities to draw down match funding for revenue against any capital proposals. Build staff time into capital projects.

— Work through partners to try and find common ground with moorland owners, e.g. Peak District National Park Authority, Moors for the Future.

— Hold a significant celebration event in 2023. Deliver a focussed communication plan as part of transition. Use SLLP celebration event to invite Senior Stakeholders and Partners to find out more about SLLP and future activity.

— Determine areas where new partners could add value and approach them with specific asks. Refresh Governance document and MOU.

— Continue to seek a built heritage/ archaeological lead.

Key recommendations for actions resulting from the Sheffield Lakeland Local Nature Recovery Strategy include:

— Actively engage farmers and land managers on the new Environmental Land Management Scheme in the priority areas identified on the 'SL Nature Recovery Network' Map and supporting Species Recovery Opportunity Maps.

— Engage Local Wildlife Site owners to move all sites into positive conservation management.

— Develop targeted Species Recovery Plans for breeding waders, water vole, bats, nightjar, willow tit and flycatchers

— Undertake a feasibility study to scope out the re-introduction of beavers into the upper catchment of the Sheffield Lakeland.

— Undertake a feasibility study to re-locate white-clawed crayfish into a new ark site in the Sheffield Lakeland area.

— Refine the Sheffield Lakeland priority habitats and species once the SYLNRS and PDNP LNRS have been developed.

— Apply natural capital mapping and ground-truthing to prioritise areas for natural flood risk interventions and delivery

— Raise awareness of the ecosystem services provided by the SL Landscape to Planning Policy and decision-makers

Erosion control works, September 2019

Nabil Abbas

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

Vision

By 2033 we want to see a more natural and resilient Sheffield Lakeland landscape that is cherished, understood and valued now and in the future.

Our partnership shares a vision for a Sheffield Lakeland in which a resilient network of priority habitats and species thrive alongside the area's living, productive landscape, rich heritage, vibrant communities and strong traditions responding and adapting to climate change.

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Through collaborative working and positive management, the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership will work with the community that live and work in the landscape to balance the needs of wildlife, agriculture, forestry and recreation in the face of a changing climate.

Outcomes

As a result of the work of the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership, working together with the local community:

OUTCOME 1:

→ **Sheffield Lakeland is a more resilient landscape responding and adapting to climate change**

→ **Ambition:** Overall increase in flood water attenuation and reduction in wildfire habitat loss

OUTCOME 2:

→ **Nature is in recovery and delivering more benefits for the people of Sheffield and beyond**

→ **Ambition:** More land and water great for nature by 2033 contributing to 30% land and water great for nature by 2030

→ **Ambition:** Overall increase in natural capital, especially the value of carbon storage, water quality by 2033

OUTCOME 3:

→ **A diverse community enjoy, value and help look after the landscape**

→ **Ambition:** A more diverse community enjoy and help look after the Sheffield Lakeland landscape

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

OUTCOME 1: **Sheffield Lakeland is a more resilient landscape responding and adapting to climate change**

→ **Ambition:** Overall increase in flood water attenuation and reduction in wildfire habitat loss

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

→ Natural capital value for flood attenuation
→ Peak flow monitoring
→ Area of habitat lost to wildfire

Task	When	Lead	Resources	Partners	Income	Outputs
Work at landscape scale, planning for the long-term.	2023 onwards	SLLP Manager	SLLP Partners at Steering Group	All SLLP Partners	HF Resilience Bid (July23) to support SLLP Manager	Long-term SLLP plan
Regularly review partners and invite new partners as opportunities and issues arise	2023 onwards	SLLP Manager	SLLP Partners at Steering Group	All SLLP Partners	HF Resilience Bid (July23) to support SLLP Manager	New partners invited as appropriate
Work across other organisations strategies to combine efforts and resources.	2023 onwards	SLLP Manager	SLLP Partners at Steering Group	All SLLP Partners	HF Resilience Bid (July23) to support SLLP Manager	Cross strategy working e.g. Connected by water
Undertake climate resilience risk assessment	2023-24	SLLP Manager	SLLP Manager	All SLLP Partners	HF Resilience Bid (July23) to support SLLP Manager	Climate risk assessment and action plan
Apply natural capital mapping and ground-truthing to prioritise areas for natural flood risk interventions and delivery	2023-25	SLLP Manager	SLLP Partners and Stakeholders (workshop)	EA	Environment Programme	No. of flood risk management interventions delivered
Map and monitor wildfire and habitat loss to identify triggers and hotspots			SLLP Manager Working with Water Programme Manager and Team			
Set up and develop Landscape Laboratory to monitor and evaluate delivery and impact to inform practice	2023-26	Sheffield Hallam University (SHU)	SHU Natural and Built Environment Academic Team	SHU	Research staff time in kind; research fund allocations and scholarships; UKRI and other external grants	Indicator and output monitoring Citizen science opportunities Research insights and recommendations
Raise awareness of the ecosystem services provided by the SL Landscape to Planning Policy and decision-makers	Ongoing	SLLP Manager	SLLP Manager	SRWT All SLLP Partners		Planning decisions that invest in the ecosystem services delivered by SL

Red: Uncertain income   **Amber:** Income source identified but not secured   **Green:** Income secured

Digging ponds above Strines

Nichola Baker

OUTCOME 2: **Nature is in recovery and delivering more benefits for the people of Sheffield and beyond**

→ **Ambition:** More land and water great for nature by 2033 – contributing to 30% land and water great for nature by 2030

→ **Ambition:** Abundance of wildlife everywhere by 2033

→ **Ambition:** Overall increase in natural capital, especially the value of carbon storage, water provision and quality by 2033

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

→ Percentage of land in good ecological condition

→ Percentage of water in good ecological condition

→ Number of Species Recovery Plans in delivery and succeeding

→ Increase in natural capital values for carbon storage, water provision & quality, water regulation and flood risk

Task	When	Lead	Resources	Partners	Income	Outputs
Application of South Yorkshire nature recovery and natural capital mapping to Sheffield Lakeland area	2023-24	SLLP Manager with SRWT Nature Recovery Evidence Manager	SLLP Partners at Steering Group	All SLLP Partners	HF SLLP Extension	Nature Recovery Network and Natural Capital Priority Assets map for Sheffield Lakeland landscape indicating areas to prioritise resources and interventions.
Secure long-term management agreements/ arrangements for SLLP legacy sites e.g. Brooks Bank (YW), Ughill Farm (SRWT), partner tenant farms (SCC), woodland heart (SCC/YW)	2023-25	SLLP Manager	SLLP Manager SRWT Environmental Land Management Adviser YW Team SCC & Carter Jonas		HF Resilience Bid ELMS and BNG Private Finance	Percentage of SLLP sites with long-term management plans in progress
Actively engage farmers and land managers on the new Environmental Land Management Scheme in the priority areas identified on the 'SL Nature Recovery Network' Map and supporting Species Recovery Opportunity Maps.	July 2023 – March 2025	SRWT Environmental Land Management Adviser	SLLP Manager SRWT Environmental Land Management Adviser	SRWT, SCC, EA YW	HF Resilience Bid (July23) to support SLLP Manager and Adviser	No. of priority farms identified and approached No. of new farms engaged in NRN Ha of land in Farm Plan
	April 2025 - onwards		ELMS BNG Private Finance		ELMS Advice Income Yorkshire Water AMP 2025	
Engage Local Wildlife Site owners to move all sites into positive conservation management.	2023-25	SLLP Manager	SLLP Manager SRWT Environmental Land Management Adviser YW Team SCC & Carter Jonas	SRWT, EA YW	Not yet identified	

Red: Uncertain income **Amber:** Income source identified but not secured **Green:** Income secured

Task	When	Lead	Resources	Partners	Income	Outputs
Woodland Heart development – creation opportunities – connectivity and cloughs	July 2023 –2025	SY Woodland Partnership Manager	SY Woodland Partnership	SYMCA, SCC, SRWT, WLDT	Defra TCAF, SYMCA, SYLAs	Ha. of woodland created
Water Vole Species Recovery Plan in delivery		SLLP Species Recovery Officer	SLLP Manager SLLP Species Recovery Officer	SRWT	NE Species Recovery Programme	Water vole recovery
Breeding Wader Survey to inform Species Recovery Plan					Not yet identified	
Species Recovery Plans in development for Bats, Nightjar, Willow Tit and Flycatchers					Not yet identified	
Feasibility study for re-introduction of beavers					SCC submission to Local Flood Levy	
Feasibility study to re-locate White-clawed crayfish into a new ark site					Not yet identified	
Refine the Sheffield Lakeland priority habitats and species' once the SYLNRS and PDNP LNRS have been developed.					Not yet identified	

Leaky dam

Martin Reed

OUTCOME 3: A diverse community enjoy, value and help look after the landscape

→ **Ambition:** A more diverse community of visitor enjoy and help look after the Sheffield Lakeland landscape

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

→ Increasingly positive observed visitor behaviour at gateway sites

→ Increasing visitor diversity at gateway sites

→ Increasing diversity in conservation volunteers

Task	When	Lead	Resources	Partners	Income	Outputs
Growing the Volunteer Ranger team to increase visitor surveying, engagement and promote positive behaviour at SLLP gateway sites: Redmires/Wyming Brook and Langsett	July 23 – Mar 25	SRWT Volunteer Co-ordinator	SRWT Volunteer Co-ordinator SRWT Community Wildlife Ranger SRWT EDI Officer Training, kit, expenses	YW	HF Resilience Bid (July23) to support SLLP Manager and Adviser Ongoing SRWT-YW partnership	No. of volunteer rangers No. of visitors surveyed/engaged Observed behaviour change
Partnering with Community Anchor Organisations e.g. SOAR, MOSAIC, SADACCA working with diverse communities to trial basic volunteer activities	July 23 – Mar 25	SRWT Volunteer Co-ordinator	SRWT Volunteer Co-ordinator SRWT Community Wildlife Ranger SRWT EDI Officer Training, kit, expenses, translators	YW	HF Resilience Bid (July23) to support SLLP Manager and Adviser Ongoing SRWT-YW partnership	No. of volunteers from under-represented communities
Promote self-led volunteer activities across SLLP sites as appropriate e.g. Wild Wallers, Citizen Science, Ecological Monitoring in support of SLLP outcome indicators.	2023-2025	SRWT Volunteer Co-ordinator	SRWT Volunteer Co-ordinator Training, kit, expenses	SRWT	SRWT funds Grants	No. of self-led volunteers Volunteer outputs
Deliver the Redmires & Rivelin Partnership Gateway Management Plan					Yorkshire Water AMP 2025	
Develop and deliver the Little Don Partnership Gateway Management Plan					Yorkshire Water AMP 2025	
Seek opportunities to develop green prescribing offer within Sheffield Lakeland					Not yet identified	
Seek opportunities to develop art based activity programme within Sheffield Lakeland with the aim of attracting more diverse audiences (where sites allow) and engaging with the SL wider community.					Not yet identified	
Seek opportunities to develop cultural heritage activity programme within Sheffield Lakeland with the aim of attracting more diverse audiences (where sites allow) and engaging with the SL wider community.					Not yet identified	

Red: Uncertain income   **Amber:** Income source identified but not secured   **Green:** Income secured

INDICATIVE BUDGET FORECASTS

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/30	Notes
SLLP Extension	£268k				HF Landscape Partnership Extension until March 2024
SRWT Land Purchase	£1.2m				Fundraising for £940k
SRWT + YW Bid	£100k	£180k			HF Resilience Fund
EA Source to Sea	£151k				Natural flood management improvements
SCC Bid to Flood Levy					Beaver feasibility Study
YW Request to AMP					Landowner advice and support
YW Request to AMP					Engagement and volunteering
SRWT Bid to ELMs Landscape Recovery					Application to DEFRA
SHU Research Proposals	£265K	£537.5K	£37.5K		

Red: Uncertain income **Amber:** Income source identified but not secured **Green:** Income secured

Landscape Laboratory

Establishing a 'Landscape Laboratory' with Sheffield Hallam University will enable the Partnership to monitor progress towards the Outcome Indicators below.

OUTCOME 1: Sheffield Lakeland is a more resilient landscape responding and adapting to climate change

→ **Ambition:** Overall increase in flood water attenuation and reduction in wildfire habitat loss

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

→ Natural capital value for flood attenuation
→ Peak flow monitoring (SHU)
→ Area of habitat lost to wildfire

OUTCOME 2: Nature is in recovery and delivering more benefits for the people of Sheffield and beyond

→ **Ambition:** More land and water great for nature by 2033
→ **Ambition:** Abundance of wildlife everywhere by 2033
→ **Ambition:** Overall increase in natural capital, especially the value of carbon storage, water provision and quality by 2033

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

→ Percentage of land in good ecological condition
→ Percentage of water in good ecological condition
→ Number of Species Recovery Plans in delivery and succeeding
→ Increase in natural capital values for carbon storage, water provision and quality

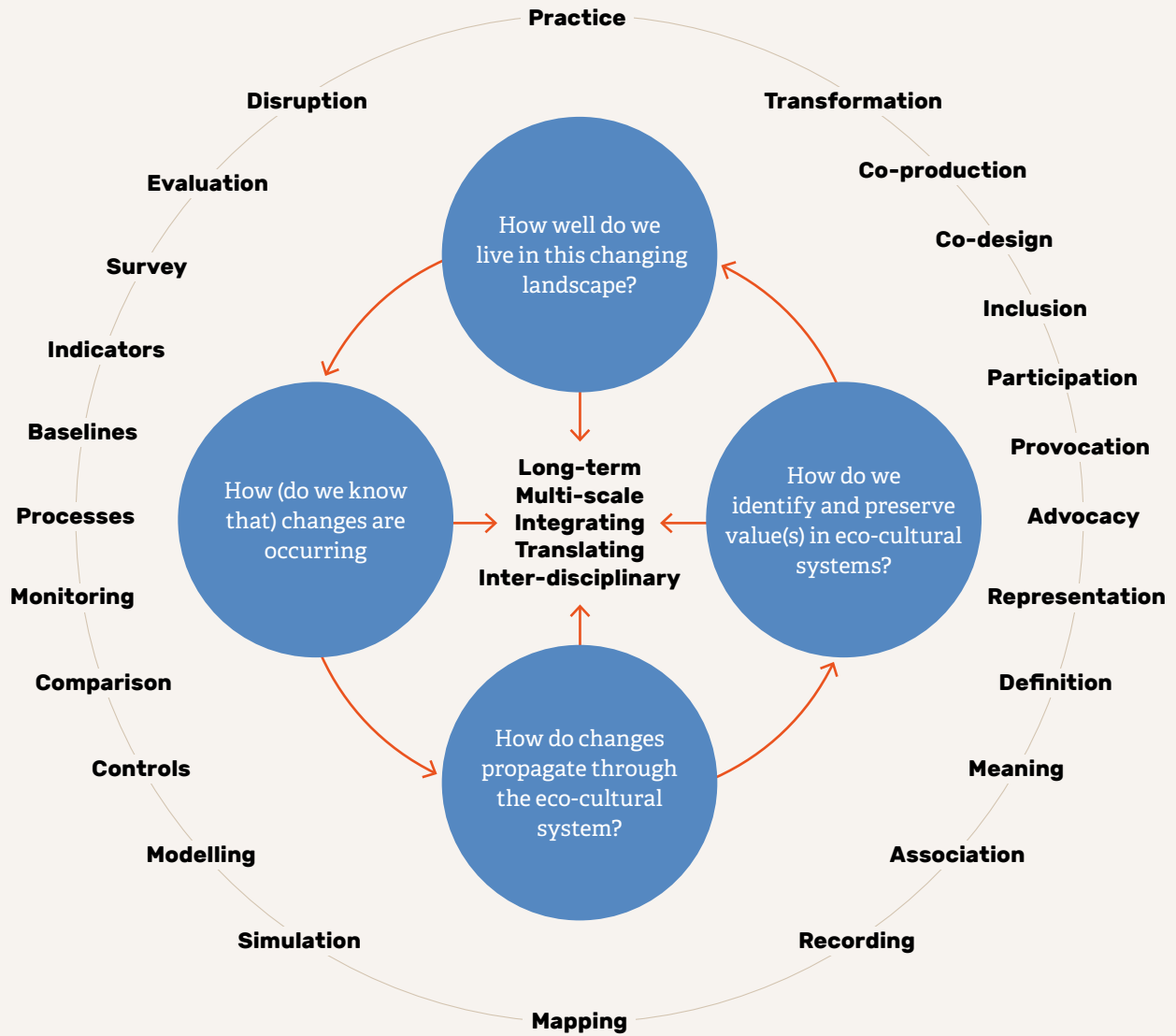**OUTCOME 3: A diverse community enjoy, value and help look after the landscape**

→ **Ambition:** A more diverse community of visitors enjoy and help look after the Sheffield Lakeland landscape
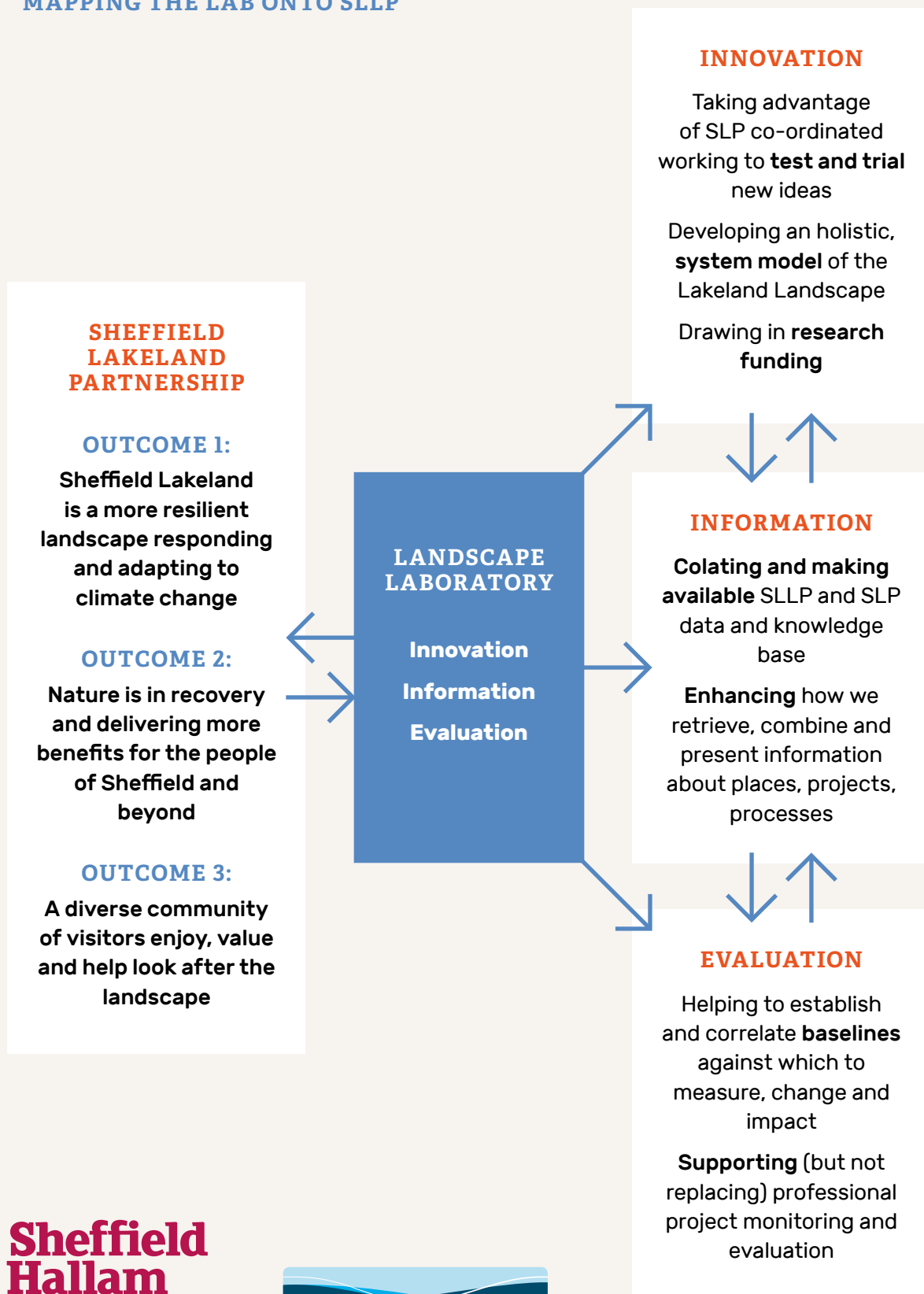
OUTCOME INDICATORS:

→ Increasingly positive observed visitor behaviour at gateway sites
→ Increasing visitor diversity at gateway sites
→ Increasing diversity in conservation volunteers

A framework for the Landscape Laboratory approach can be found overleaf.

LANDSCAPE LABORATORY APPROACH FRAMEWORK

Practice

Disruption

Transformation

Evaluation

Co-production

Survey

Co-design

Indicators

Inclusion

Baselines

Participation

Processes

Provocation

Monitoring

Advocacy

Comparison

Representation

Controls

Definition

Modelling

Meaning

Simulation

Association

Mapping

Recording

How well do we live in this changing landscape?

How (do we know that) changes are occurring

Long-term
Multi-scale
Integrating
Translating
Inter-disciplinary

How do we identify and preserve value(s) in eco-cultural systems?

How do changes propagate through the eco-cultural system?

Sheffield Hallam University
Knowledge Applied

YorkshireWater

INNOVATION

Taking advantage of SLP co-ordinated working to **test and trial** new ideas

Developing an holistic, **system model** of the Lakeland Landscape

Drawing in **research funding**

SHEFFIELD LAKELAND PARTNERSHIP

OUTCOME 1:

Sheffield Lakeland is a more resilient landscape responding and adapting to climate change

OUTCOME 2:

Nature is in recovery and delivering more benefits for the people of Sheffield and beyond

OUTCOME 3:

A diverse community of visitors enjoy, value and help look after the landscape

LANDSCAPE LABORATORY

Innovation

Information

Evaluation

INFORMATION

Colating and making available SLLP and SLP data and knowledge base

Enhancing how we retrieve, combine and present information about places, projects, processes

EVALUATION

Helping to establish and correlate **baselines** against which to measure, change and impact

Supporting (but not replacing) professional project monitoring and evaluation

Sheffield Hallam University
Knowledge Applied

YorkshireWater

PARTNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Many of the NLHF Project Partners wish to continue to collaborate and build on the Sheffield Lakeland legacy after funding has ended. This has been reflected in a 'light touch' Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this Legacy Plan that can be found in Appendix 9.

This refreshed governance structure draws on the previous Partnership Agreement but recognises there is no longer a significant central fund requiring the same level of risk management and oversight. Any future delivery arrangements involving resources/funds will be made by the partners involved, on a case by case basis, using contracts or other legal documents as required.

Therefore, the MOU demonstrates partners' commitment to ongoing collaboration in the Sheffield Lakeland as a sign of intent only. It is not legally binding.

A copy of the signed MOU can be requested from the SLLP Manager.

Walling

Danny Hodgson

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

This Working Strategy sets out how the Partnership will continue to work together towards our shared vision for the Sheffield Lakeland landscape. It is a framework for future action. This document has been called a 'Working Strategy' because it will continue to be shaped and developed over time and with other stakeholders, in particular the farmers and wider community in the Sheffield Lakeland area.

Engagement with **farmers** will be through individual conversations and discussions – as has been the approach used by the SLLP throughout the NLHF funded project. The incredible support and commitment of many farmers in the Sheffield Lakeland area has played a key part in the project's success and will be vital for continued successful delivery through this Legacy Plan. However, farmers are not natural participants in meetings and steering groups, generally preferring to engage 'over the kitchen table' on projects that directly impact their farm. We will continue to actively engage and respond to the Sheffield Lakeland farmers, working with them to shape the landscape positively for farming and nature.

As the **wider community** engage with the delivery programmes outlined in this Legacy Plan, we anticipate and hope that they will also want to develop and shape the work of the Partnership. Because this plan is very much a working document, it allows for co-creation and collaboration with the wider community into the future. We welcome opportunities to work with community groups, helping them to secure funds and develop new opportunities for community participation in a variety of programmes, including, for example, archaeology, conservation skills and nature recovery.

Archaeological dig on Wadsley and Loxley Common

APPENDICES

Overview of Sheffield Lakeland landscape and Community

Landscape Character

The Sheffield Lakeland area covers 145km2 and lies to the north west of the city of Sheffield (see below).

It is an outstanding example of a living landscape, rich in history and heritage, with vibrant communities, strong traditions and diverse habitats abundant in wildlife.
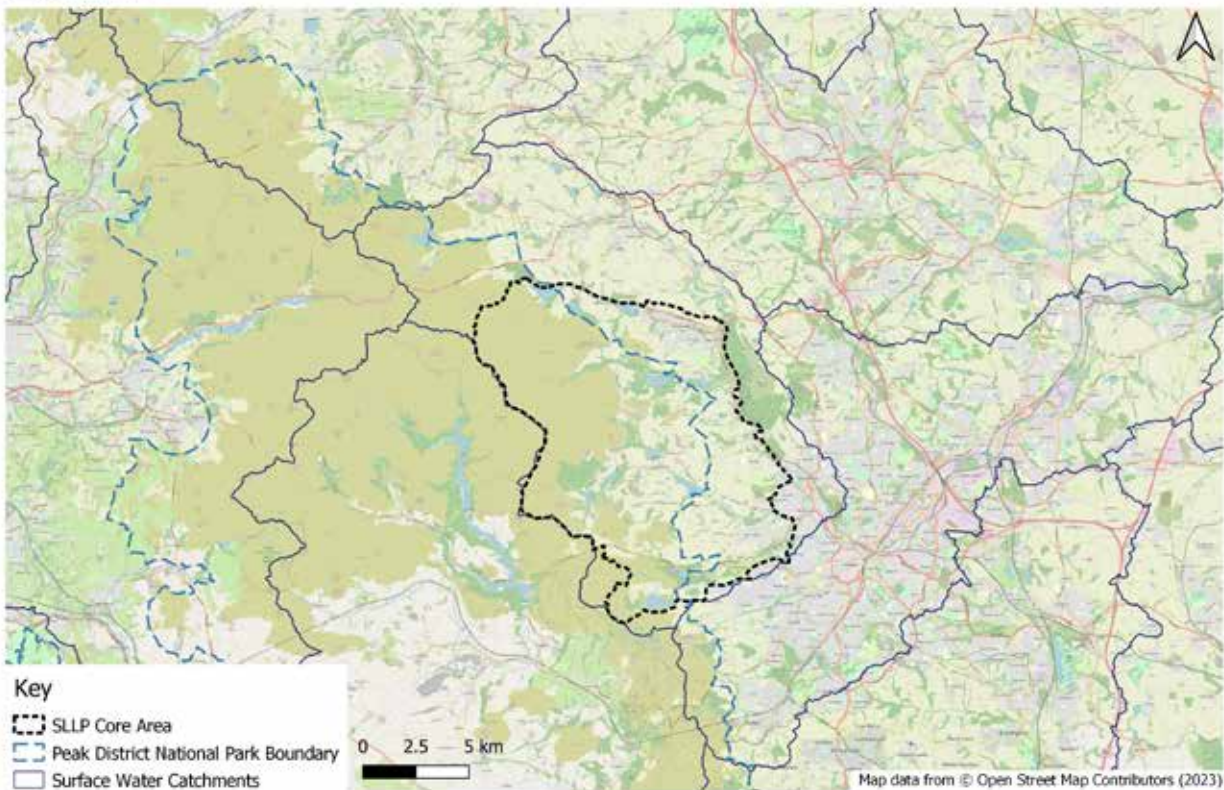
The landscape of the Sheffield Lakeland is not of one consistent character (see Landscape Character map overleaf). Its five landscape types all have their own sense of place, identities, needs and opportunities. Dominated by fast flowing streams that rise from the moors and tumble through steep sided valleys to connect to the River Don near Sheffield city, they powered the early years of the industrial revolution, and now feed into the 14 reservoirs that provide drinking water for the city's growing population. Many of the reservoirs are much-loved places for recreation, including Langsett in the north and Redmires and the Rivelin Valley in the south.

The dashed line boundary indicates the main area of focus but the Partnership will be flexible going forwards, responding to needs and opportunities as they arise.

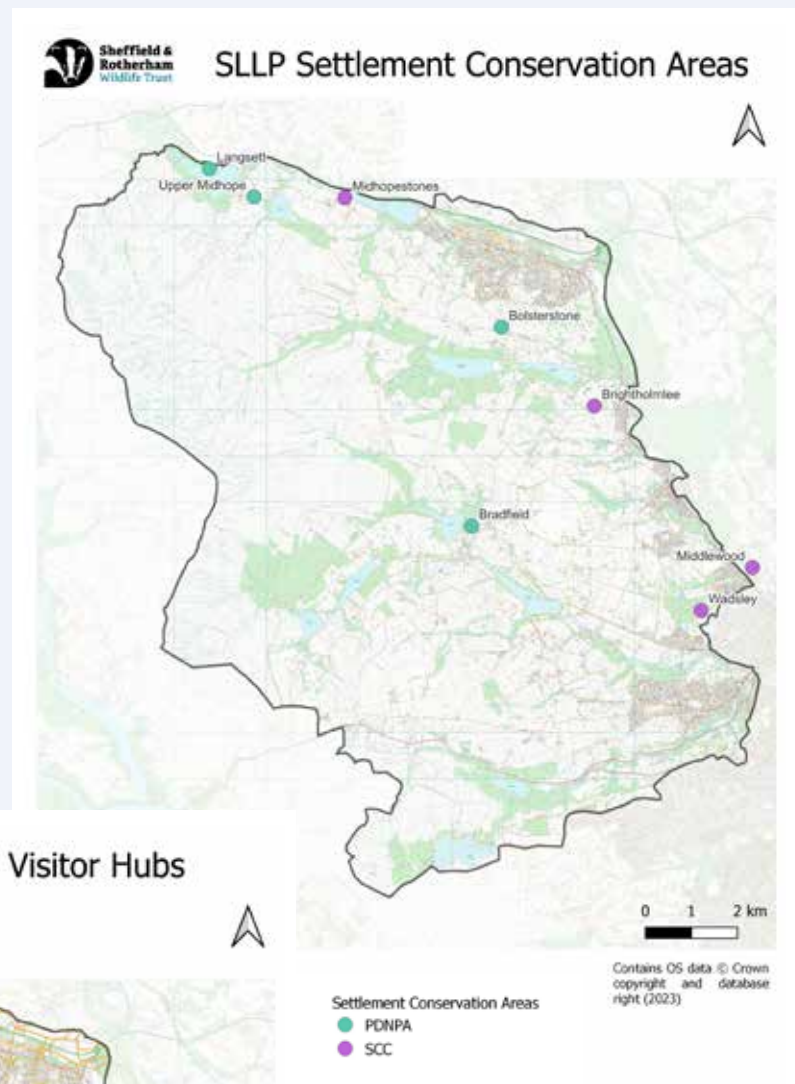
Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Location
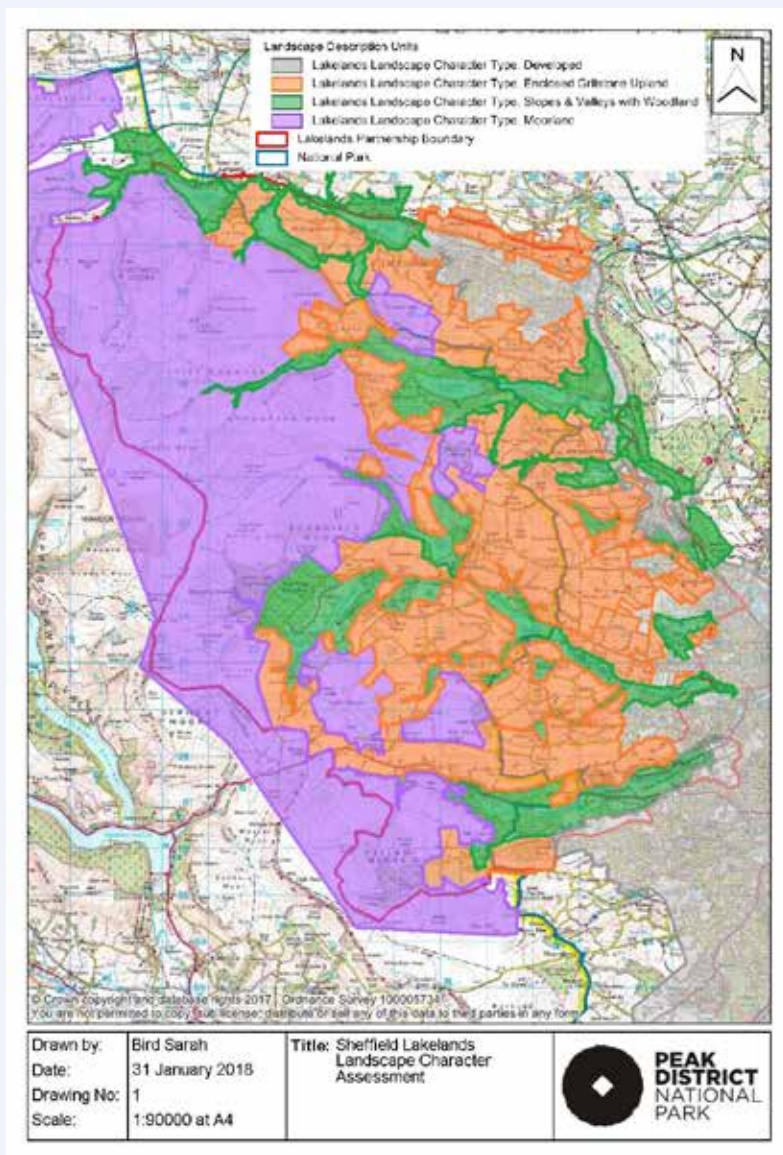
Key
- [...] SLLP Core Area
- [ ] Peak District National Park Boundary
- [ ] Surface Water Catchments

Map data from © Open Street Map Contributors (2023)

The area is a productive, working landscape with traditional farming, forestry and sporting interests alongside extractive and heavy engineering and manufacturing industries. Because of its proximity to the city of Sheffield and location within the Peak District, the area is subject to high levels of recreational use, tourism and disturbance.

There are more than a dozen villages and hamlets in the Sheffield Lakeland, as well as several suburban townships and the town of Stocksbridge on the northern border, and they are home to approximately 30,000 people.

Two thirds of the Sheffield Lakeland falls within the Peak District National Park boundary providing a buffer between the wider National Park and the urban areas of Sheffield. Of the Sheffield Lakeland landscape falling within the Peak District National Park, the following settlements have been designated as Conservation Areas: Bradfield, Langsett, Bolsterstone, Upper Midhope. Outside of the Park, Sheffield City Council has designated the following Conservation Areas: Midhopestones, Brightholmelee, Wadsley, Middlewood Park.

The layers of human interaction in the landscape have left behind Bronze Age earth-works, pack horse bridges and mileposts, historic inns, cruck barns and a lattice of dry stone walls. The civil engineering triumph of the reservoirs adds its own distinctive Victorian Gothic vernacular to the landscape.

SLLP Settlement Conservation Areas

Settlement Conservation Areas
- PDNPA
- SCC

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SLLP Access and Visitor Hubs

Legend
- SLLP Boundary
- Public Right of Way
- Additional Info
- SLLP Visitor Hubs
- Peak District National Park Boundary

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Community

Over 30,000 people live within the Landscape area. Bradfield is an area with higher levels of home-ownership than the national average, but also higher levels of ill-health amongst the residents and is well within the top 40% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country (Govt. 2019). To the north, parts of Stocksbridge are ranked within the top 40% most deprived and in the east, parts of Hillsborough directly adjacent to the Lakeland are in the top 30% most deprived neighbourhoods in the England (Govt. 2019)
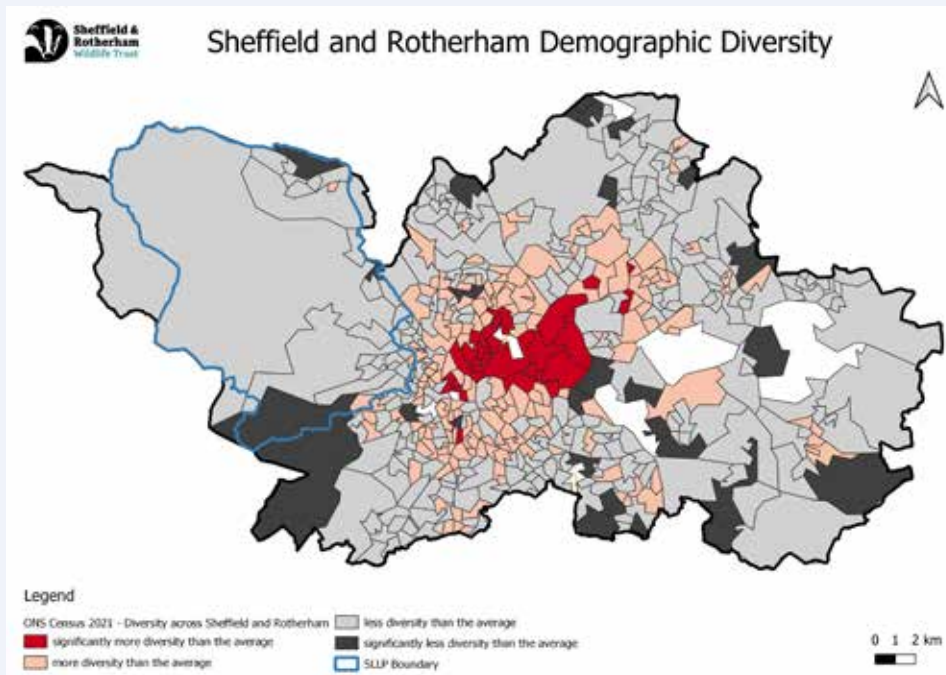
Over half a million people live in the city of Sheffield, with growing polarisation between the least and most deprived and an increasingly ageing population. Sheffield has a higher proportion of patients with depression than is found nationally. A high prevalence of mental health issues and type 2 diabetes are found not just within inner city areas, but also in urban fringe villages such as Stannington. In two of the last five years, Sheffield has had higher rates of overweight and obese 10-11-year olds than the regional and National average and campaigns such as 'Move More' have been launched as a part of a package of actions to address the city's growing health inequalities.

The Sheffield Lakeland is a predominantly rural landscape and agriculture plays an important part in shaping the landscape, culture, natural heritage and ecosystem services provided. To the west, the Dark Peak heather moors are predominantly managed for grouse shooting and owned by larger private estates. Towards the northern and eastern fringes of Sheffield City the farmland blends into increasingly complex mosaics of small holdings, paddocks and privately owned gardens. However, the agricultural core of the area is pasture dominated by grasslands. These farms are as varied as the landscape itself, and include:

— Small tenant farms of less than 50 hectares where a livelihood has to be supplemented by full-time jobs "off the farm", but where often the most diverse habitats and pockets of unimproved grasslands can be found.

— Large upland farms in excess of 200 hectares where altitude, weather and soils have shaped a lower intensity agriculture where waders find breeding space.

— More intensively farmed pastures, particularly around Dungworth where silage and grazing support large herds of cattle producing meat and dairy, including 'Our Cow Molly' who produce the locally famous ice cream.

Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Case Studies

Below are some examples of successful landscape and habitat project that were carried out as part of the NLHF project from 2018-2023.

Sheffield Lakeland Project Impact - Landscape Change

— As part of the NLHF funded Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Project, the landscape character has begun to change, replacing distinctive, often inaccessible 1950's coniferous plantations with broad-leafed woodlands through planting and natural re-generation. New woodland corridors have also been established to connect up previously isolated woodland blocks.

— At Midhope Reservoir the steep northern slopes have been cleared of conifer and planted with broadleaf trees and the southern area of conifer thinned to create new habitat, overall 46 hectares of woodland character has been improved here. Next door Brooks Bank (owned and managed by Yorkshire Water), 54 hectares tree planting is creating and connecting woodland across approximately 50% of the farm (including existing copses and valley planting). By creating this 'bridge' of new woodland we have improved connectivity between two existing wodlands - 232 hectares in all.

— Approximately 0.5km of walling has been restored as part of the 'Restoring the Lattice' project and six wader scrapes created with NE funding through the 'Working with Water' project.

— 2,130 trees planted at Brooks Bank.

Satellite image to illustrate woodland creation to improve connectivity between existing, isolated woodland blocks at Brooks Bank and surrounding area

Sheffield Lakeland Project Impact – Designated Sites

- As part of the NLHF funded Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Project, habitat improvements were made across all Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Nature Reserves in the area. This included habitat management which took place at four SRWT nature reserves and 158 ha of their habitats are in better condition, supporting more wildlife and resulting in a stronger ecological network.

Sheffield Lakeland Project Impact – Woodland Restoration

- Removal of conifers from the ancient woodland site at Agdenside and the thinning of conifer from Lodgemoor, better exposing the WWII prisoner of war camp.

- During the early summer evenings of 2021 and 2022 SLLP volunteers braved the midges and undertook nightjar surveys at all new and recent clearfell locations to better map the current population and inform how future woodland management can continue to support this special bird.

Danny Hodgson scything at Carr House, SRWT

Dave Aspinall

Left: Felling at Midhope Midhope woodland felling operations. Alastair Harvey, 7 Oct 2021

Below: Skylining at Agdenside Skylining equipment in action at Rocher end. Dave Aspinall, 6 Oct 2020


Dave Aspinall

Sheffield Lakeland Project Impact – Nature-friendly farming

— The Sheffield Lakeland project has worked across the area, and specifically with a number of Council tenanted farms covering over 500ha of land. Work has included planting trees to create new woodland, digging ponds to offer new homes for wildlife, improving access in such a way as to protect fragile habitats, fencing streams and introducing coarse woody debris to slow the flow and diversify habitats. We have also worked with DEFRA, farmers and our partners on a 'Test & Trial' to better understand how new land based government subsidies will work and where additional resources might be identified.

Sheffield Lakeland Project Impact – improving water regulation services (especially flood protection)

— 1090 trees were planted to improve natural flood management, 11 new ponds created and 13 ditches blocked to retain water and in some instances, re-wet surrounding areas. Numerous leaky dams were installed to slow the flow of water passing downstream. The project worked across 672 ha. (see map below).

— 263 ha of heathland/bog/grassland mosaic have entered positive management through the Working with Water project. And volunteers helped clear bracken from areas of heathland.
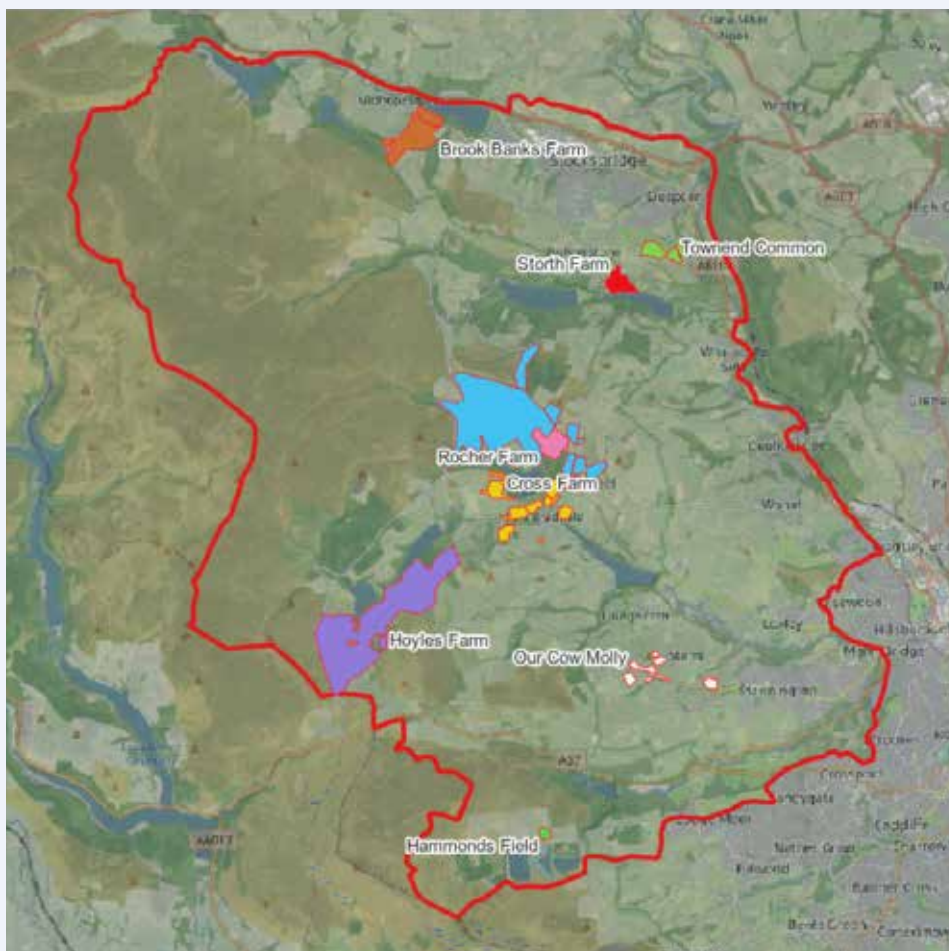
Works included installing stock proof fencing, buffer strips and drinking points to reduce poaching along water courses and pond edges.

Key Drivers of Change in the Landscape

Key Driver	Notes	Threat/Opportunity for our work in the SLL	Recommendations for SLLP to realise opportunity or mitigate threat:
Political, Policy & Legislation: Nature Recovery Networks & Local Nature Recovery Strategy Changes In Agricultural Support to Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) Introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority will be the responsible authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). A Nature Recovery Network map, to inform priorities and spending (including ELMs and BNG), is in draft. Still much uncertainty as to how the ELMs will work, with less funding invested than previously proposed. There is a risk that some farmers will stay out and intensify, pasture may be converted to arable. There are three strands under ELMS: 1. Sustainable farming incentive 2. Local nature recovery 3. Landscape recovery BNG will become mandatory in November 2023 leading to an increase in demand for BNG offsets.	**Threat** Uncertainty over LNRS and what it will mean in the SLLP, lack of leadership. Insufficient funds for ELMS and too high a level of commitment, farmers do not take up and instead intensify or sell. Initial feedback indicates there is little appetite for measures that will reduce productivity. Farm management plans may be drawn up at the lowest cost by people with no local knowledge might offer little real environmental benefit. Potential benefits from BNG may not be realised due to a lack of skills and knowledge within the SLLP area. ELMS T&T farmers nationally have identified "lack of agricultural business knowledge" as a problem with most farm advisors. **Opportunity** Local Nature Recovery scheme tier may offer individual holdings a higher level of support than sustainable farming and will help deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Sheffield Rural Estate will likely be an essential core to any initiative. Sheffield City Council support through the Rural Estate Management Plan is positive so far. SLLP can build on its knowledge and practice from the Defra ELMs Test & Trial (T&T) – well placed to continue to support farmers in this increasingly complex area.	1. Continue to develop (and be seen to be developing) relationships with local farming community and SCC rural tenants. 2. Use ELMS T&T to draft a Landscape Recovery proposal for Bradfield area working across a number of landholdings e.g. addressing water quality issues resulting from poor farm infrastructure. Include Carr House Meadows (SRWT) and Brooks Bank (YW) into Landscape Recovery scheme if possible. 3. Develop Landscape Laboratory (SHU) as long-term monitoring across biodiversity, farm economics, productivity and natural capital.
Social: Increased visitor pressure, whilst some communities continue to be under-represented e.g. visible ethnic minorities.	Some 'gateway' locations in the SLLP e.g. Redmires have become increasingly popular, especially since Covid19 lockdowns encouraged greater use of local green spaces. There is a perceived need to have greater engagement with 'new' visitors in order to raise awareness of wildlife sensitive sites and encourage positive behaviour. Growing awareness and recognition of the health and wellbeing benefits of having a connection and access to nature.	**Threat** More people means increased wildlife disturbance, potentially resulting in species loss. This is evidenced on the south side of Redmires as a good example. More anti-social behaviour resulting in increased management costs – signage, rangering, fire prevention, litter. SCC sell the city as the "Outdoor City" but there is little investment in the rural leisure / access infrastructure which supports this or awareness of site carrying capacity. Perception of visitor profile as white, middle class and under-representative of wider community. **Opportunity** SLLP visitor engagement pilots with YW have shown there is the potential to positively engage visitors which can lead to behaviour change beneficial to wildlife (dogs on leads). Benefits of nature connectedness and health & wellbeing activities can be promoted to the wider community (specifically under-represented communities) where appropriate.	1. Expand joint delivery with YW to include positive behavioural change for current visitors and green prescribing and inclusion of under-represented groups.

Key Driver	Notes	Threat/Opportunity for our work in the SLL	Recommendations for SLLP to realise opportunity or mitigate threat:
Environmental: Multiple demands on land use: flood risk, water provision, water quality, carbon storage, food production, development, biodiversity, with lack of clarity about priorities to help support and advise farmers.	Increasing land pressure means there is a greater demand/need to develop shared approaches to land use across the SLLP. The land will have to be managed for multiple benefits.	**Threat** Wrong decision making when deciding land use e.g. poor approach to tree planting leading to loss of good habitat. Opportunity mapping is only as good as the quality of the data used. Current models constantly being improved and updated. Always need ground-truthing. Finding the balance between economic, environmental and use. **Opportunity** Although high level, Nature Recovery Network and Natural Capital mapping and accounting offer good tools to use as a basis for land use planning and prioritisation. There is still great potential for natural flood risk management in the SLLP area, and careful tree planting and regeneration (e.g. for connectivity) wetter wetlands and moorland could have a significant positive impact on the net carbon balance if managed better. Combining on-the- ground practical skills with academic expertise.	1. Use Natural Capital Mapping/Accounting and Nature Recovery Network together to shape and inform the SLLP Landscape Plan. 2. Seek funding and deliver through ELMS, BNG and farm advice / support in order to deliver a range of ecosystem service benefits (e.g. NFM, carbon, water quality, water provision) and biodiversity improvements. 3. Ground truth wherever possible. 4. Develop a Landscape Recovery bid, drawing on Natural Capital Mapping and Nature Recovery Network, to follow on from ELMS T&T, include EA Source to Sea as possible match / blended finance. 5. Monitor Sheffield Local Plan and approach to development in the SLLP e.g. Hepworth site 6. Develop a SHU long-term monitoring programme to improve and update NCM/NRN as part of the Landscape Laboratory
Environmental: Climate Change	Increase in temperature fluctuations becoming harder to respond/adapt to or mitigate.	**Threat** Increase in wildfires/moorland fires due to extreme temperatures. Increase in flooding downstream from flash floods in the upper catchment. Greater loss of carbon and high dissolved carbon from drier moorlands and peat erosion. Species unable to adapt fast enough to changing climate e.g. mountain hares. **Opportunity** Tree planting & shrub regeneration in cloughs and appropriate locations to help slow the flow and improve habitats and farm infrastructure, including gully blocking, peat restoration.	1. Develop a SLLP climate risk assessment and progress actions identified. 2. Promote the need for re-wetting moorland and peat areas, increasing wetlands and slowing the flow in the upper catchment.
Social: Skills/ Expertise Shortage	New approaches to finance – ELMS, BNG, natural capital – require different skills sets and different ways of thinking. Farmers, ecologists and economists working hand in hand to optimise land use.	**Threat** Lack of skills holds back progress in SLLP area. Lack of interest, confidence, certainty and/or knowledge of new schemes from farmers and other agencies. **Opportunity** For SLLP work to engage and inform, upskill farmers and partners in land use and blended finance initiatives – share learning across and between partners to pool knowledge.	1. Establish natural capital, ELMS, BNG and other pilots in SLLP – using SRWT Ughill Farm as test & learn site

Strengths and Weaknesses of HLF SLLP Delivery 2018 – 2023

In 2022, the Partnership considered the strengths and weaknesses of the programme and its impact since National Lottery Funding began. These are summarised below:

Strengths	Recommendations:
Engagement with the landowners and tenant farmers by the Wildlife Trust – which others would struggle to undertake e.g. as a regulator, landlord	Invest and grow the relationship with landowners and tenant farmers in Sheffield Lakeland with the aim of delivering more for nature, climate and people with them.
Delivering on-the-ground nature based solutions that can also respond to the emerging South Yorkshire Nature Recovery Strategy through trusted relationships with local farmers.	Continue to work with and enable farmers to deliver nature based solutions, with the new agri-environment schemes (ELMs) presenting a real opportunity to invest in 'natural capital'.
Landscape overview, connectivity – linking into Yorkshire Water's Land Anchor Network (YW).	Working at scale and planning ahead presents an opportunity for up front AMP engagement with YW to draw down future investment
Woodland Heart has been a real success – join up with landowners such as YW/SCC woodland.	Potential to scope out further woodland work, linking to the Woodland Trust's sites, Ancient Woodland Inventory review and the SY Woodland Partnership.
The SLLP team has been very front facing, engaging the public and under-represented communities.	Ensure future activities continue to engage and involve the public and under-represented communities.
Despite Covid, SLLP has carried on – good learning and new ways of working.	Continue to rethink, develop and innovate new ways of working, learning from practice and research.
New partnerships have developed, bringing new skillsets and capacity. For example, Sheffield Hallam University.	Determine areas where new partners could add value and approach them with specific asks.
Good connections and links in to partner strategies – complimentary aims and delivery e.g. Connected by Water (EA).	Continue to be aware of other Strategies and make connections to SLLP activities as needed.
Enabled partnership response on the ground to landscape change e.g. larch removal	Continue good communication between partners, especially those delivering on the ground.
Pooling and multiplying resources through partnership working means we can achieve more together.	Continue to seek opportunities to pool resources and maximise our funds.

Weaknesses	Recommendations:
How do we keep partnership going with things like AMP8 which tends to be capital (YW) – 2025-2030 + 2024 periodic review.	Seek opportunities to draw down match funding for revenue against any capital proposals. Build staff time into capital projects.
Moorland estate engagement has been challenging e.g. in relation to lack of voluntary management plans, wildlife crime and approach to burning. Can make it difficult for organisations like the Wildlife Trust to engage.	Where the Wildlife Trust has struggled to engage moorland owners, work through other partners and organisations to try and find common ground e.g. PDNPA, MFTF.
Share more SLLP successes - there has not been enough communication about achievements.	Hold a significant celebration event in 2023. Deliver a focussed communication plan as part of transition.
Can we engage with more farmers? Need to bring more in in order to extend impact.	Use mapping information and local relationships to target farmers and increase area of land / farms brought in to the SLLP 'cluster'. Invest in farm advice and support.
Sheffield United Community Foundation and Peak District National Park Authority have not been actively engaged at a strategic level since initial conversations in 2016.	Determine areas where new partners could add value and approach them with specific asks. Refresh Governance document and MOU.
Haven't engaged with senior leadership/decision-makers in the area? Eg EPIP, Town Fund, U Don Walk Trust, local Councillors etc., LAC	Use SLLP celebration event to invite Senior Stakeholders and Partners to find out more about SLLP and future activity.
Lack of archaeological input – data, strategic partner.	Continue to seek a built heritage/archaeological lead.

Independent Evaluation of SLLP

The independent evaluation for the project is still in progress. Therefore, only an overview of the initial findings has been included here:

Outcome Evaluation "Landscape-scale thinking at its best"	
A joined up approach	"It has brought cohesive activity to landscape units under different landowners."
Engaged community	"It is surprising how small group projects can help develop your skills, or make use of skills that you can offer."
Sustainable	"Because these groups were already established work we enabled will continue beyond the life of the project."
Added knowledge	"New initiatives in NFM, ELMS tests and high level research opportunities are leading to a Landscape Laboratory."
Going forwards	Joining in the later stages it's clear to me that positive relationships and good communications are key."

"It's been great to make connections with other key stakeholders and work collaboratively."
Findings explained using quotes from evaluation surveys

Other Related Organisations and Strategies

— Environment Agency: Connected by Water, Don, Dearne and Rother Network Catchment Plan

— Government: 25 Year Environment Plan with Tree Action Plan, Peat Action Plan, Nature Recovery Plans, Environment Improvement Plan

— Peak District National Park Authority: Management Plan, Local Plan and Local Nature Recovery Plan, Landscape Strategy, Wooded Landscapes Plan

— Sheffield City Council: Rural Estates Management Plan, Local Plan, Trees & Woodlands Strategy, Active Travel Plan, Outdoor City, Green & Open Spaces Strategy

— Sheffield Hallam: University 'Transforming Lives' strategy, Climate Action strategy, Social and Economic Research Institute

— South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority: Emerging SY Local Nature Recovery Strategy

— Yorkshire Water: Yorkshire Land Network

— Natural England: Protected Sites, Landscape Character. Nature Recovery Networks. Advising on Agri-Environment Schemes.

Aucan Coloma, one of the Wildscapes team installing one of more than 20 'leaky dams' to support an upland water vole colony (C) D Westley.

An Initial Sheffield Lakeland Nature Recovery Strategy

The following sets out an initial Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Evidence Base for the Sheffield Lakeland area that has informed our Vision and Action Plans.

The Sheffield Lakeland is a landscape that sits on the boundary between South Yorkshire and the Peak District National Park. The SY Mayoral Combined Authority and the Peak District National Park Authority are both developing LNRSs for their areas. The Sheffield Lakeland LNRS set out below will need to both inform and be informed by these larger strategies as they set their priorities. The following sets out the nature recovery priorities as determined by the SLL partners at this time, with reference to the Government Guidance for preparing an LNRS.

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Priority Habitats

Sheffield Lakeland is made up of five key priority habitats: mire, wetland, heathland, grassland and woodland (including conifer, broad-leaved and mixed). The SL Priority Habitat map can be found overleaf.
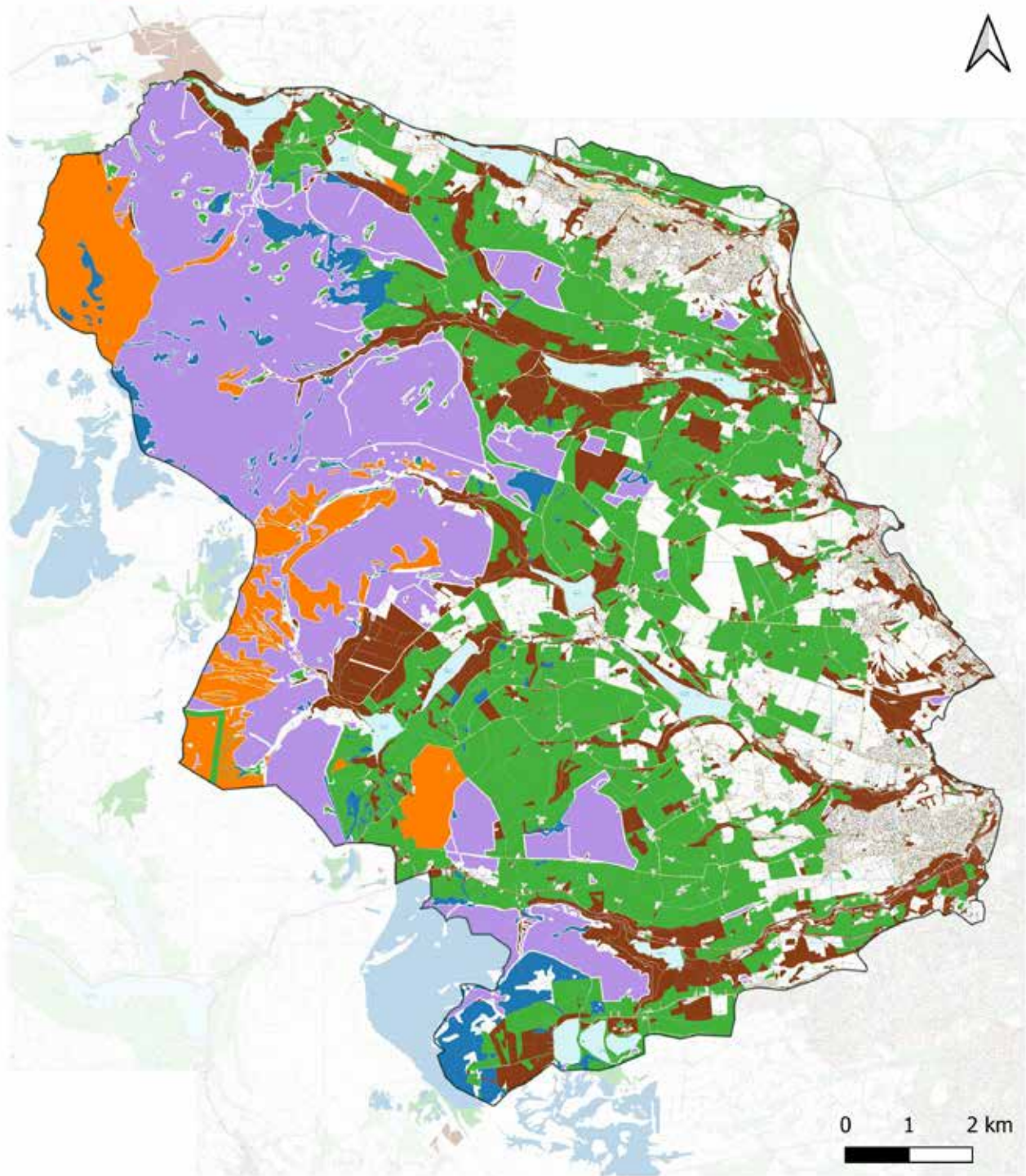
Mire

Away from the moorland, spotted amongst unspoilt pastures, are small mires and flushes beneath springs and along seepages lines. These areas are botanically very rich with some featuring round-leaved sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, an uncommon species in the South Pennines, but commonly found above Agden Reservoir near Bradfield.

Round-leaved sundew and sphagnum – photo by N. Baker SRWT

SLLP LNRS Priority Habitat

Key

SLLP Boundary

SLLP Priority Habitat

Mire

Wetland

Heathland

Grassland

Woodland

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Wetland (including Rivers and Reservoirs)

The rivers and reservoirs of the area provide habitat for waterside birds such as dipper, *Cinclus cinclus*, grey wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea,* and common sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*.

Heathland

Most of the Sheffield Lakeland portion of the Dark Peak SSSI is below the deep peat of the plateaux where the vegetation more typically consists of heathland dominated by heather, with areas of acidic grassland, and the typical acid loving dwarf shrubs and grasses found in the region such as bilberry, *Vaccinium myrtillus*. In addition, the less common cowberry, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* and cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, can also be found.

Much of the heather moors in the Sheffield Lakeland area are regularly burnt or cut to provide a supply of young shoots for managed red grouse, *Lagopus lagopus*, populations. The

Sheffield Lakeland area supports significance numbers of breeding waders including curlew, *Numenius arquata*, lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus* and golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*. The moors are also home to the mountain hare, *Lepus timidus*, the only population in England.

Wyming Brook heathland following bracken removal by volunteers, (c) Paul Jarman, 9 Jan 2023

Grassland, Scrub and Woodland Edge

Sheffield Lakeland retains a good percentage of only lightly improved permanent pasture, together with a few special species rich grasslands which are exemplars of what was traditional to the Dark Peak fringes. These grassland offer feeding and breeding opportunities to breeding waders and sit within a Natural England Curlew Priority Area. A number of low, species rich grasslands also support waxcap communities.

In many places where agriculture remains relatively low-impact, scrub and woodland edge habitats have been allowed to develop, breaking hard lines in the landscape and creating both connecting habitats for many species, including bats, and breeding areas for woodland edge/scrub specialists such as Redstart, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

Woodland (including conifer, broad-leaved and mixed)

The land surrounding the reservoirs have traditionally been planted with conifers and these supplement the broadleaf woodlands which dominate the bottoms of the valleys from the Don up into the clough woodlands at the edge of the moors. While some of these coniferous plantations will remain part of the economic lifeblood of the area, others are being converted to mixed or broadleaf woodland. The mosaic of conifer, mixed and broadleaf woodland offer habitats which can be enjoyed by people as well as offer a home to breeding birds such as willow tit, *Poecile montanus*, and nightjar, *Caprimulgus europaeus*.

The steep sided cloughs are refuges of sessile oak, *Quercus petraea*, and birch, *Betula spp.*, woodland with associated woodland ground flora. The woodlands of the Dark Peak support small numbers of woodland and woodland edge birds such as pied flycatcher, *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*, have been regularly reported in the past, but records have become increasingly infrequent over the past 10 years despite favourable habitat conditions, potentially due to illegal persecution.

Photo taken by Nabil Abbas, SRWT. At Brooks Bank scrapes were installed in grassland for breeding waders such as the curlew

Priority Species

A comprehensive analysis of priority species for the Sheffield Lakeland area will draw from the SY LNRS. However, the following sets out the known species priorities for the Sheffield Lakeland area at this time:

Breeding Waders: **Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*) and **Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*)	
Why?	Good population in SLLP Area. Natural England priority area for breeding waders. Curlew and lapwing both UK Red-Listed Species (BTO BOCC5).
Key requirements	**Nesting:** The most successful plots are generally 2ha in size and located in level or slightly sloping fields with an open aspect.
	Rural payments advice (RSPB) best practice land management for waders ≥ 30m from any line or group of trees.
	Heterogeneous sward on wet grassland with some standing water e.g. scrapes, with muddy edges. Many waders will typically be recorded in the >100 m band during BBS surveys.
	Foraging habitats: Wet open grassland preferred, will use arable fields if clear of young growth.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable to predation and of disturbance. (RSPB) So we can remove steep slopes and areas 50m each side of busy footpaths and bridleways.
Conservation	Conservation measures should focus on existing breeding sites, manage livestock and restoration of landscape through re-wetting and grassland.

Breeding Waders: **Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*)	
Why?	Good population in SLLP Area. Natural England priority area for breeding waders. UK Amber-Listed Species (BTO BOCC5).
Key requirements	**Nesting:** Simple scrapes in vegetation rushes grass tussock.
	Retain and restore patches of wet ground in both grassland and moorland areas. Extensively graze wet grasslands to provide a mosaic of tall and short vegetation.
	Probably able to make use of small wet flushes on sloping ground.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable to predation and of disturbance. (RSPB) So we can remove steep slopes and areas 50m each side of busy footpaths and bridleways.
Conservation	Conservation measures should focus on existing breeding sites, manage livestock and restoration of landscape through re-wetting and grassland.

Water vole (*Arvicola amphibious*)

Why?	Possibly last population in South Yorkshire is found in the SLL area around Redmires. Endangered in England (Mammal Society).
Key requirements	5m strips of riparian vegetation along water courses with easily penetrable banks and slow-flowing water courses ideally >1m depth.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable to predation by mink, flooding where there are no refuges, habitat loss and fragmentation, human/dog disturbance.
Conservation	Conservation measures should focus on habitat creation to extend known population opportunity and potential new sites above reservoirs plus connectivity.

Bats (various)

Why?	Healthy population in SL area due to woodland, river and stream corridors. All UK bats are European Protected species.
Key requirements	**Roosting habitats:** old trees, bat boxes, buildings, bridges, caves, mines.
	Foraging habitat: freshwater, wetlands, woodland, grassland, plus linear features for connectivity e.g. hedgerows, continuous tree lines, woodland rides.
	They forage 1–26km from summer roosts depending on species. A gap of 10m can be a barrier to connectivity.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable to loss of habitat connectivity.
Conservation	Conservation measures should focus on maximising insect populations and providing a varied habitat structure in the vicinity of open water.
	Habitat management advice for bats: A guide for land managers, land owners and their advisors (JNCC).

Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)	
Why?	Good population in the SL area attracted to felled conifer plantation and heathland areas. UK Amber-Listed Species (BTO BOCC5).
Key requirements	**Nesting habitat:** secluded patches of bare ground within low, often shrubby, vegetation (eg lowland dry heath, clear-felled commercial forestry (transient 7-12 yrs), coppiced woodland (transient 4-5 yrs).
	Feed over heathland and along forest rides and edges, water bodies with rich emergent invertebrate, so probably not influenced by our reservoirs.
	Feed over heathland and along forest rides and edges.
	Most successful when there is a range of food-rich habitats at hand e.g. wetlands – such as reedbeds, fens and grazing marsh – native woodlands, mature hedges and old pasture.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable to disturbance (e.g. dogs)
Conservation	Conservation measures should focus on retention of suitable nest sites within forestry and woodland / heathland fringe. Species rich grassland core and restoration opportunities for feeding.

Willow tit (*Poecile montanus*)	
Why?	Records of willow tit in SL area. UK Red-Listed Species (BTO BOCC5).
Key requirements	Damp habitats that support thickets of dense scrub and decaying deadwood; wet woodland, former industrial sites (gravel pits, quarries, spoil pits) and scrubby margins.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable to habitat loss – particularly damp woodland, removal of standing dead wood.
Conservation	Conservation measures should focus on retention of suitable nest sites within woodland. See YWT Willow Tit Handbook.

Woodland edge birds: **Pied Flycatcher** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*), **Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa striata*) and **Redstart** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)	
Why?	Records in the SL area and previous habitat management work. Red-Listed Species (BTO BOCC5).
Key requirements	**Redstart** – mature oak woodlands also hedgerows alongside streams.
	Prefer sparse forests and forest edges, but also like landscapes that are shaped by humans, such as orchards, parks and wild gardens.
	Flycatchers – mature woodland and woodland glades.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable to habitat loss.
Conservation	Conservation measures should focus of retention of woodland glades in existing mature woodlands and development of species rich grassland / rough grassland scrub habitats adjacent to woodlands for feeding, this aligns with barn owl.

Other Priority Species to consider:

Re-introduction of the **Beaver**	
Why?	Supports water vole conservation and general improvements to the riparian/wetland habitat. Currently a missing keystone species. Will support natural flood risk management initiatives in the upper catchment.

Re-location of **White-clawed Crayfish**	
Why?	Declining species extinct from much of the Sheffield and beyond due to American signal crayfish invasion, but strongholds remain in the upper catchment within SL area.

Designated Sites

The Sheffield Lakeland partially falls into the Peak District National Park. Within the Sheffield City Council Planning boundary, a number of sites have been designated as Local Wildlife Sites.

A number of international, national and local conservation designations cover the Sheffield Lakeland landscape area. These are summarised below and can also be seen in the following maps. Bringing Local Wildlife Sites into positive conservation management would be a key target for nature recovery.

South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) follows the boundary of the National Park for the purposes of Sheffield Lakeland and covers two thirds of the partnership area. It is land designated under the European Habitats Directive 1992 as important to the conservation of priority habitats and species, including dry heaths, blanket bogs and clough woodland. The South Pennine Moors SAC represent the most south easterly occurrence of blanket bog in Europe.

Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1), Special Protected Area (SPA) covers about one third of the Sheffield Lakeland which includes the major moorland blocks from West Yorkshire to South West Derbyshire. SPA's are a European designation which protects the habitats of migratory and other threatened bird species.

Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) underpins both the SAC and the SPA within the Sheffield Lakeland area. The Natural England citation describes the area as a "wild, open and more or less continuous moorland, predominantly at an altitude of 400–600m". Typical vegetation includes plateaux blanket mires; wet and dry heaths and acid grasslands, together with associated flushes and mires on moorland slopes. The area's significance is increased because several vegetation types, plants and animals are at either the southern or northern limits of their distribution in this country. Over half of the Sheffield Lakeland landscape is located within the Dark Peak SSSI, on the eastern border of this internationally important moorland.
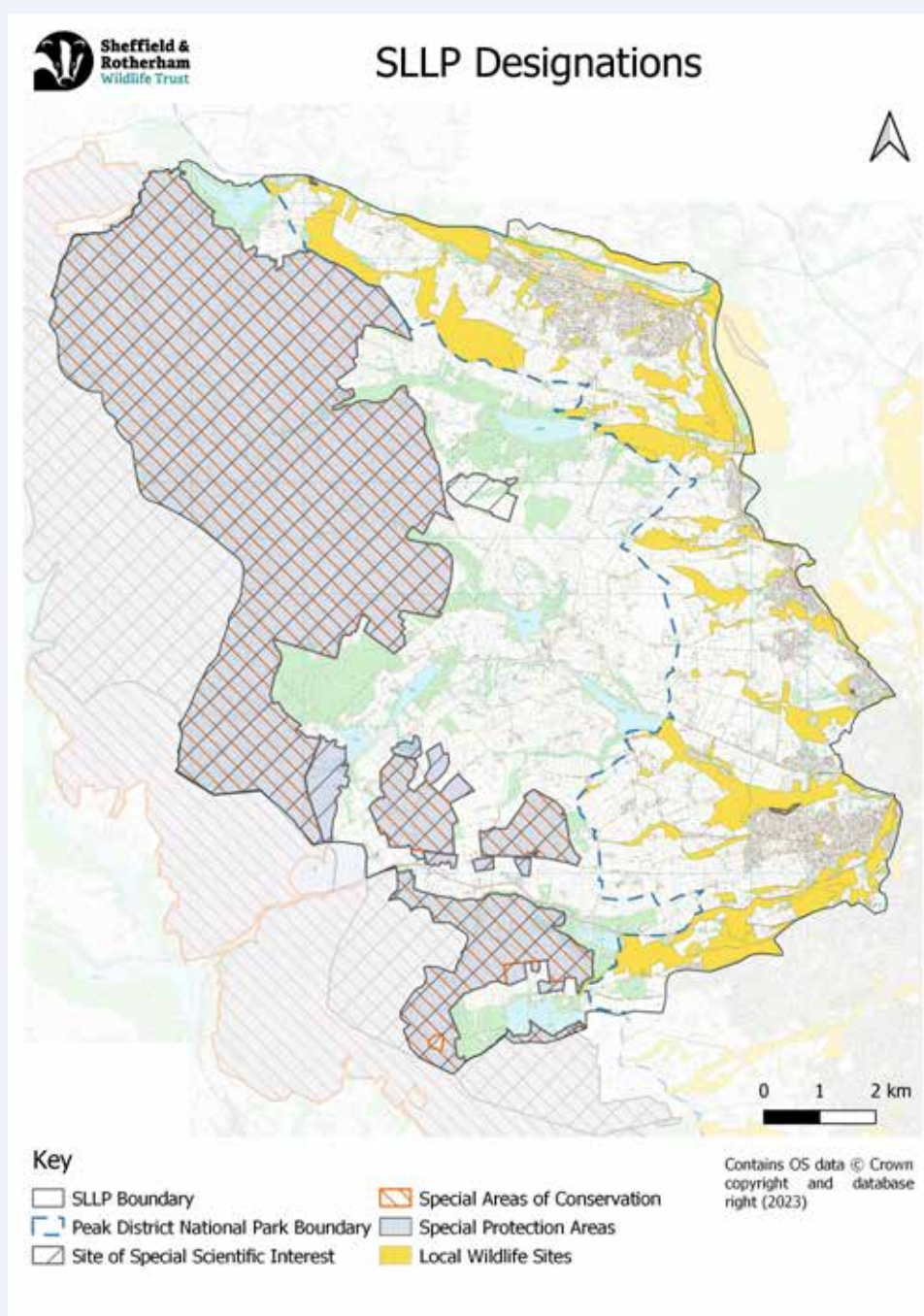
Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI lies to the immediate south of the more extensive and higher Dark Peak moorlands and are separated from the White Peak by the valley of the river Derwent. In contrast with the largely continuous moorlands of the Dark Peak, the Eastern Peak District Moors are criss-crossed by many minor roads that break the area into a number of individually named and separately managed landholdings.

Geological SSSI sites. The geology of the Sheffield Lakeland area includes coal, ironstone, fireclay, ganister, shale and sandstone - extracted from the Pennine Basin in large quantities to support a rapidly-developing economy. There are 4 locations in the Sheffield Lakeland designated as SSSI's for their geological significance: Canyards Hills; Stannington Ruffs; Wadsley Fossil Forest; and Little Don Stream Section.
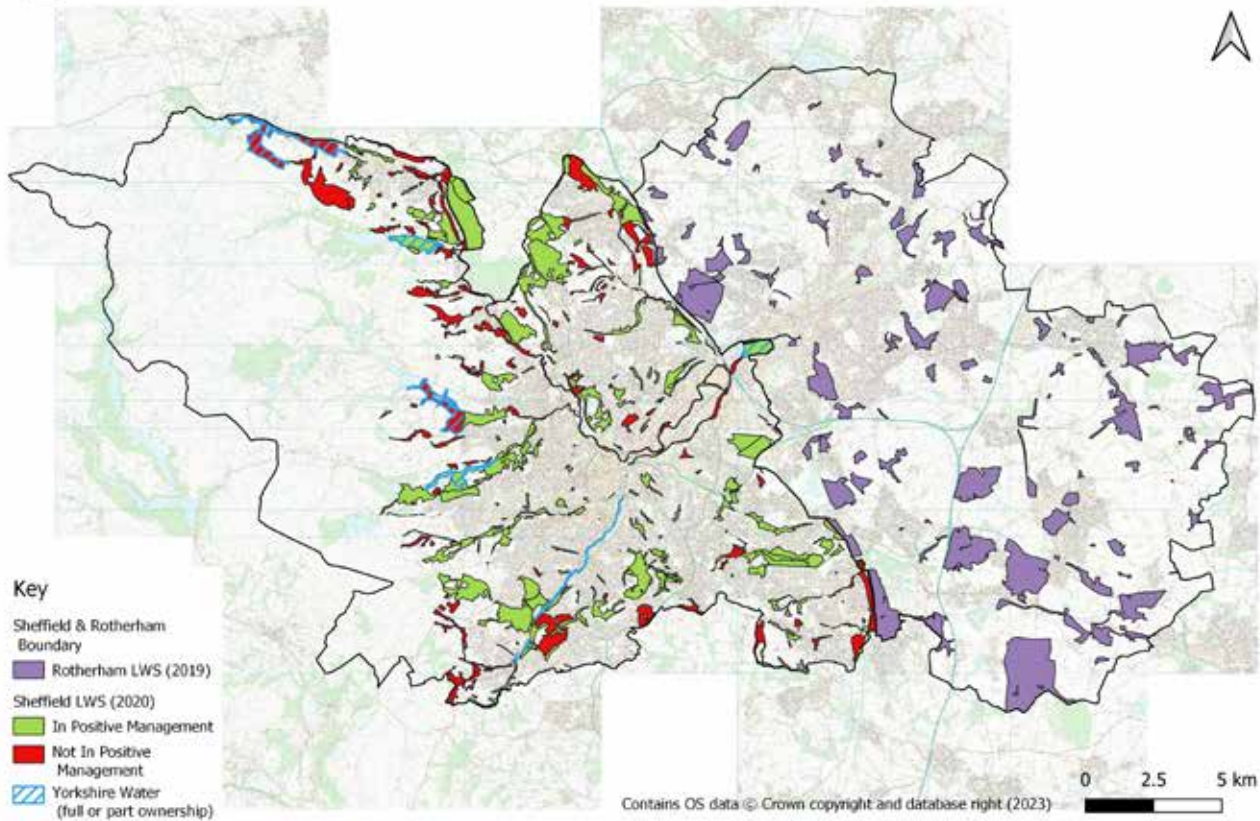
Sites of Regional and Local Significance for Wildlife: important habitats outside the National Park and SSSI designations are recognised by the Sheffield Planning Authority through Local Wildlife Site (LWS) designation. There are 69 LWS's in the Sheffield Lakeland covering 1,354 hectares, or 27% of the area outside of the PDNP. In addition, there are three Local Nature Reserves (LNR's), and Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust manages four nature reserves within the area. LWS's are of high local significance, forming the core of the most ecologically rich and visually distinctive elements of the eastern part of the Sheffield Lakeland area.

SLLP Designations

Key
- SLLP Boundary
- Peak District National Park Boundary
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Special Protection Areas
- Local Wildlife Sites

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Sheffield and Rotherham Local Wildlife Sites

Key

Sheffield & Rotherham Boundary

Rotherham LWS (2019)

Sheffield LWS (2020)

In Positive Management

Not In Positive Management

Yorkshire Water (full or part ownership)

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0   2.5   5 km

David Tipling

Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

The benefits (ecosystem services) to the people of Sheffield and South Yorkshire provided by the natural capital (processes and functions of the natural environment, habitats and species of the Sheffield Lakeland area) can be seen in the map below:

Because of the Sheffield Lakeland habitat types, its location in the upper catchment and its proximity to Sheffield, there are a number of key ecosystem services that have the potential for investment to increase flows:

— Carbon storage and sequestration

— Water quality and provision

— Flood risk regulation
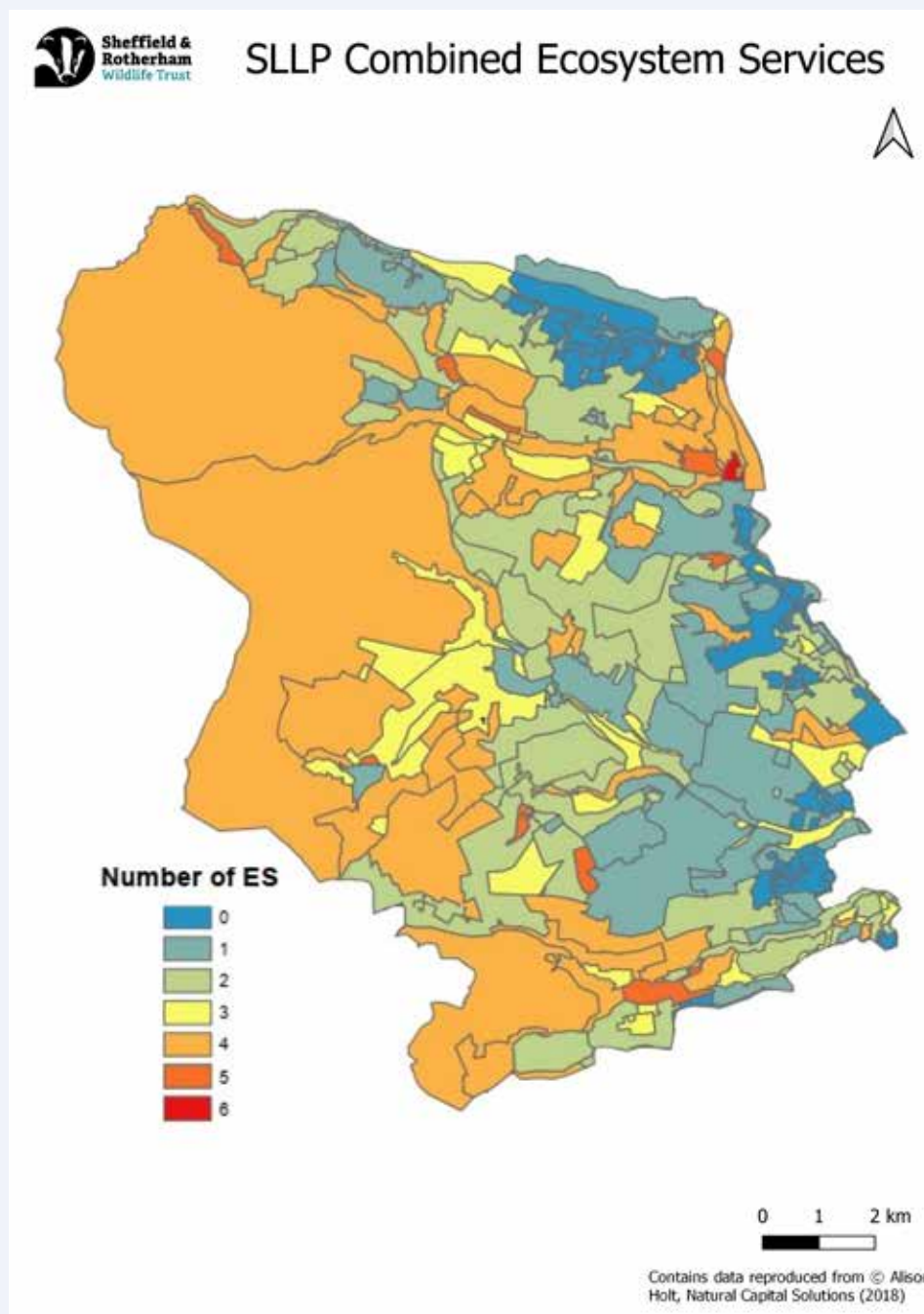
Combined Ecosystem Service map for the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape (2018). The ecosystem services included are:

reduction of air pollution by vegetation, mitigation of the heat island effect by vegetation, reduction of storm water runoff through retention in soils and by vegetation, carbon storage in soils and vegetation, opportunities for cultural ecosystem services (e.g. recreation and relaxation) in greenspace and provision of habitat for flora and fauna.

Nature Recovery Opportunities and Recommendations

As the evidence base above indicates, the Sheffield Lakeland landscape supports a diverse range of priority habitats and species that, with the right conservation interventions, can thrive.

A broad habitat SL Nature Recovery Network map can be found overleaf followed by a series of Species Recovery Opportunity Maps. These have been developed using a range of models and data sets drawing from the South Yorkshire Natural Capital Mapping Project as well as ground knowledge and surveys by the SLLP team.

They indicate where some of the best opportunities to restore or create habitats for the five priority habitats and priority species are. These opportunities must be ground-truthed and of course, ultimately depend upon land owner consent. But they provide an initial step to starting a conversation with local farmers and land managers about the potential for nature recovery as part of the new agri-environment scheme.

Full methodology is available from the Sheffield Lakeland team.

Recommendations:

— Actively engage farmers and land managers on the new Environmental Land Management Scheme in the priority areas identified on the 'SL Nature Recovery Network' Map and supporting Species Recovery Opportunity Maps.

— Engage Local Wildlife Site owners to move all sites into positive conservation management.

— Develop targeted Species Recovery Plans for breeding waders, water vole, bats, nightjar, willow tit and flycatchers.

— Undertake a feasibility study to scope out the re-introduction of beavers into the upper catchment of the Sheffield Lakeland.

— Undertake a feasibility study to re-locate White-clawed crayfish into a new ark site in the Sheffield Lakeland area.

— Refine the Sheffield Lakeland priority habitats and species' once the SYLNRS and PDNP LNRS have been developed.

— Apply natural capital mapping and ground-truthing to prioritise areas for natural flood risk interventions and delivery.

— Raise awareness of the ecosystem services provided by the SL Landscape to Planning Policy and decision-makers.

SLLP LNRS Core and Restoration Priority Habitat
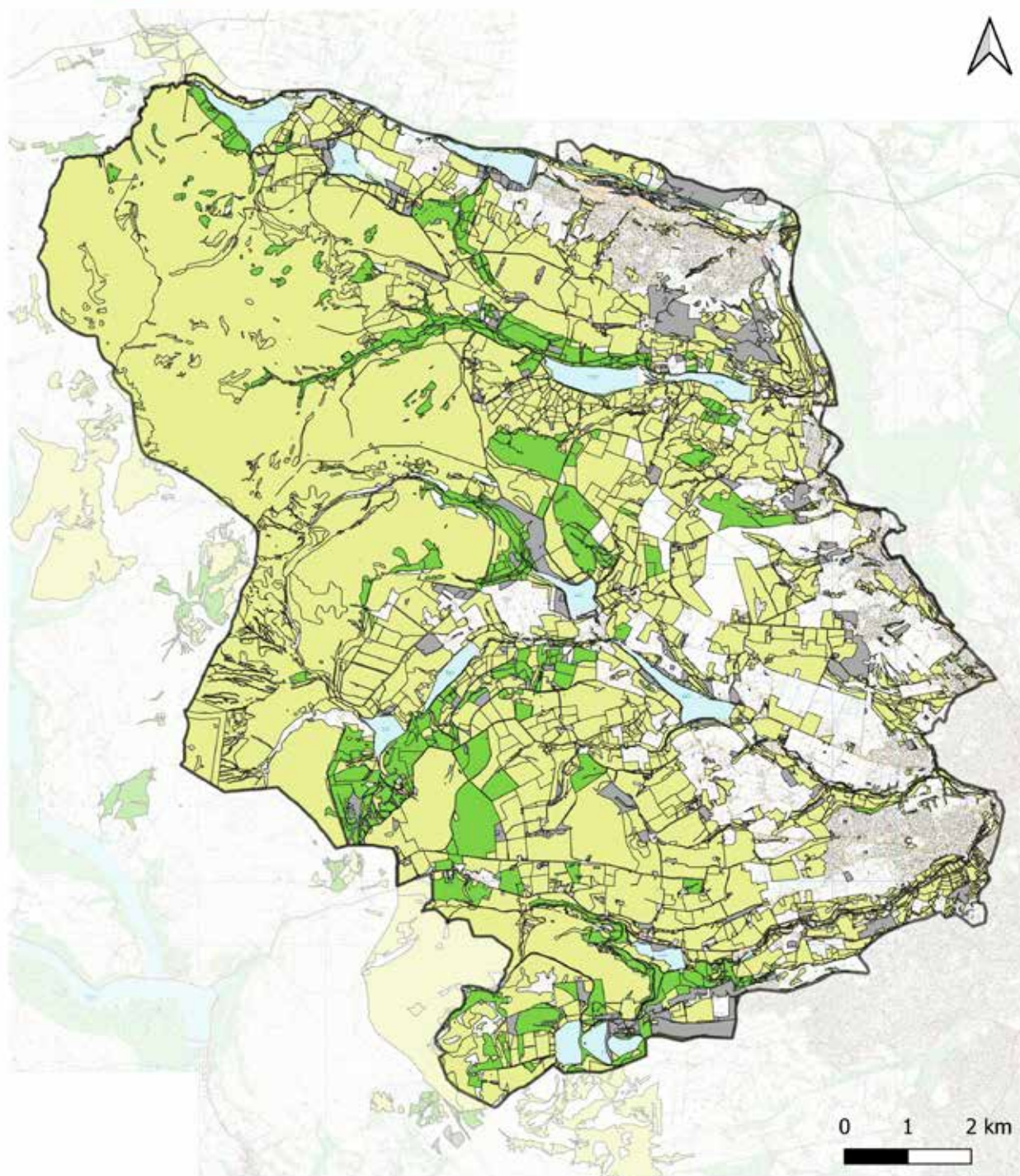
Key

SLLP Boundary

Core and Restoration Area
- Core
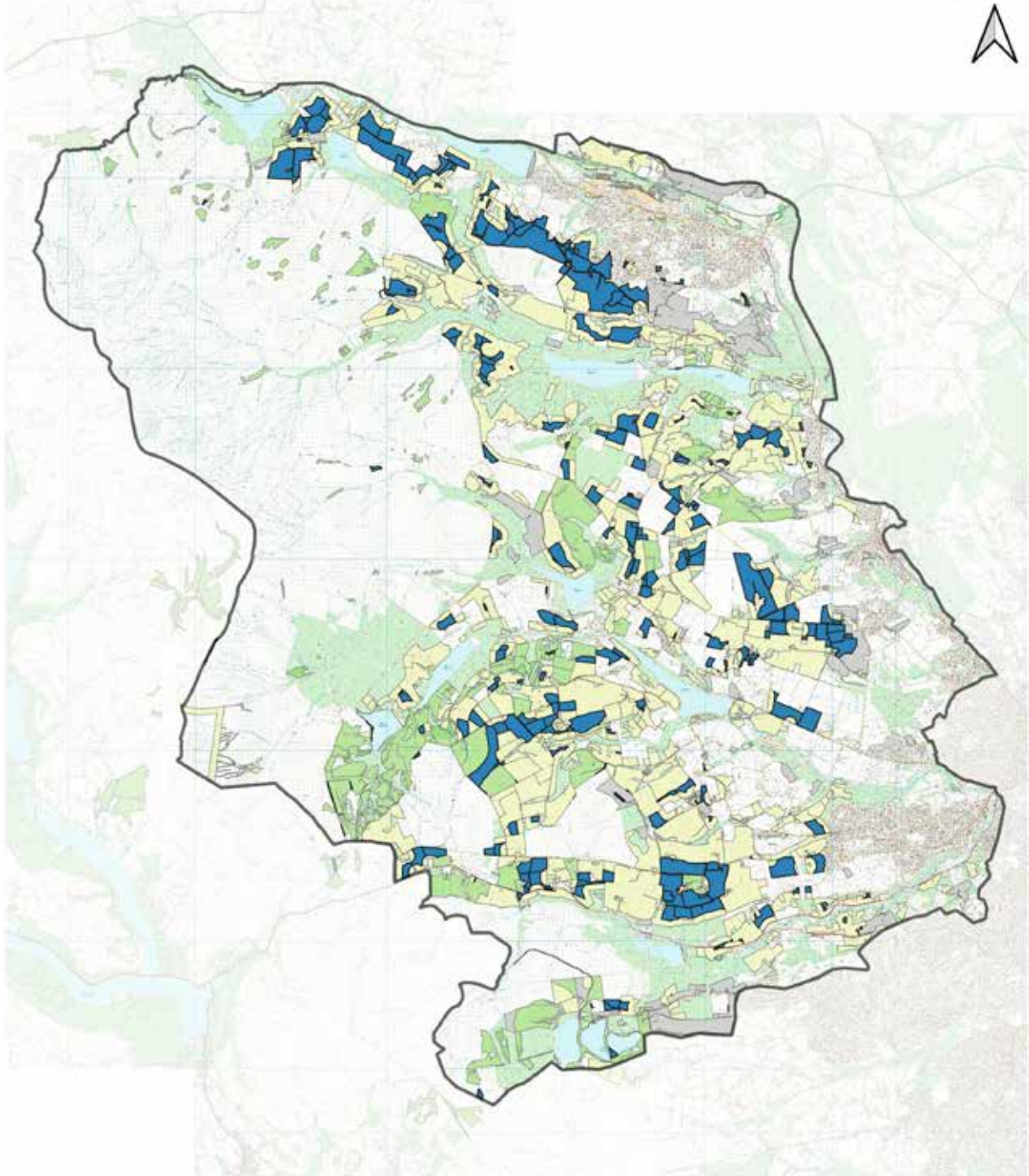- Restoration
- Unknown

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SLLP LNRS Curlew Opportunity Restoration
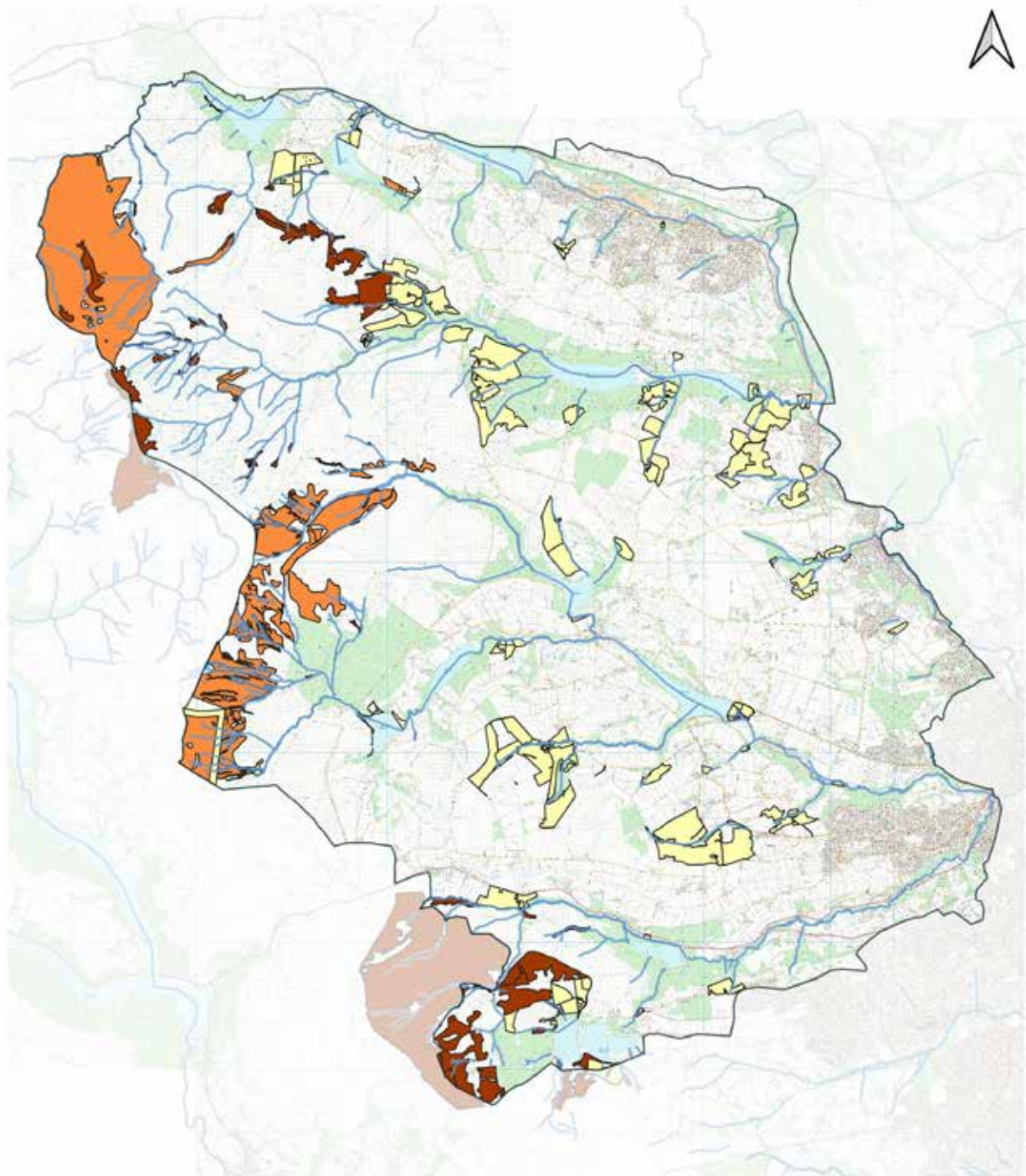Grassland (Low slope and 100m woodland buffer)

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust

Key

SLLP Boundary

Curlew Opportunity
Restoration Grassland

Core & Restoration Priority Grassland

Core

Restoration

Unknown

0   1   2 km

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SLLP Water Vole Opportunity Habitat Management
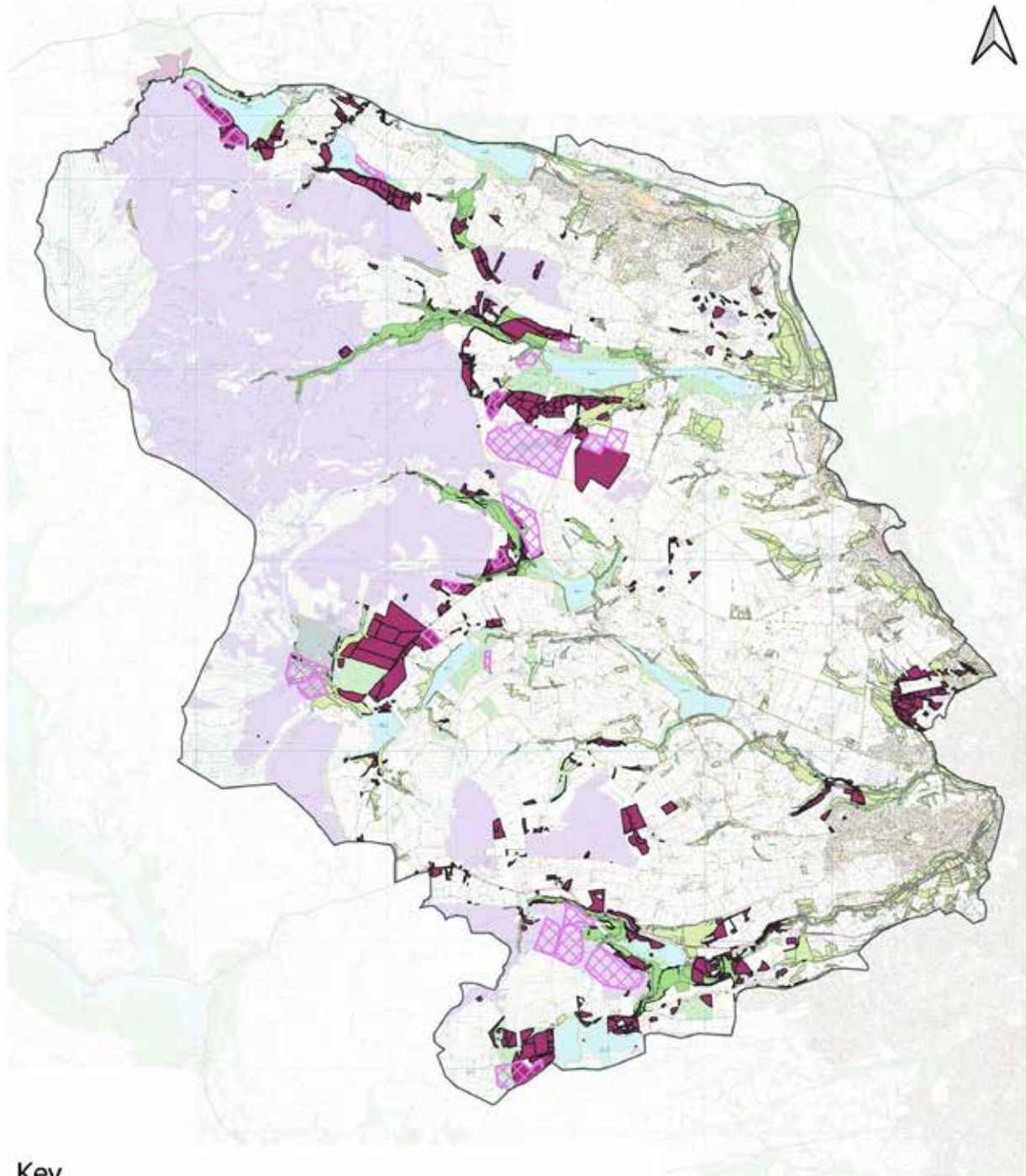(Habitat within 10m of watercourse)

Key

SLLP Boundary
Waterways

Water Vole Opportunity
Habitat Restoration

Grassland
Mire
Wetland

0   1   2 km

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SLLP Nightjar Opportunity Woodland Management
(Woodland within range of foraging habitats)

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust

Key

- ☐ SLLP Boundary

Night Jar
- ■ Nightjar Opportunity Woodland Management
- ▨ NJ occupied sites 2022

- ▨ Priority Heathland

Core & Restoration Priority Woodland
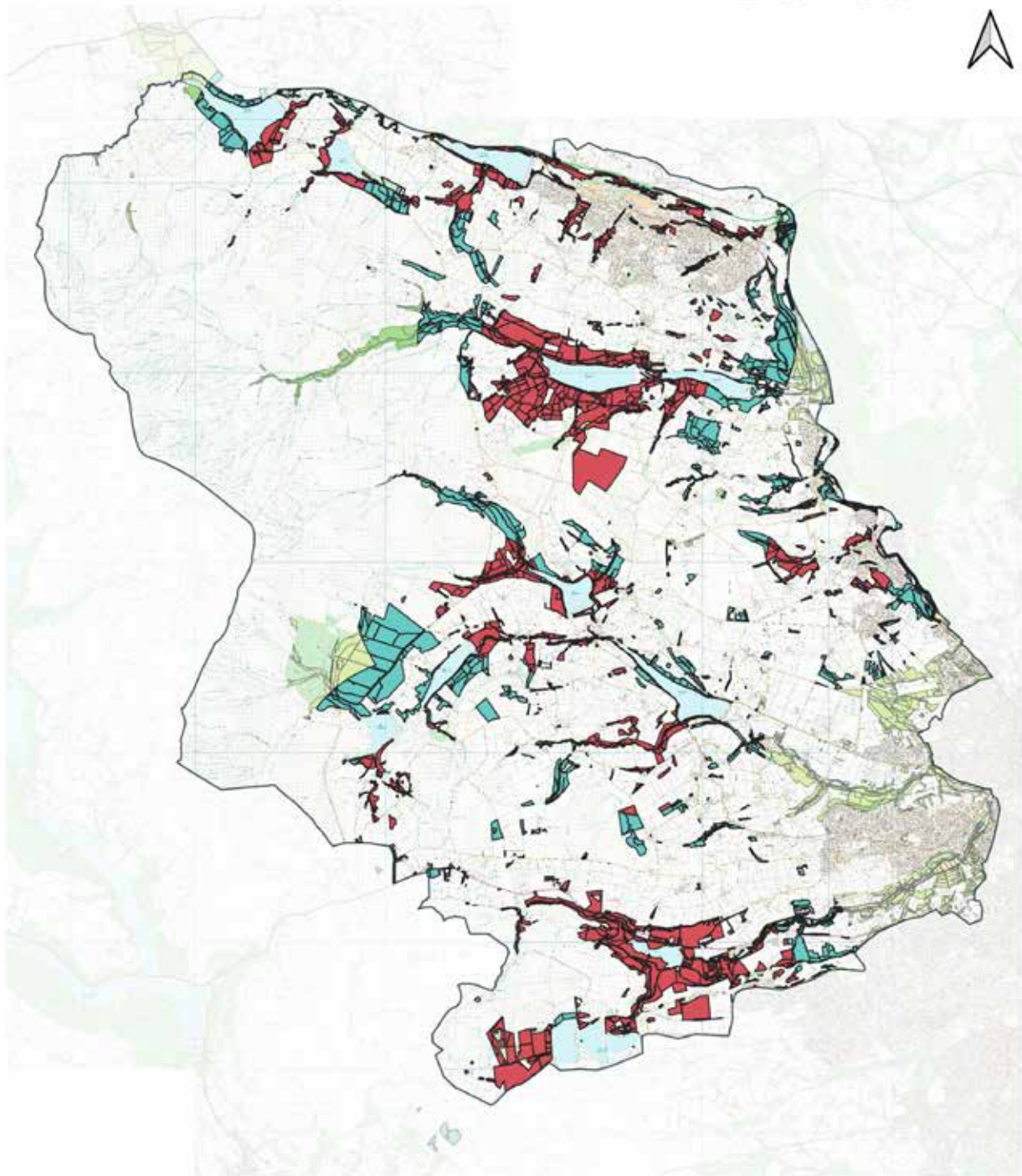- ■ Core
- ■ Restoration
- ■ Unknown

0   1   2 km

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SLLP Willow Tit Opportunity Woodland Management
(Woodland within known foraging range)

Key

SLLP Boundary

Willow Tit

Woodland Management Opportunities

Connection Woodland
Management Opportunities

Core & Restoration Priority Woodland

Core

Restoration

Unknown

0   1   2 km

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Map based on pre-2023 data. More recent data suggests a more significant decline and map will need to be updated

Sheffield Lakeland Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

Members of the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership (as set out in the signatories table below) intend to promote co-operation, discussion and joint activities between themselves to their mutual benefit, towards the shared Plan 'Sheffield Lakeland - The Next 10 Years'.

All parties confirm that this MOU is only a statement of intent which sets forth the general basis upon which all parties wish to discuss further. Nothing in this MOU is intended to be legally binding or shall be construed as creating any legally enforceable rights or obligations between the parties. No binding legal obligations will be created when the Parties sign this MOU or when they carry out its terms.

We commit to explore the opportunity for any of the following activities:

— Offering our skills, knowledge, networks and expertise to enable the efficient and effective development and delivery of the Plan

— Attending Partnership meetings, and support any relevant project groups set up to develop particular activity

— Working together to resolve conflicts that may arise and to manage and mitigate risks

— Championing the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership at a local, sub-regional and regional level to ensure that maximum benefit is achieved

— Actively supporting fundraising for new project activity as agreed and identified by the Partnership.

— Steering and guiding the programme of development and delivery to ensure outputs and priorities are delivered on time as planned

— Ensuring delivery is working towards our agreed Plan and brings additionality.

— Support and assist the Partnership Team in carrying out their tasks

— Submitting any information, records or evidence requested in a timely manner

— Disclosing any conflict of interest and maintain high professional standards and integrity at all times

We recognise and support the role of host partner, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, who will:

— Fulfil the legal requirements associated with the employing Programme Staff and supporting volunteers

— Oversee progress towards the Plan

— Co-ordinate the Partnership to review successes and inform the development of activities

— Seek additional funds to support delivery of the Plan, receiving funds, making payments and distributing or delivering as appropriate

If the parties mutually agree to pursue any or all of the objectives or joint activities in this MOU; or if they wish to share confidential or commercially sensitive information or personal data with each other under this MOU, they shall formally record such activities in separate legally-binding agreement prior to such arrangement for implementation or sharing.

The Parties acknowledge that all or any financial arrangements proposed in relation to the objectives of this MOU must be negotiated and will depend upon the availability of funds at the time of entering into the legally binding agreement.

Governance Structure

SHEFFIELD LAKELAND PARTNERSHIP

Sheffield Lakeland Team:

Programme Manager

OUTCOME 1   OUTCOME 2   OUTCOME 3

Working with

Sheffield Lakeland Farmers, Land Owners, wider Community

Members of the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership

Organisation	Contact Names	Signed
Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust (SRWT) **(Lead Partner)**	**Liz Ballard**, Chief Executive	
Yorkshire Water (YW)	**Chris Offer**, Director of Strategy and Regulation	
Sheffield City Council (SCC)	**Kate Josephs**, Chief Executive	
Natural England (NE)	**Tom Cavanagh**, Lead Advisor Peak District and Derbyshire	
Environment Agency (EA)	**Helen Batt**, SY Flood Risk Manager	
Sheffield Hallam University (SHU)	**Wayne Cranton**, Dean of Research	

Steph Wood

Sheffield & Rotherham
Wildlife Trust

Sheffield Lakeland
Partnership

Sheffield City Council

Sheffield Hallam University
Knowledge Applied

NATURAL ENGLAND

Environment Agency

YorkshireWater

Cover photo: A fantastic aerial photo of Redmires from near Stanage Pole taken by photographer Matthew Rigby who wanted to share his work more widely for the benefit of the SLLP project.

@rigggaz, 9 Apr 2019