The Landscape Partnership

A partnership between the four largest landowning conservation charities

*Working together to create bigger, better and joined up landscapes.*
The Landscape Partnership

Nature is in trouble, biodiversity continues to decline and there is an urgent need to reverse this trend. It is now widely accepted that we need to work over much larger areas to restore natural systems at scale, which is why the four largest landowning conservation charities - The National Trust, The RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts and The Woodland Trust, have formed an exciting and ambitious partnership to maximise opportunities to deliver landscape scale conservation.

Collectively we are the largest landowners in the UK who manage land primarily for nature conservation. We also work with thousands of farmers, landowners, communities and businesses, placing us in a unique position to be able to effect change at the scale required. We are thinking big, by working beyond the boundaries of our own land, we can connect our network of nature friendly areas to create bigger, better and more joined up landscapes as described in the Lawton Review.

Where are we working?

All four partners run landscape scale programmes, which involve working over large areas to deliver multiple benefits for nature, people and the economy. We will initially focus on the areas where three or more partners are already working at a landscape scale, as shown on the map overleaf. Within these areas, we aim to demonstrate ways in which collaborative action can deliver better outcomes for nature. Other areas, where there may be a role for greater collaboration, will be identified in the future.

What does collaboration look like at a landscape scale?

The Landscape Partnership's collective goal is to ensure healthy and functioning ecosystems are part of every decision regarding land management across the UK, with 20% of land actively managed for nature. Due to our extensive land ownership scattered across the whole of the UK, we have the opportunity to work together to improve, expand and connect our best wildlife sites, creating resilient ecological networks that support nature's recovery.

To deliver this bold ambition, we will work with local teams to build new or grow existing partnerships and share the learning more widely. We will look for opportunities for strategic acquisition, shared management models and other joint activities such as sharing staff, buildings, equipment and data. Other local partners will be engaged to support delivery, as will the collective strength of the membership and local communities.

By 2020 the Landscape Partnership will:

- Recognise, celebrate and promote collaborative actions across a range of landscape scale initiatives, for the benefit of nature and people.
- Embed the spirit of collaboration within each partner organisation, catalysing action and overcoming barriers.
- Be strong advocates of the landscape scale approach, demonstrating its value to wider policy objectives.
Landscape focus areas of the four partners

The map shows the four partners’ landscape focus areas across the UK and where there is overlap in activity. By focusing on the areas where more than one partner is already active, we will look for new opportunities to work together to achieve more than we could have done individually.
How will we achieve this?

We are committed to adopting a collaborative approach to landscape scale conservation. To enable this goal, the partnership is developing:

- A cross-organisational Network of Landscape Practitioners to enable knowledge transfer and sharing of best practice
- A programme of specialist workshops to support the delivery of enhanced partnership working at a landscape scale
- Joint landscape scale funding bids that benefit from national and international collaboration
- A set of metrics to monitor and measure the impact of landscape scale conservation.

Further information

Download ‘A Recipe for Success’ guide on how to implement landscape scale conservation.
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Join the conversation on Twitter using #landscapescale