

Guidance for Applicants to the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

An introduction to the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme was launched in 2021 as part of Defra's [Agricultural Transition Plan](#). It provides funding to allow farmers and land managers to work with Protected Landscape organisations (National Park Authorities and National Landscapes teams) to provide benefits for nature, climate, people and places. The programme will run until 31 March 2026.

A more detailed overview of the programme

Our Protected Landscapes (PLs) – our National Parks and National Landscapes (previously known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)) - are special and unique and need to be managed, enhanced and protected while also supporting the farmers' and communities who work within them and the wider local economy.

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, which operates in England, provides additional investment in these places to allow farmers to work in partnership with Protected Landscape bodies to deliver bigger and better outcomes for the environment, for people and for the place.

Protected Landscapes can make an important contribution to:

- **Climate** – delivering net zero with nature and nature-based solutions to help communities adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change;
- **Nature** – playing a leading role in the delivery of the Nature Recovery Network and achieving the Prime Minister's commitment to protect 30% of land by 2030;
- **People** – providing a natural health service that will improve the nation's public health and wellbeing through increased access to nature across all parts of society, as part of our green recovery;
- **Place** – creating centres of excellence and green innovation that are flourishing places to live and work, each with a strong identity and cultural heritage, and high recognition as attractive visitor destinations

As part of the Agricultural Transition Plan, the government has committed to help farmers and land managers deliver against these four areas, in a holistic way - in order to meet the requirements of individual Protected Landscapes, helping strengthen their special importance and enhance their environments and accessibility.

The programme is delivered by farmers, working in partnership with Protected Landscape teams – Protected Landscape teams and farmers living and working in these areas know the opportunities and challenges facing their landscapes and communities the best. This is an opportunity for Protected Landscapes, farmers, and others within these areas to work better together, leading work at an individual landscape level, building on existing relationships.

¹ 'Farmers' - refers to both farmers and other land managers in the private, public and charity sectors.