

Linking Levisham

WINTER 2025

Newsletter

Linking Levisham is a flagship 2,880 hectare Landscape Recovery Project restoring habitats, strengthening ecosystem resilience, and protecting biodiversity. It aims to create a model for balancing conservation, farming, and cultural heritage within a protected yet working upland landscape.

Delivered in partnership with landowners, land managers, and regulatory bodies, the project will establish a connected mosaic of diverse habitats while engaging communities, volunteers, and educational institutions through interpretation and citizen science.

PROJECT VISION

“A site of national importance for landscape-scale nature recovery and climate resilience within a working landscape rich in cultural and natural heritage.”



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Landscape Recovery

Landscape Recovery is one of Defra’s new Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs) alongside Sustainable Farming Incentives and Countryside Stewardship. ELMs have replaced some of the financial support lost through the phasing out of previous schemes.

Landscape Recovery is intended to create long term, large-scale, bespoke agreements.

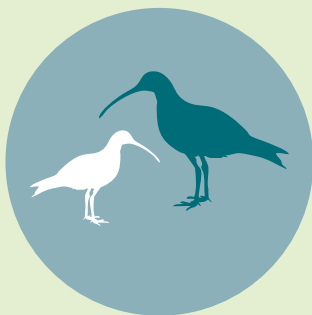
Project updates

Earlier this year we were granted a 3-month extension to our development phase. The new timeline that we are working to is as follows:



We have made significant progress over the course of the development phase, and we are now at a stage where survey results and commissioned pieces of specialist work are being returned to us. These are being reviewed and finalised alongside results from workshops, consultations, and conversations, to inform our plans that will be submitted to Defra.

Survey results



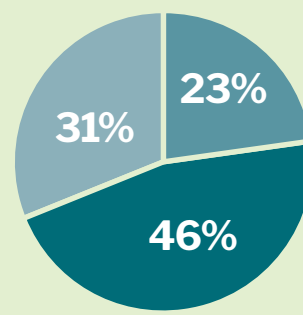
Breeding bird survey results (pairs)

- 1 Golden Plover
- 14 Lapwing
- 12 Snipe
- 11 Curlew



Moth surveys (Hagg Wood Marsh)

- 52 species of moth
- 10 species of moth
- 1 glow worm



UK Habitat/BNG condition assessments

- Good condition 23%
- Moderate condition 46%
- Poor condition 31%

Site access plan

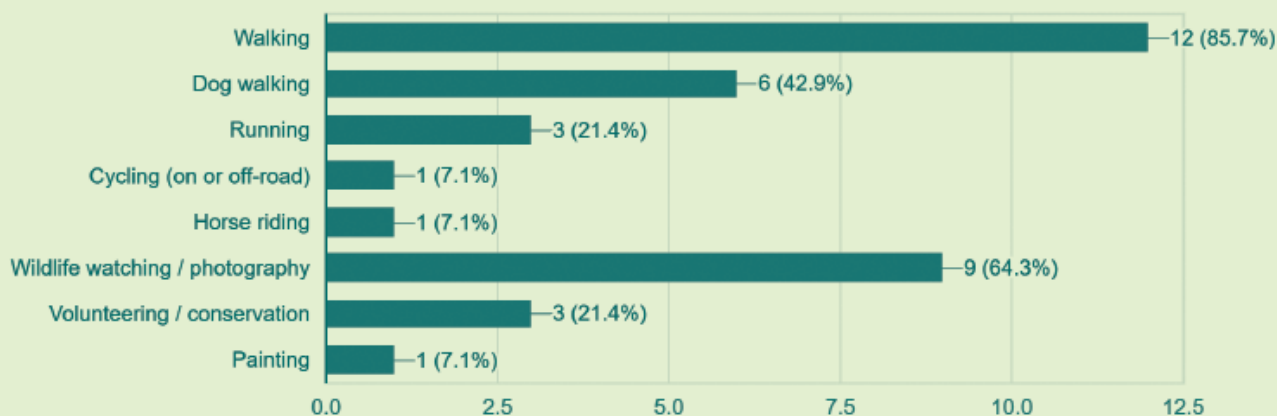
This year we held workshops with recreational user groups and sent out surveys to residents to better understand how this landscape is currently being used. Of the residents that took part, walking, dog walking, and wildlife watching and photography were identified as the most popular recreational uses.

A common theme throughout these workshops and surveys was the importance of balancing recreation and nature to ensure that neither one is detrimental to the other.

Working from input gathered through these events we have explored ways to utilise existing infrastructure and promote the use of sustainable travel to and from the area.

Some of our proposals include:

- **Tramper trail** – providing opportunities for those with limited mobility to access this incredible landscape.
- **Remove stiles and replace with gates** – increasing accessibility for visitors and residents with mobility issues, and dog walker.
- **Improving drainage and surfacing on existing PROW** – encouraging the use of footpaths and bridleways to reduce disturbance to wildlife.
- **Promoting access by public transport** – reducing the impact of cars and the demand for parking by making sustainable travel more appealing.



Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Engagement is an important element of Linking Levisham and a tool that we can use to bring positive change. Over the course of 20 years, we are proposing:

Educational engagement:

- Visits in-school and on-site to deliver curriculum linked learning, tailored to this landscape to inspire future generations to care for and respect our wild places.
- Host visits from colleges and universities to showcase the project and speak to those involved in delivery to understand challenges, successes, and overall learning.
- Partnering with Universities to facilitate dissertations and research projects.

Interpretation

- Utilising interpretation in a way that doesn't interfere with the landscape through utilisation of existing infrastructure such as Low Horcum Farm.
- Developing themes that showcase the rich heritage, capture local history, and tell the stories of those with ties to this landscape.
- Promote positive behaviour.

Volunteering opportunities

- Expanding our volunteer group through the provision of regular opportunities.
- Partnering with local agricultural colleges to offer the opportunity to complete work-based learning alongside their regular study.

Community heritage projects

- Capturing and showcasing oral histories
- Community research into landscape heritage practices, people, and places

Green social prescribing

- Creating opportunities to improve health and wellbeing by continuing the great work started by the North York Moors Trust – 'Natural Health Service'.



Land management plan

The partnership is currently developing the Land Management Plan, utilising expertise from participants and feasibility assessments recently received from consultants. Reports and discussions have focused on grazing, hydrology, archaeology, peat and woodland.

The intention of this Plan is to ensure that this significant working landscape remains resilient into the future.



For more information on the Linking Levisham project scan this QR code or visit:

northyorkmoors.org.uk/linking-levisham

**SATURDAY
6 DECEMBER
10AM-12PM**

**LEVISHAM
VILLAGE
HALL**

**Join us for a
Linking Levisham
drop-in session**

Linking Levisham project partners



Landscape Recovery

Supporting partners include land managers and licensees