

Nature pledges

We are strengthening our environmental ambition by evolving our earlier carbon pledges and better rivers pledges to adopt a broader, more integrated set of nature pledges.

This evolution reflects a growing understanding that climate, water quality, biodiversity, and community wellbeing are interconnected. By taking a whole-ecosystem approach, we can deliver greater environmental resilience, support national policy goals, and contribute meaningfully to nature recovery.

Peatland restoration

7,000 hectares of peatland will be under restoration by 2030.

We will continue to extend our activities restoring peatland habitats across the North West, building on the 3,000 hectares delivered since 2020 to deliver an additional 4,000 hectares by 2030.

Woodland creation

We will plant one million trees by 2030 to create 550 hectares of woodland.

Continuing work towards our 2020 carbon pledge, we will deliver a programme of both woodland creation and improvement projects valuing actions that have broad sustainability merit enhancing biodiversity as well as climate resilience and mitigation.

Nature pledges

Protecting rivers

We will protect and enhance 1,800 kilometres of river by 2030.

Having delivered more than 1,400 kilometres of river enhancement work since 2020, we pledge to protect and enhance a further 400 kilometres by 2030 as we deliver investments to improve our infrastructure and reduce spills.

Nature recovery

By 2030, we will exceed the UK Government target and manage at least 30% of our land for nature.

Our pledge supports the UK goal to protect at least 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030. We will deliver biodiversity net gain across our capital projects and landscape-recovery schemes, creating wildlife-rich places that restore, enhance, and connect habitats across the North West.

As one of the country's largest landowners, it is vital that we understand the role we play in driving nature recovery and demonstrate leadership in protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Our pledges align closely with national and global frameworks, including the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and UK Environment Improvement Plan (EIP). By restoring ecosystems, reducing pollution and supporting Local Nature Recovery Strategies, we are contributing directly to the UK's long-term environmental targets.

► Read more on how our impacts and dependencies link to SDGs on pages 14 to 15