



UK Government

# Environmental Improvement Plan Monitoring Plan 2025



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# Introduction

This document sets out the structured monitoring and evaluation framework which underpins the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP). It sets out the ways we will measure the commitments, which will be reported against throughout future EIP annual progress reports (APRs).

The EIP goals were developed using a systematic approach by evaluating and grouping the commitments and actions needed to collectively improve the environment. A tool called a 'theory of change' was used to identify the steps needed to achieve the EIP and its goals, these are included in section 1. The approach improved understanding of how the EIP works as a system and how delivery of the goals is connected.

Sections 2 and 3 outline commitments, actions and metrics to consider progress, as set out in each goal chapter of the EIP. Contextual information and learning from policy evaluations and EIP process and impact evaluations will support these. The Environmental Indicator Framework (EIF) (previously Outcome Indicator Framework) and wider environmental monitoring will continue to inform the evaluation framework as a systematic means of monitoring environmental change for our longer-term understanding of the effectiveness of policies and commitments.

As part of the statutory EIP review, the government reviewed and reset the approach to APRs for EIP25. The APR will now include the government response to recommendations from the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) scrutiny report and be used to actively update and iterate the EIP based on monitoring and evaluation learning.

The EIP Monitoring Plan is a stand-alone document but can be read alongside both the EIP and the Environment Act 2021 target delivery plans to provide additional context on monitoring and evaluation.

# Theories of Change

The environment is a complex interrelated system. The revised EIP was developed using a mapping tool called a theory of change to prioritise actions across the system and explain how they are connected. Theories of change were used to update the EIP goals and work backwards from these goals, the specific commitments and actions needed to deliver them. Together with the numbered lists of commitments and actions (within sections 2 and 3), this provides a transparent and robust framework for future statutory reporting through the published EIP APRs.

## Background

A theory of change is a framework or description illustrating the change we want and how we expect it to happen. It focusses on 'filling in' the gap between reaching the EIP goals, and the desired impact of delivery actions. Theories of change map out the logic of how a commitment is expected to deliver desired outcomes, setting out all the steps expected, the assumptions made, the quality and strength of the evidence supporting them, and wider contextual factors (HMT 2025 [The Magenta Book - GOV.UK](#)). The EIP uses theories of change to illustrate the goals and to explain the relationships between our policies and programmes.

The EIP goal theories of change in this document are organised in the following categories and structure (working from the top of the diagrams down) (Defra 2021 [Defra Theory of Change Toolkit](#)).

- Goal vision: The desired long-term goal objectives. Each EIP goal has its own long-term vision of change. These individual goal-level visions collectively contribute to restored nature and the EIP as a whole.
- Impacts: The changes expected in the long-term and can take a few years to happen (e.g. over 10 to 25 years).
- Outcomes: The end results e.g. expected or not expected, beneficial or not beneficial outcomes, of the policy or programme), that are within reach for government or delivery partners to influence and measure.
- Commitments: Outputs of programme actions necessary for achieving the programme outcomes. They can be thought of as tangible products that are a direct output of policy or programme actions. These are the measurable commitments made in the EIP.
- Actions: Activities associated with the policy or programme and result in commitments. We have included the key actions in each goal theory of change diagram below.

## Goal 1: Restored nature

The theory of change diagram in figure 1 and 2 illustrates how the EIP commitments, including interim Environment Act targets, are linked and will lead to the goal of restoring nature. It summarises the goal outcomes and their contributing commitments as well as the expected outcomes and impacts for the goal. It shows key actions at the bottom of the figure and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for restored nature is 'we will create a network of bigger, better and more resilient habitats to help nature thrive'.

Figure 2 includes the commitments and actions for the outcomes conserving and recovering plants, animals and fungi and achieving clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the apex goal of restoring nature (full list of actions in section 3).

These actions contribute towards meeting the interim and statutory Environment Act targets and biodiversity goal commitments.

There are 6 statutory Environment Act targets, 5 interim targets associated with the biodiversity goal and 15 goal commitments (the full list of commitments in section 2).

These commitments and targets contribute towards meeting the goal outcomes for biodiversity for:

- Progressing 30by30 on land in England
- Conserving and recovering plants, animals and fungi
- Achieving clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Increased proportion of wildlife-rich habitat that is well managed for the long-term.
- Nature is thriving in Protected Landscapes and protected for future generations. Protected Landscapes are carbon sinks and help deliver statutory nature targets and 30by30
- Thriving and resilient wildlife, plants and fungi
- A food production system that supports nature recovery
- Improvement to Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services (secondary impact)

These impacts will enable us to meet the restored goal vision, which will be a key driver to achieving the EIP.

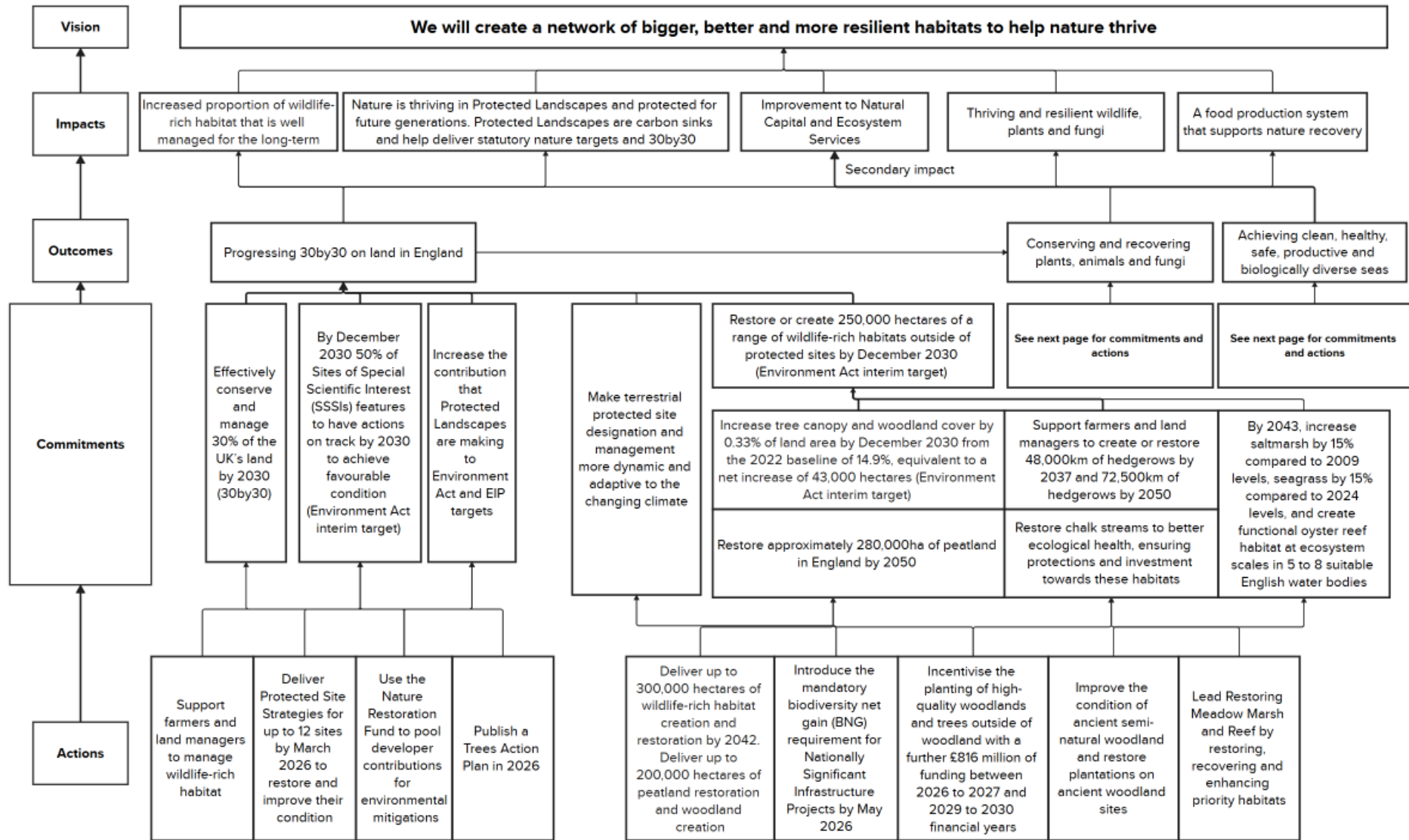


Figure 1: Illustrative theory of change for restored nature with key actions

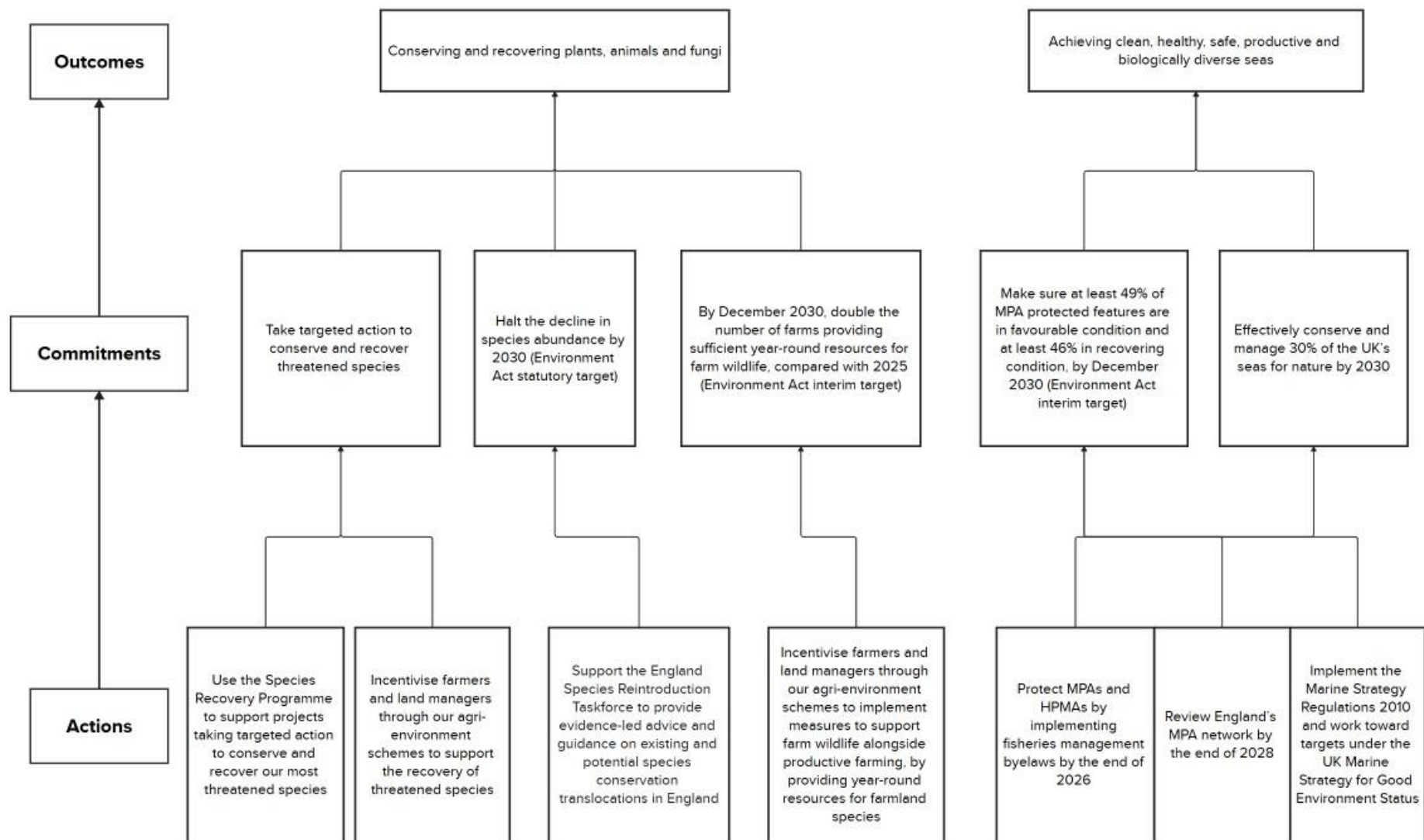


Figure 2: Illustrative theory of change for the restored nature goal outcomes of 'Conserving and recovering plants, animals and fungi' and 'Achieving clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas'

## Goal 2: Air

The theory of change diagram in figure 3 illustrates how the EIP goal commitments and Environment Act targets are linked and will lead to the goal of clean air. It also summarises the goal outcomes and impacts. It shows key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for the goal is to achieve clean air.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve clean air (see section 3 for a full list of actions).

These actions contribute towards meeting the interim and statutory Environment Act targets and goal commitments.

There are 2 statutory Environment Act targets, 2 interim targets associated with the clean air goal and 4 goal commitments (see section 2 for a full list of commitments).

The commitments and targets contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for:

- Reducing emissions and population exposure to air pollutants
- Increasing public engagement with air quality matters

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Reduced human health impact (mortality, morbidity)
- Improvement to air natural capital
- Reduced ecosystem damage due to pollution concentrations and deposition
- Improved conditions for nature recovery
- Fairer society, economic benefits
- Reduced pressure on habitats, species and ecosystems (as a result of air pollution)
- Climate change mitigation benefits (e.g. from naturally functioning peatland and woodland)

These impacts will enable us to meet the clean air vision, contributing to environmental quality and supporting delivery of the EIP.

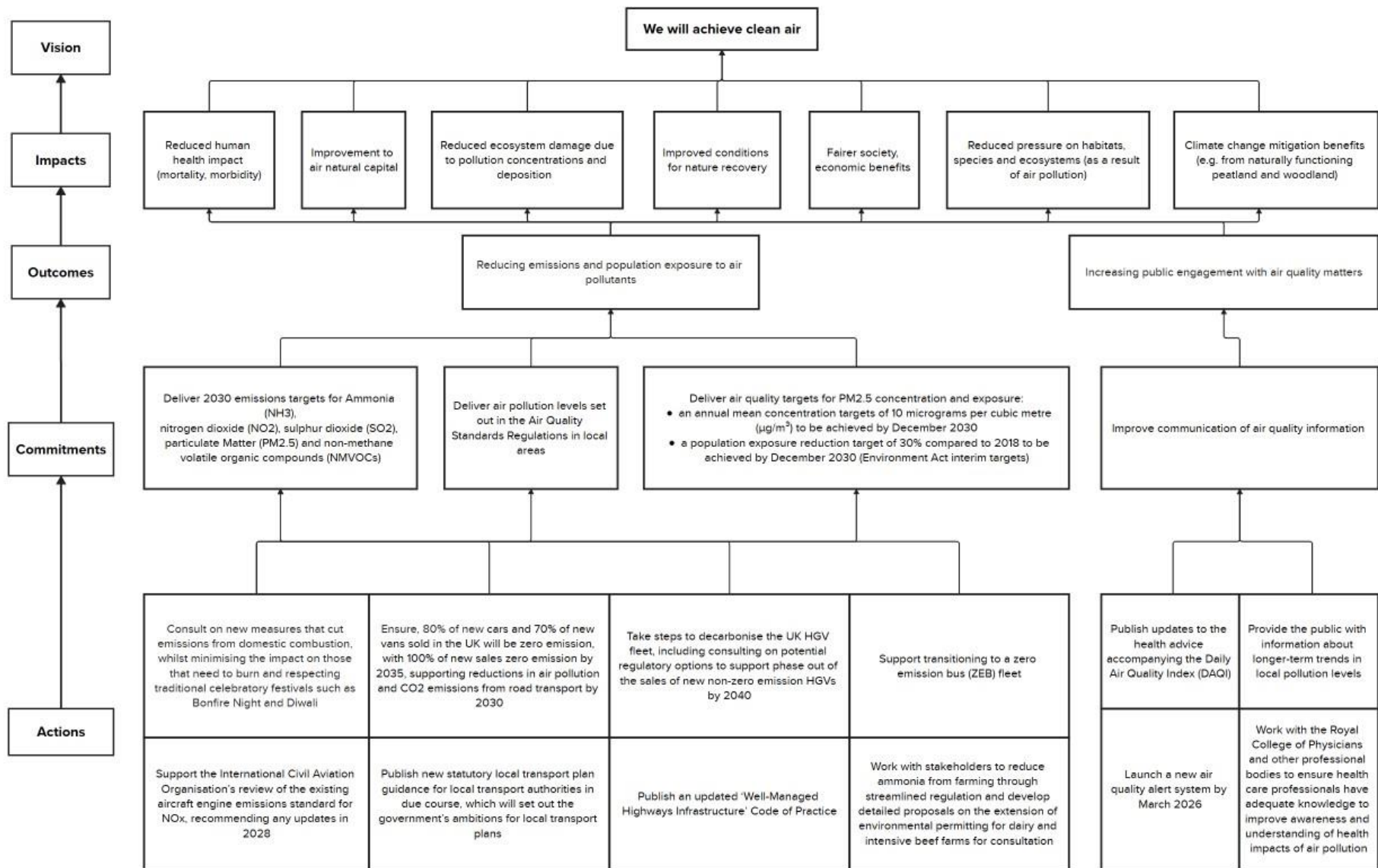


Figure 3: Illustrative theory of change for air with key actions

## Goal 3: Water

The theory of change diagram in figure 4, 5, and 6 illustrates how the EIP goal commitments and Environment Act targets are linked and will lead to the water goal. It also summarises the expected outcomes and impacts for the goal. It includes key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. The vision for the goal is to ensure English waters are clean, resilient and plentiful.

Figures 5, and 6 include the commitments and actions for the outcomes enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments and ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses respectively.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the water goal (for a full list of actions see section 3).

These actions contribute towards meeting the interim and statutory Environment Act targets and water goal commitments.

There are 4 statutory Environment Act targets, 8 interim targets associated with the water goal and 17 goal commitments (the full list of commitments is in section 2).

These commitments and targets contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for:

- Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments
- Ensure a sustainable supply of water to all homes and businesses
- Delivering clean rivers, lakes and seas for people to enjoy

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Improvement to water natural capital
- Knock on benefits to Air, Restored nature, Reducing environmental hazards, Access to nature
- Clean water
- Plentiful water
- Longer-term changes in behaviour and attitudes to the water environment
- Knock-on benefits from Resources, Climate change, Waste, Chemicals and pesticides, Biosecurity

These impacts will enable us to meet the water goal vision, contributing to environmental quality and supporting delivery of the EIP.

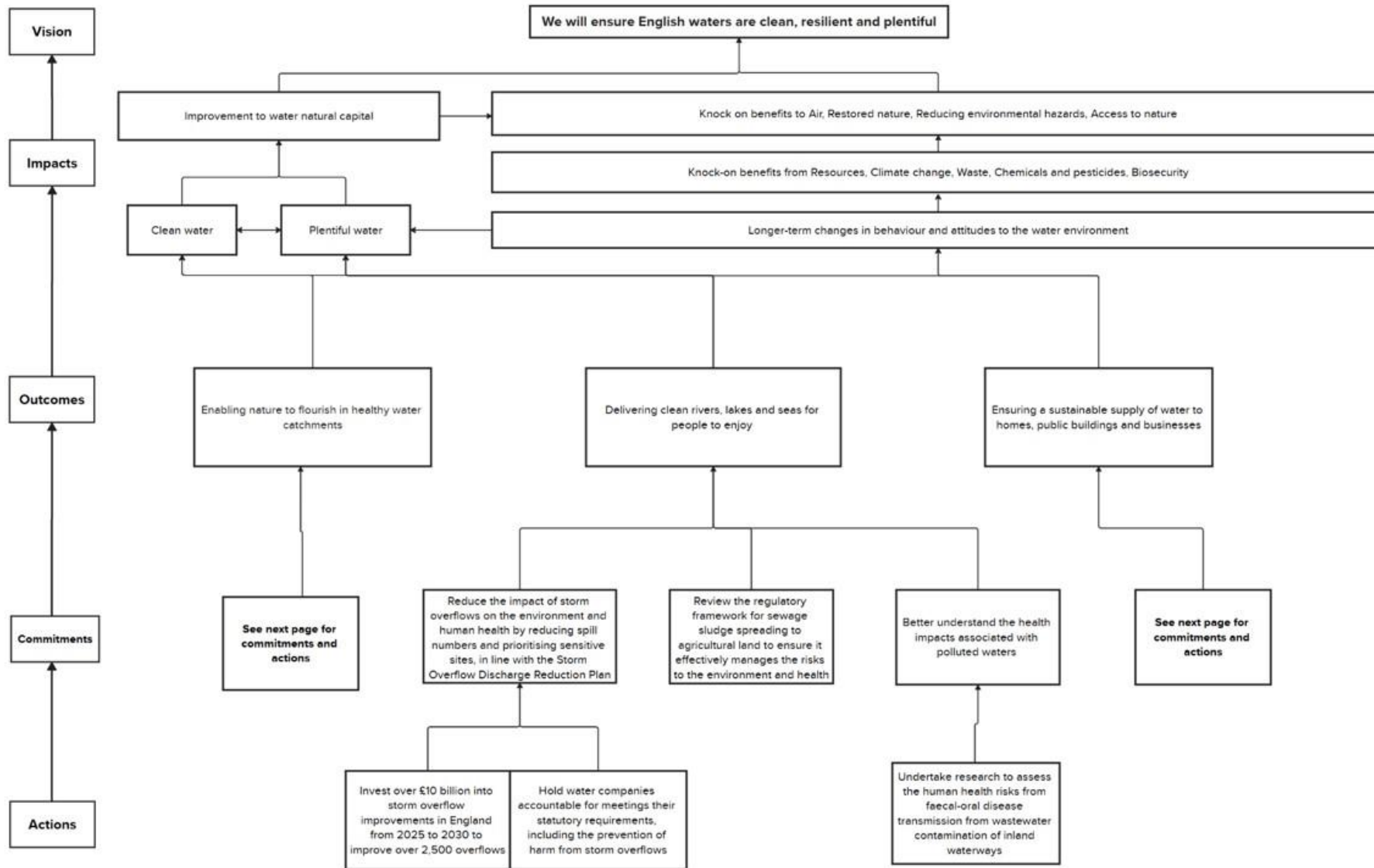


Figure 4: Illustrative theory of change for water with key actions

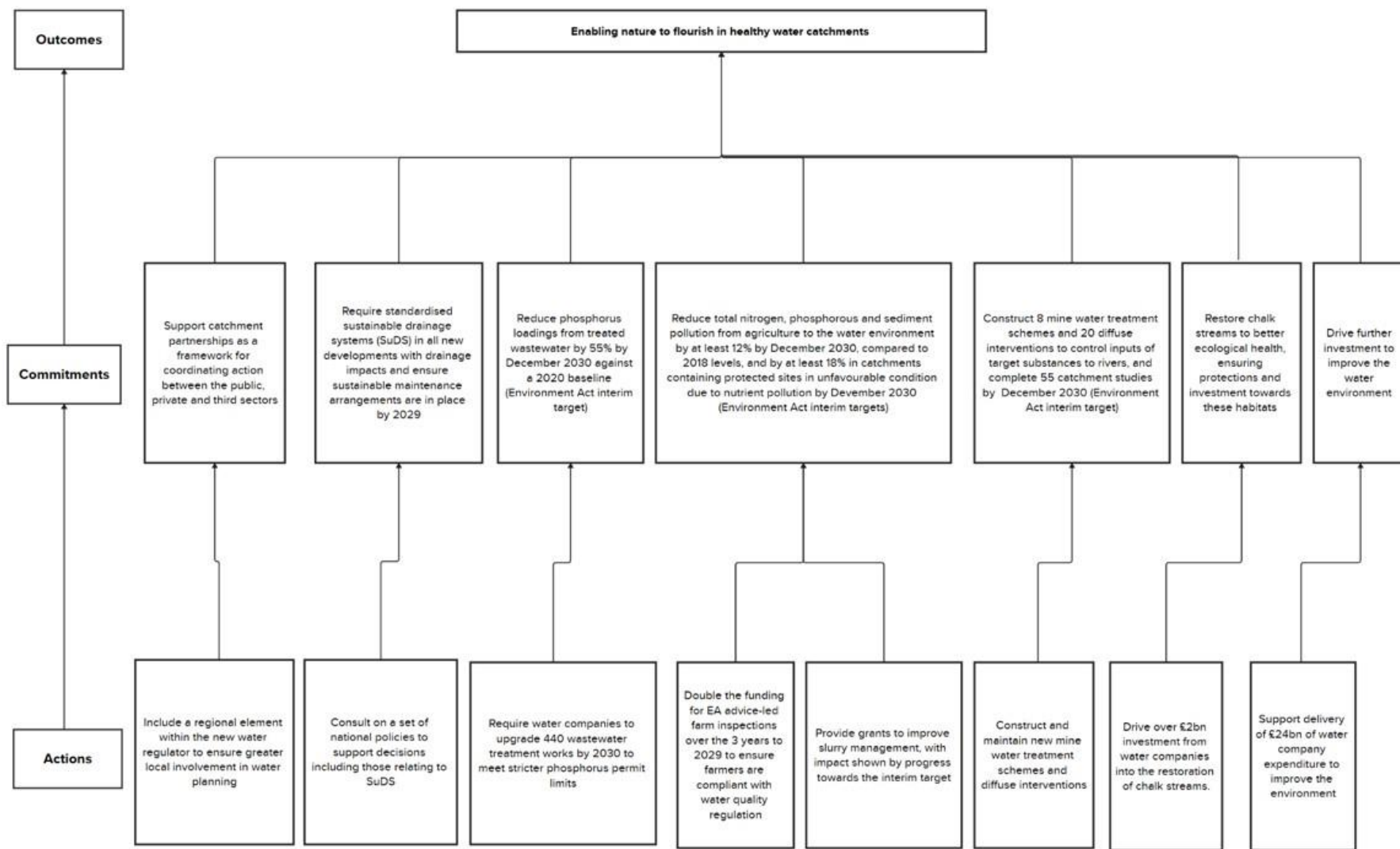


Figure 5: Illustrative theory of change for the water goal outcome of 'Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments'

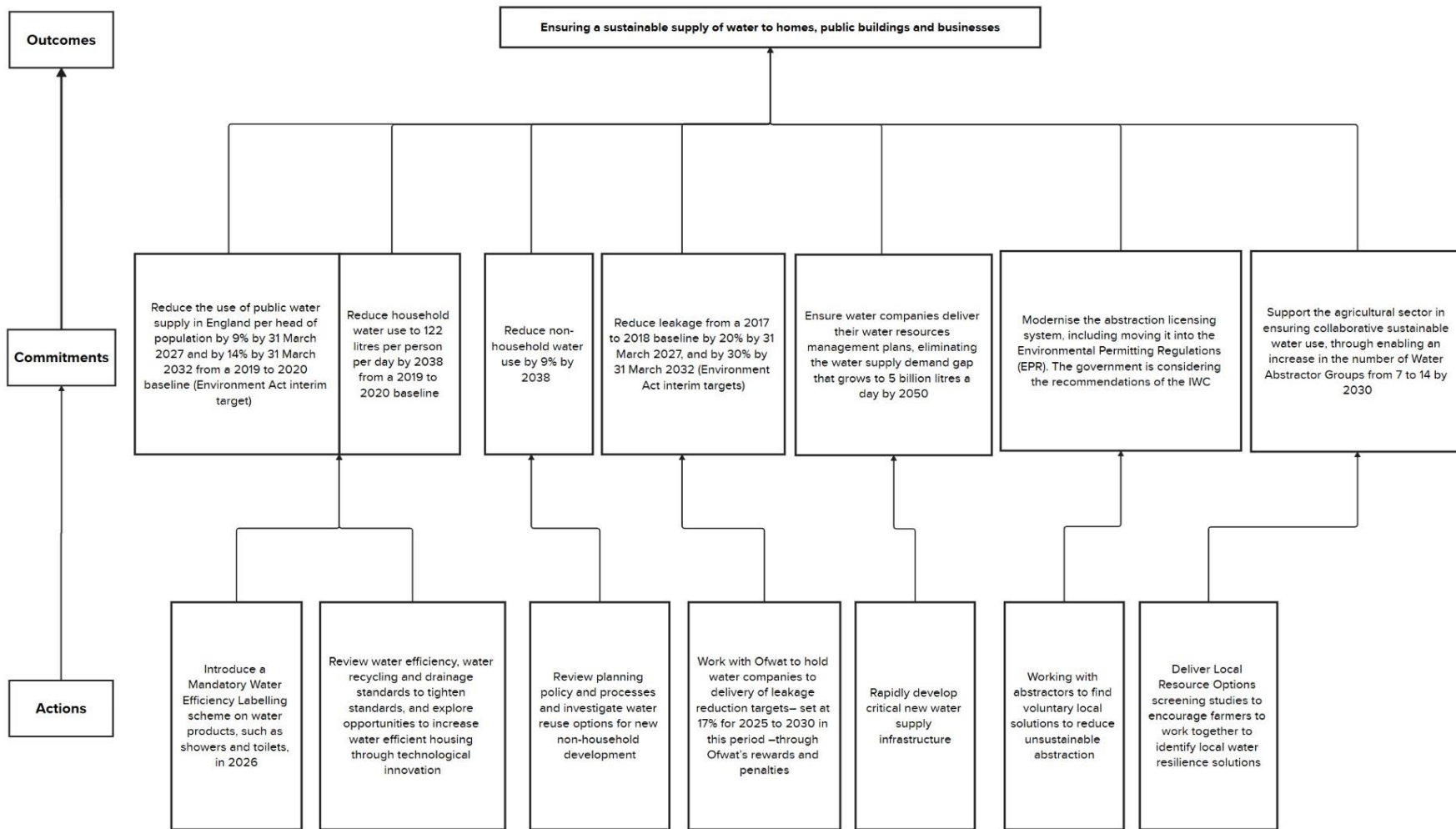


Figure 6: Illustrative theory of change for the water goal outcome of ‘Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses’

## Goal 4: Chemicals and pesticides

The theory of change diagram in figure 7 illustrates how the EIP goal commitments and actions will lead to the chemicals and pesticides goal. It also includes the expected outcomes and impacts for the goal. It shows key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for the goal is to minimise environmental risks from chemicals and pesticides.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the chemicals and pesticides goal (for a full list of actions see section 3).

These actions contribute towards meeting the chemicals and pesticides goal commitments (the full list of commitments is in section 2).

The commitments contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for chemicals and pesticides:

- Using and managing chemicals safely
- Reducing the impact of legacy chemicals
- Minimising the risks of pesticides whilst maintaining food security

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Chemicals are used in a sustainable way
- Destruction of hazardous substances which prevents them entering the environment
- Improvements to environment including air, soil and water
- The reduction and elimination of hazardous substances entering the environment

These impacts will enable us to meet the chemicals and pesticides goal vision, contributing to environmental quality and supporting delivery of the EIP.

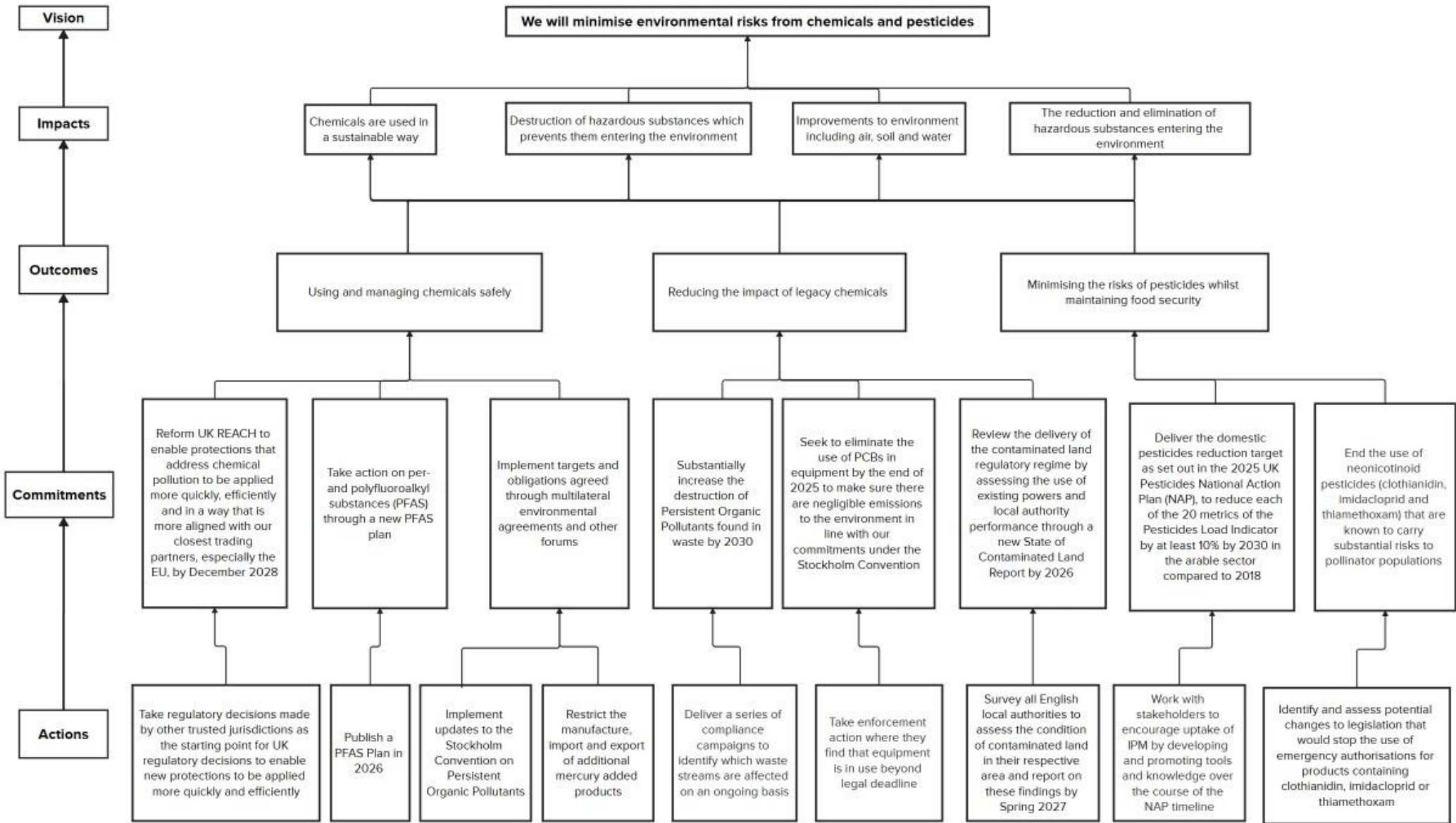


Figure 7: Illustrative theory of change for chemicals and pesticides with key actions

## Goal 5: Waste

The theory of change diagram in figure 8 illustrates how the goal commitments will lead to the waste goal and associated outcomes and impacts. It shows key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for the goal is to minimise waste by designing it out of the system, re-using and recycling materials wherever possible.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the waste goal (for a full list of actions see section 3). These actions contribute towards meeting the interim and statutory Environment Act targets and waste goal commitments.

There is one statutory Environment Act target, 8 interim targets associated with the waste goal and 5 goal commitments (the full list of commitments is in section 2).

The commitments contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for waste:

- Minimising waste
- Removing criminal threats to a circular economy
- Transitioning to a circular economy

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Long-term changes in behaviour and attitudes to waste generation
- Waste and its effects are minimised while the lifecycle of resources is maximised
- Improvements to natural capital, ecosystem services and the natural environment, including carbon reduction
- Knock-on benefits to Restored nature, Environmental quality, Environmental security and Access to nature

These impacts will enable us to meet the waste goal vision, contributing to the circular economy and supporting delivery of the EIP.

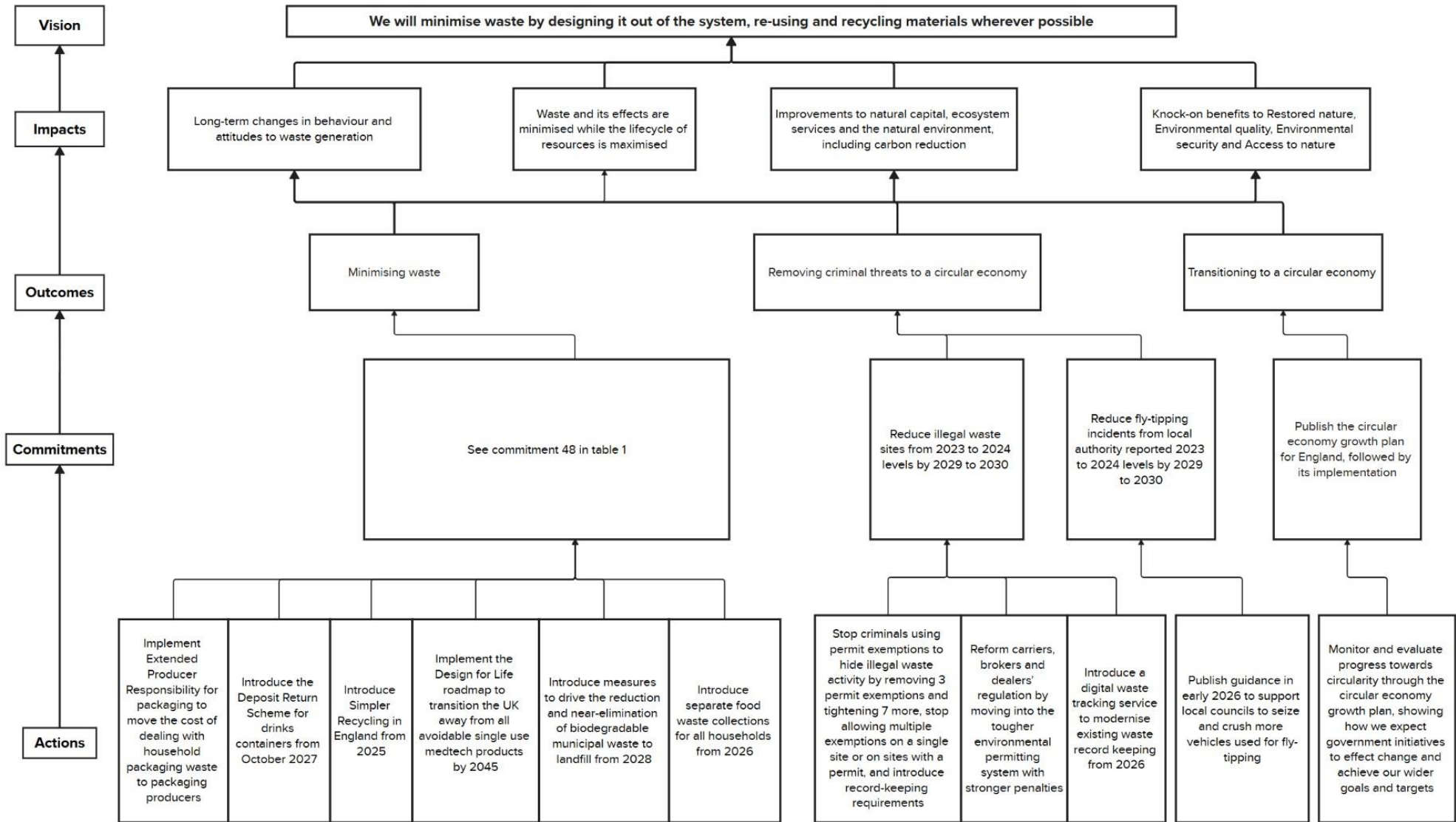


Figure 8: Illustrative theory of change for waste with key actions

## Goal 6: Resources

The theory of change diagram in figure 9 links the resources goal outcomes and impacts with their contributing commitments and actions. The diagram shows key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for the resources goal is to ensure that natural resources are produced, managed and consumed sustainably.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the resources goal (for a full list of actions see section 3). These actions contribute towards meeting our resources commitments (the full list of commitments is in section 2).

The commitments contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for resources:

- Increasing the supply, harvesting and use of sustainable domestic timber
- Managing fisheries sustainably
- Managing, improving and protecting soil responsibly
- Ensuring sustainable and resilient food production

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Co-benefits to air, land, water, the marine environment, biodiversity, net zero and ecosystem services
- Sustainable livelihoods and supply chain circularity
- Improvement in the value of land- and water-based renewable and non-renewable resources

These impacts will enable us to meet the resources goal vision, contributing to the circular economy and supporting delivery of the EIP.

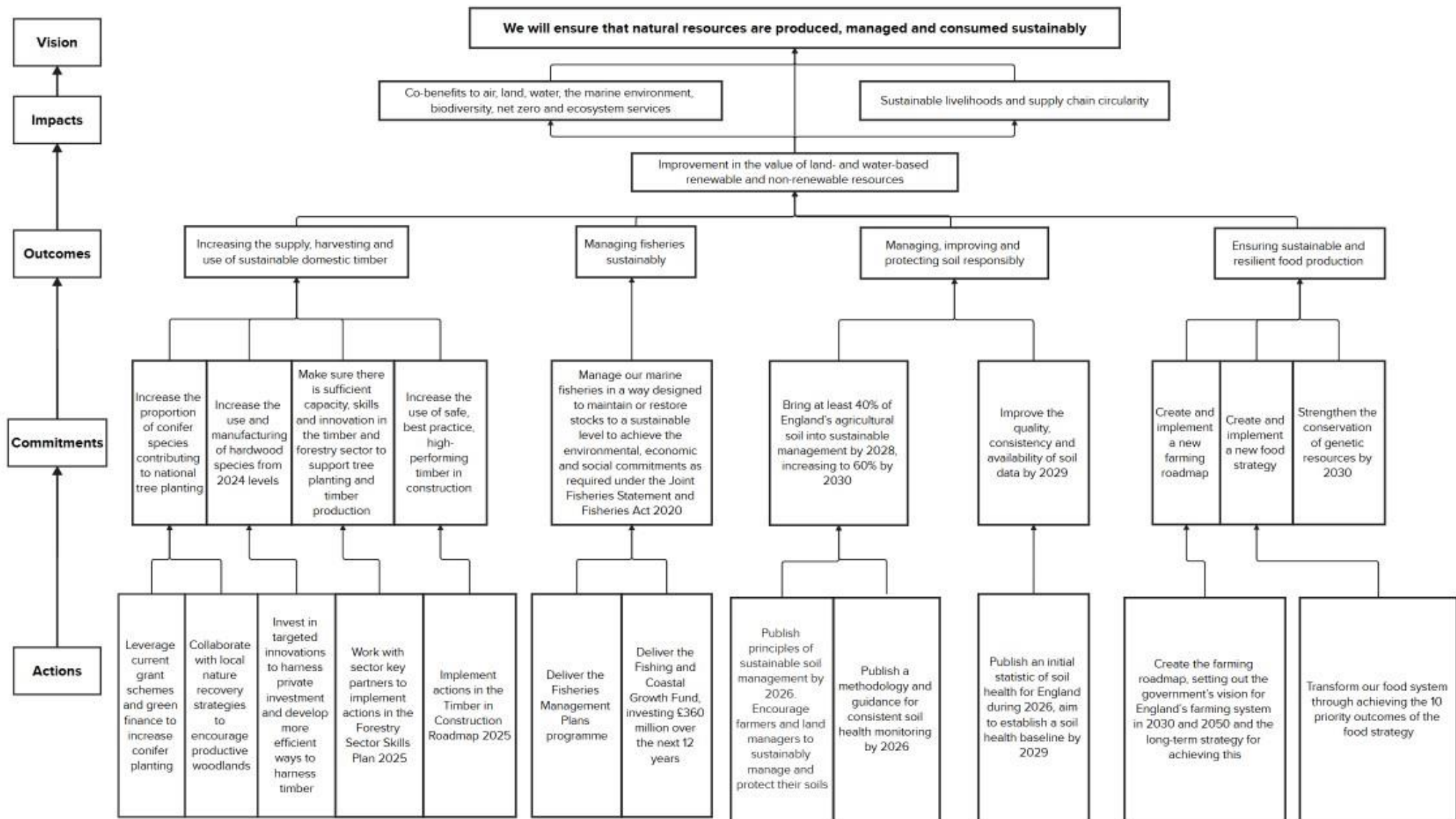


Figure 9: Illustrative theory of change for resources with key actions

## Goal 7: Climate change

The theory of change diagrams in figures 10 and 11 link climate change goal outcomes and impacts to their contributing commitments and actions. The diagrams show key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for the goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero and work to prepare the natural environment for the effects of climate change.

Figure 11 includes the commitments and actions for the goal outcomes, preserving and enhancing nature's potential to capture and store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and making society, infrastructure and the economy more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the climate change goal (for a full list of actions see section 3). These actions contribute towards meeting our climate change commitments (the full list of commitments is in section 2).

The commitments contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for climate change:

- Preserving and enhancing nature's potential to capture and store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Delivering climate resilient environment outcomes
- Making society, infrastructure and the economy more resilient to climate change

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Improvements to the natural environment natural capital and ecosystem services, in spite of climate change
- Enhanced rural and green economy through sustainable "clean" growth and innovation
- Health, resilience and quality of life of people and nature restored and improved

These impacts will enable us to meet the climate goal vision, contributing to environmental security and supporting delivery of the EIP.

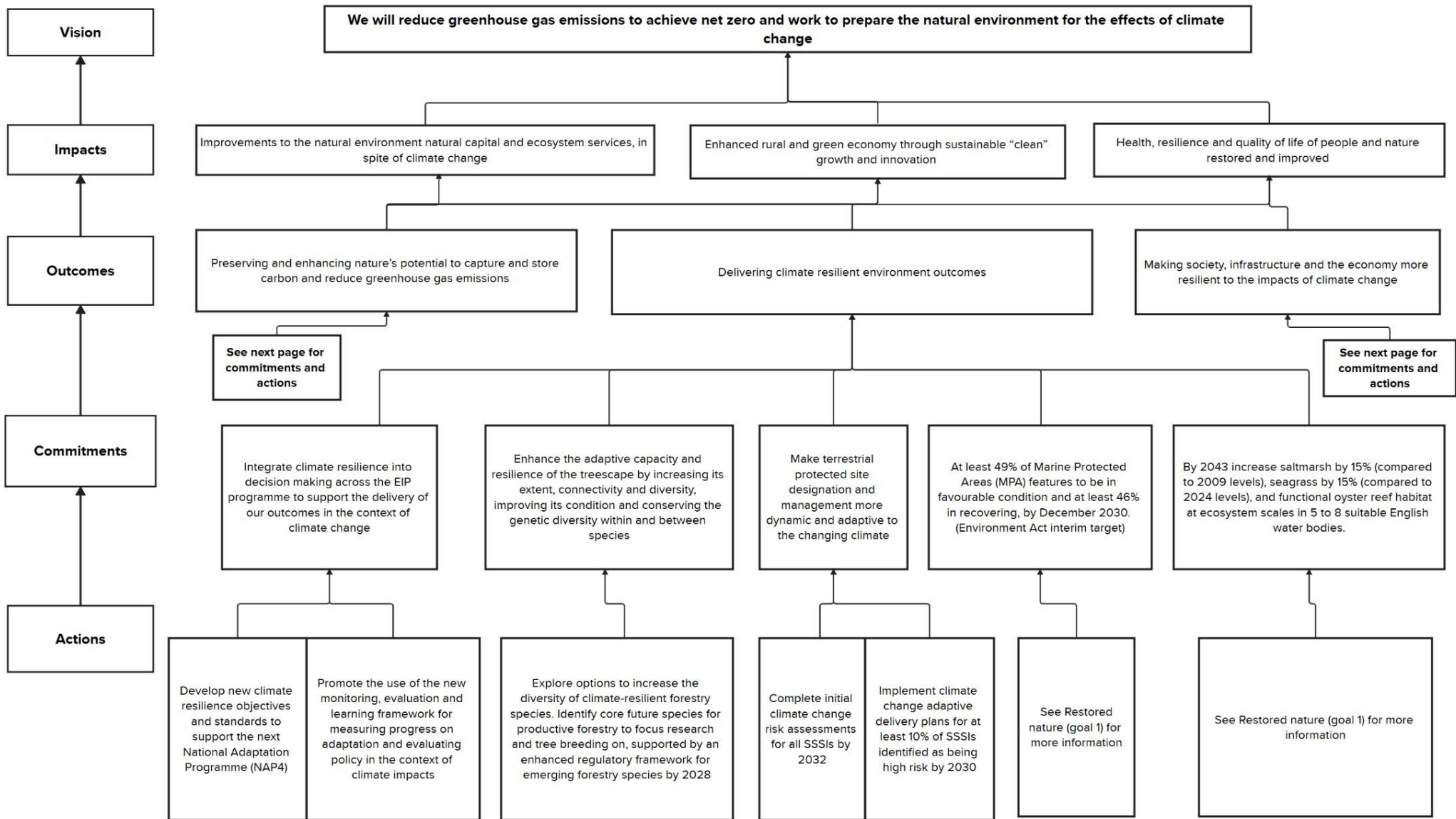


Figure 10: Illustrative theory of change for climate change with key actions

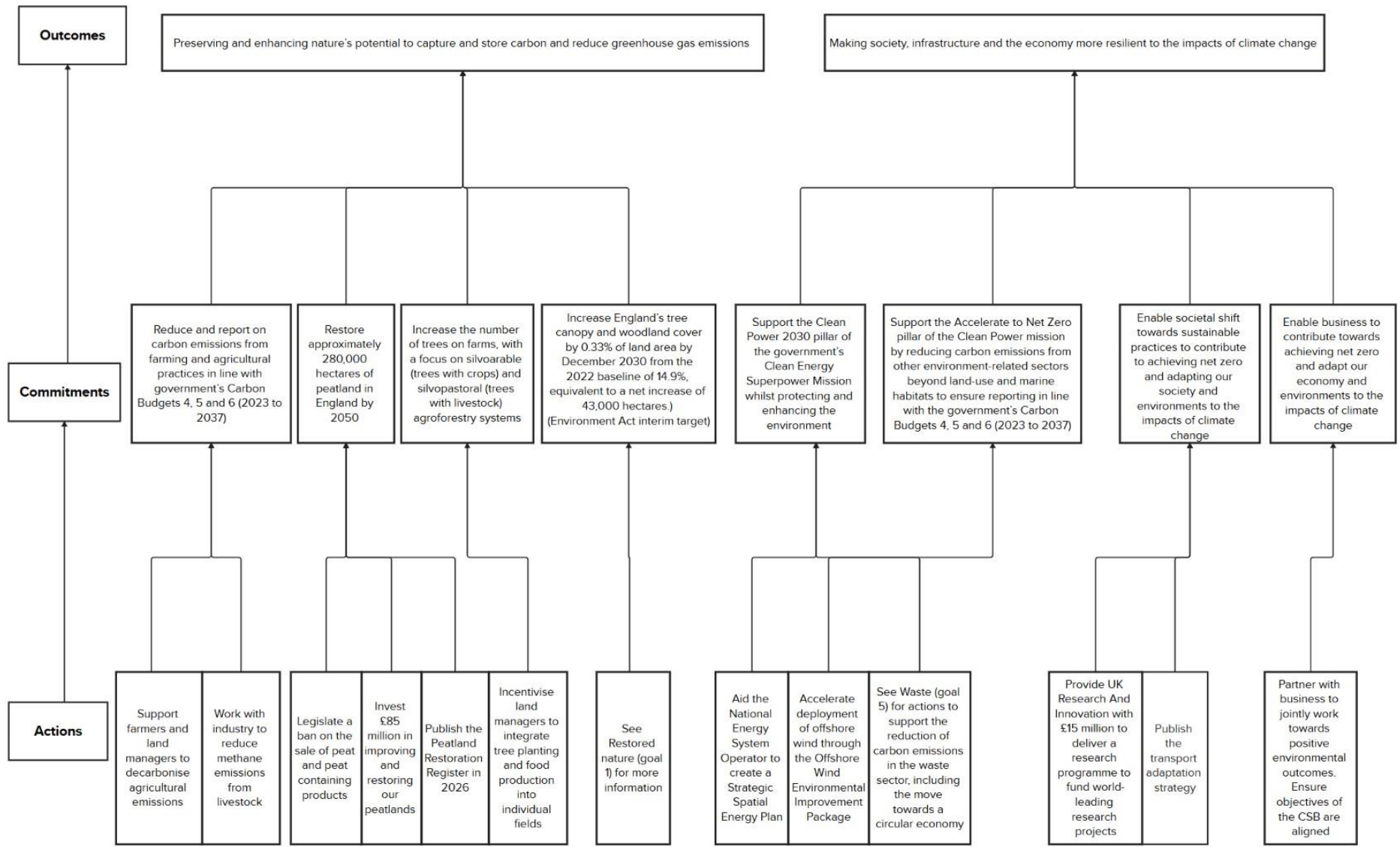


Figure 11: Illustrative theory of change for the climate change goal outcomes of 'Preserving and enhancing nature potential to capture and store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions' and 'Making society, infrastructure and the economy more resilient to the impacts of climate change'

## Goal 8: Reducing Environmental hazards

The theory of change diagram in figure 12 links environmental hazard goal outcomes and impacts to their contributing commitments and actions. The diagram shows key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for the environmental hazards goal is that the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy from natural hazards is reduced.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the environmental hazards goal (for a full list of actions see section 3). These actions contribute towards meeting our environmental hazards commitments (the full list of commitments is in section 2).

The commitments contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for environmental hazards:

- Strengthening resilience and adaptation to drought
- Strengthening resilience and adaptation to flood and coastal erosion risk
- Understanding the risks from wildfires and taking action to mitigate and adapt
- Understanding the risks from climate change, such as increased storms and heat events, and taking action to mitigate and adapt
- Improving and restoring resilience of the natural environment to environmental hazards

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- More resilient water, air, land and biodiversity natural capital
- Links with goals on Air, Water, Climate change, Restored nature and Access to nature

These impacts will enable us to meet the environmental hazards goal vision, contributing to environmental security and supporting delivery of the EIP.

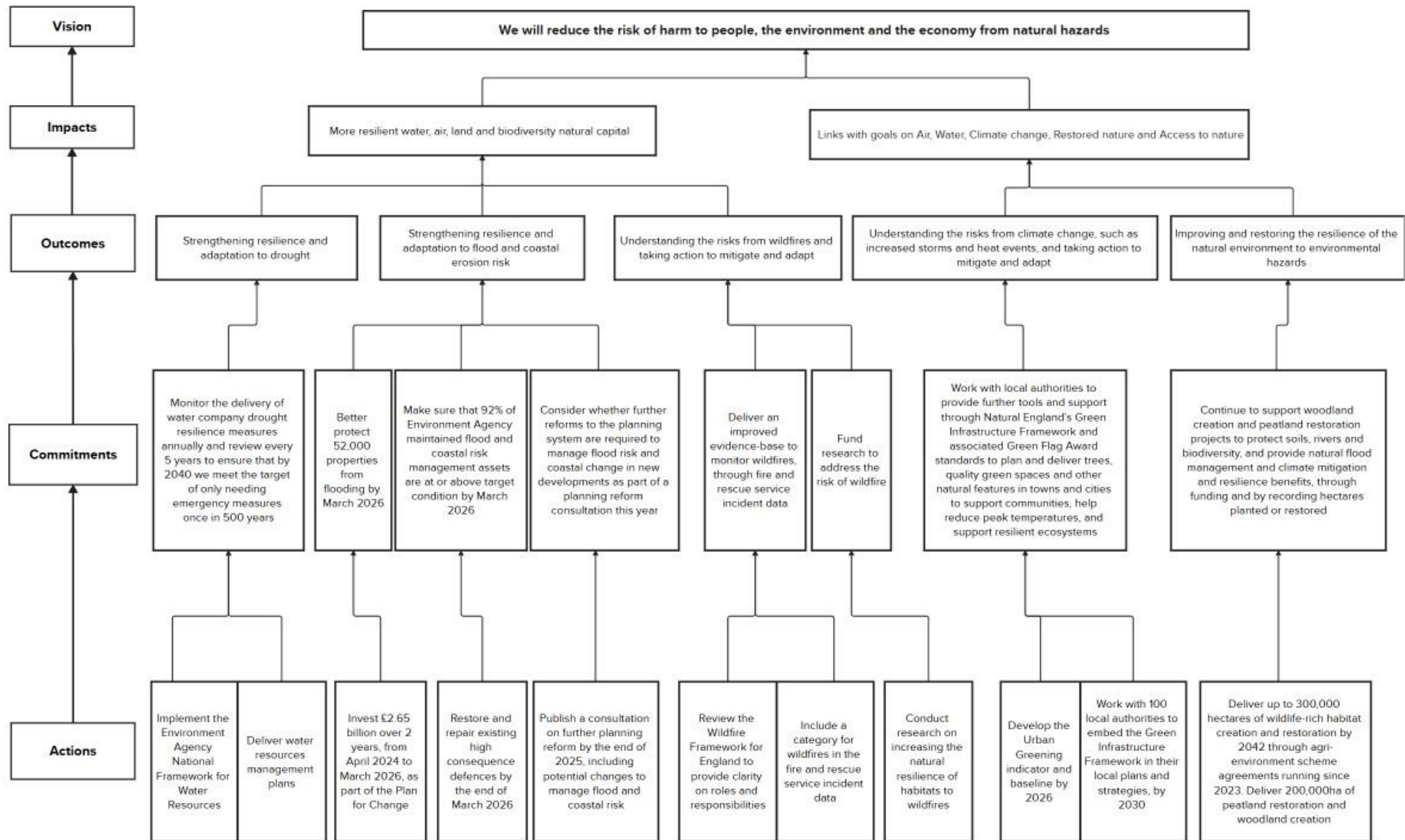


Figure 12: Illustrative theory of change for environmental hazards with key actions

## Goal 9: Biosecurity

The theory of change diagram in figure 13 links biosecurity goal outcomes and impacts to their contributing commitments and actions. The diagram shows key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for the goal is that biosecurity is enhanced to protect our natural environment and boost the health and resilience of plants, animals, ecosystems and people.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the enhanced biosecurity goal (for a full list of actions see section 3). These actions contribute towards meeting the interim and statutory Environment Act targets and enhanced biosecurity goal commitments.

There is one interim target associated with the biodiversity goal and 6 goal commitments (the full list of commitments is in section 2).

The target and commitments contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for biosecurity:

- Understanding current and future biosecurity threats
- Preventing biosecurity threats from introduction, establishment and spread
- Minimising the risk of biosecurity threats through early detection and diagnosis
- Responding rapidly to biosecurity threats to eradicate or control them and prevent or lessen their impact
- Increasing public and stakeholder awareness of biosecurity threats

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- A healthier, more resilient natural environment
- Improvements to natural capital, ecosystem services
- Benefits to Restored nature, Environmental quality; Access to nature; Resources

These impacts will enable us to meet the biosecurity goal vision, contributing to environmental security and supporting delivery of the EIP.

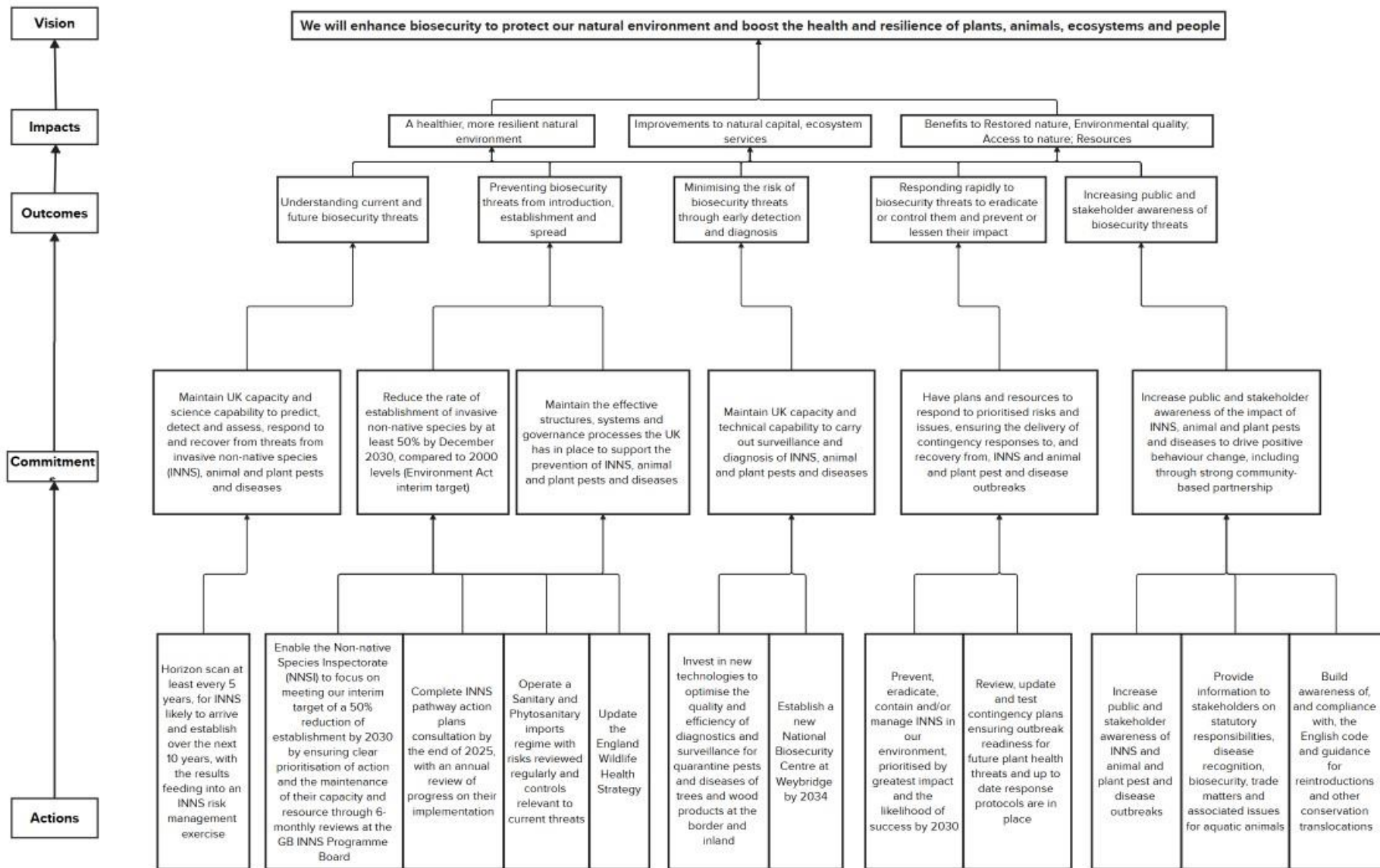


Figure 13: Illustrative theory of change for biosecurity with key actions

## Goal 10: Access to nature

The theory of change diagram in figure 14 links access to nature goal outcomes and impacts to their contributing commitments and actions. The diagram shows key actions at the bottom and flows to the goal vision at the top. Each action has its own path leading to individual commitments, outcomes and impacts. These are all united under a single goal. The vision for the access to nature goal is that everyone can access, enjoy and care for nature, and protect and enhance its beauty and heritage.

The EIP outlines the actions that are in place to achieve the access to nature goal (for a full list of actions see section 3). These actions contribute towards meeting our access to nature commitments (the full list of commitments is in section 2).

The commitments contribute towards meeting the following goal outcomes for access to nature:

- Improving public access to nature
- Reducing barriers to accessing nature
- Increased amount and quality of access to nature for everyone
- Increasing enjoyment and improving connections with nature
- Connecting all children with nature as part of everyday life
- Protecting and enhancing landscapes' character, natural beauty, geological and cultural heritage and historic environment
- Improved public health and well-being

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Nature is recognised as a fundamental component of a functioning society; critical to everyone's health, wellbeing and quality of life
- Improvement to natural capital, ecosystem services, natural and historic environment, and demonstrates resilience to climate change
- Makes connections with clean air, water quality and quantity, restored nature and the circular economy
- An improved environment for biodiversity and nature recovery

These impacts will enable us to meet the access to nature goal vision, supporting delivery of the EIP.

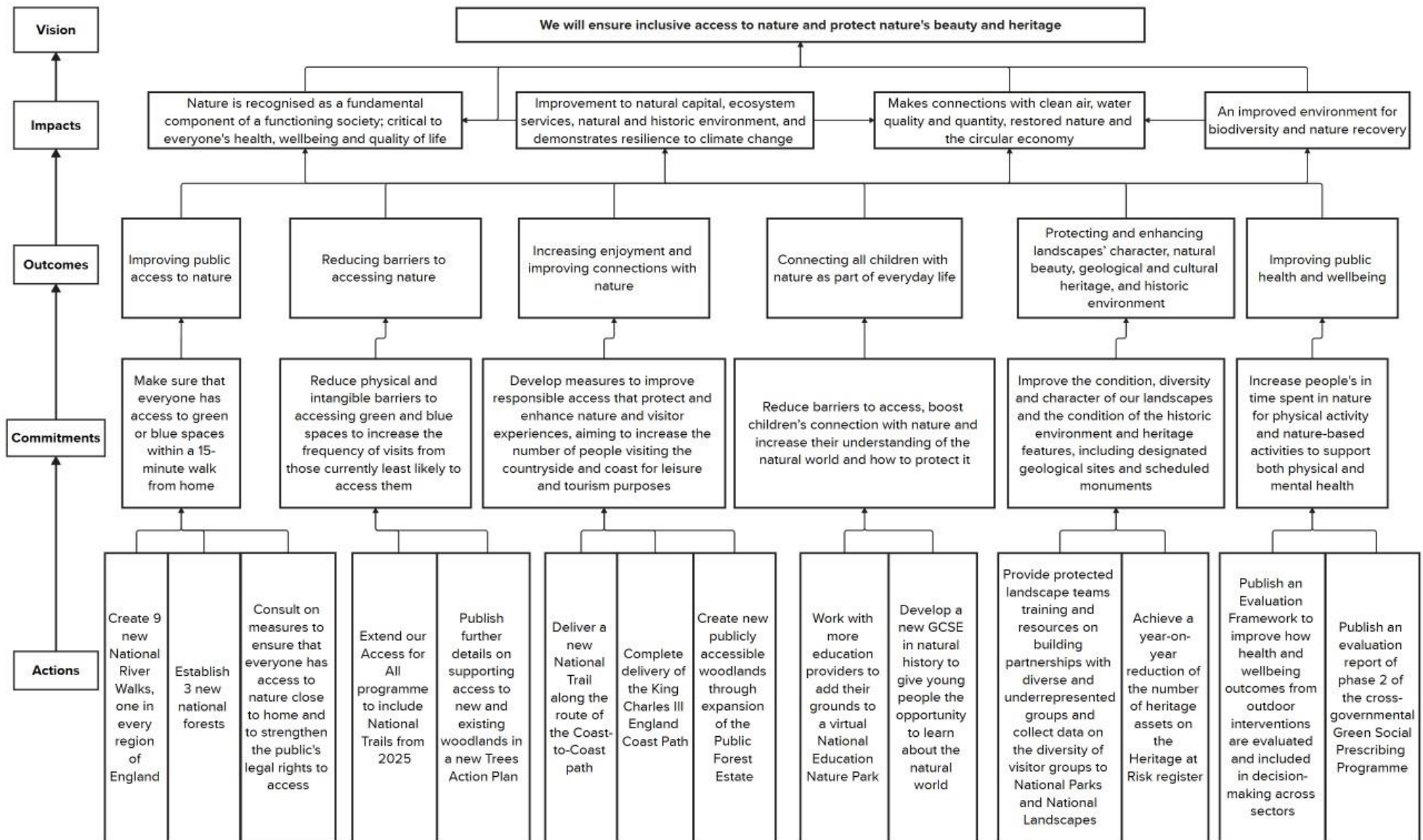


Figure 14: Illustrative theory of change for access to nature with key actions

## List of commitment metrics and relative contributions

To report progress against our commitments, we will use the monitoring approaches listed in table 1 to inform APRs.

For each commitment it is outlined how we will measure, or monitor, delivery progress. Different monitoring approaches are used throughout, due to the range of EIP commitments. This includes both quantitative and qualitative monitoring activities, while some have a single metric to indicate delivery progress, others use a combination of activities.

In some cases, the best way to monitor progress is still being developed and is under consultation or under analytical development. We have noted these cases with the expected timelines.

The way that each activity will be measured will underpin how the commitments are reported on in future EIP APRs. APRs focus on transparency and provide monitoring updates where qualitative or quantitative data are not available.

As outlined in the EIP, some commitments contribute to more than one EIP goal. These are labelled as system connections in the table.

We have also provided a qualitative assessment of the contribution we expect each commitment to make towards delivering the outcomes of the relevant goal, using a 5-point scale ranging from low to high. These ratings enable us to understand how much the commitments help us achieve the goal outcomes. Some commitments contribute to delivering other commitments; the statutory species Environment Act target delivery plan highlights examples of this.

Table 1: List of commitment metrics and relative contributions

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
1	Mobilise private investment and finance to restore and protect nature in England	In development following call for evidence	Cross cutting	Not applicable to cross-cutting commitments
2	Publish Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) to cover the whole of England for use by public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver on nature recovery and wider environmental commitments by the end of 2025 or shortly after	Percentage of Responsible Authorities with strategies in place via reporting to Defra	Cross cutting	Not applicable to cross-cutting commitments
3	Use the National Estate for Nature (NEN) group to support the delivery of statutory nature targets and 30by30 on members' estates, trial innovative land management approaches and provide engagement routes to support and replicate action	In development: reporting on delivery towards nature targets and 30by30 from management plans	Cross cutting	Not applicable to cross-cutting commitments
4	Enable Protected Landscapes organisations to make land greener, wilder, and more accessible to all	Progress will continue to be reported against the 10 targets in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework	Cross cutting	Not applicable to cross-cutting commitments
5	Build green skills for the future, including in agriculture, land management and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defra and industry to report on engagements with learning and skills partners</li> </ul>	Cross cutting	Not applicable to cross-cutting commitments

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starts and completions on environmentally relevant skills qualifications, as published by the Department for Education and the Higher Education Statistics Agency</li> </ul>		
6	Address barriers to sustainable choices across society	<p>Reporting on delivery progress through several indicators related to behaviour, including reduced use of public water supply, reported engagement with natural environment, and adoption of the deposit return scheme.</p> <p>Additional, consolidated metrics are under development following the Public Participation Strategy in late 2025</p>	Cross cutting	Not applicable to cross-cutting commitments
7	Effectively conserve and manage 30% of the UK's land by 2030 (30by30)	Percentage of England's land counting towards 30by30	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	High
8	By December 2030 50% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) features to have actions on track to	Percentage of SSSI features with actions on track and up-to-date condition assessment (see	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	Medium high

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	achieve favourable condition (Environment Act interim target)	interim target delivery plan)		
9	Increase the contribution that Protected Landscapes are making to Environment Act and EIP targets, measured through the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework	Spatial data for Protected Landscapes relevant to the EIP25 targets	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	Medium high
10	Restore or create a total of 250,000 hectares (ha) of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside of protected sites by December 2030 (Environment Act interim target)	Wildlife-rich habitat created or restored outside of protected sites since January 2023 in hectares (see interim target delivery plan)	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	High
11	Increase England's tree canopy and woodland cover by 0.33% of land area by December 2030 from the 2022 baseline of 14.9%, equivalent to a net increase of 43,000 hectares. (Environment Act interim target)-	Percentage of tree canopy and woodland cover (see interim target delivery plan)	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	Medium high
12	Support farmers and land managers to create or restore 48,000km of hedgerows by 2037 and 72,500km of hedgerows by 2050	Length of hedgerows created or restored in kilometres	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	Medium low
13	By 2043, increase saltmarsh by 15%, compared to 2009 levels, seagrass by 15% compared to 2024 levels, and create functional oyster reef habitat at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percentage increase in saltmarsh extent nationally in comparison to the 2009</li> </ul>	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	Medium low

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	ecosystem scales in 5 to 8 suitable English water bodies	saltmarsh inventory baseline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage increase in seagrass extent nationally in comparison to the 2024 inventory baseline</li> <li>• The number of water bodies with function oyster reef habitat</li> </ul>		
63* System connection	Restore approximately 280,000ha of peatland in England by 2050	Area of peatland brought into restoration management in hectares	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	Medium high
28* System connection	Restore chalk streams to better ecological health, ensuring protections and investment towards these habitats	Qualitative reporting on progress, including evaluating impacts of the Water Restoration Fund (WRF) and Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF) on chalk streams, and on government funding towards restoration projects ensuring the delivery of water company actions under the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP)	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	Medium low

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
67* System connection	Make terrestrial protected site designation and management more dynamic and adaptive to the changing climate	The percentage of SSSI that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have had a climate change risk assessment</li> <li>• are at high risk from climate change with an Adaptive Delivery plan completed</li> </ul>	Restored nature: Progressing 30by30 on land in England	Medium
14	Take targeted action to conserve and recover threatened species	Number of priority actions taken for threatened species through the Species Recovery Programme	Restored nature: Conserving and recovering plants, animals and fungi	Medium high
15	Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030 (Environment Act statutory target)	EIF D4: Relative species abundance	Restored nature: Conserving and recovering plants, animals and fungi	High
16	By December 2030, double the number of farms providing sufficient year-round resources for farm wildlife, compared with 2025 (Environment Act interim target)	Percentage of land managers and farmers that are doing the required combination of actions to support farm wildlife (see interim target delivery plan)	Restored nature: Conserving and recovering plants, animals and fungi	Medium high
17	At least 49% of Marine Protected Area (MPA) protected features are in favourable condition and at least 46% in recovering condition, by December 2030 (Environment Act interim target)	Percentage of MPA features in favourable and recovering condition (see interim target delivery plan)	Restored nature: Achieving clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas	Medium high

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
18	Effectively conserve and manage 30% of the UK's seas for nature by 2030	Percentage of protected areas covering UK's seas	Restored nature: Achieving clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas	Medium high
19	<p>Deliver 2030 emissions targets to reduce anthropogenic emissions for the following pollutants against a 2005 baseline level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ammonia (NH3) 16% reduction</li> <li>• nitrogen dioxide (NO2) 73% reduction</li> <li>• sulphur dioxide (SO2) 88% reduction</li> <li>• particulate matter (PM2.5) 46% reduction</li> <li>• non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs) 39% reduction</li> </ul>	EIF A1: Emissions for five key air pollutants and A3: Concentrations of PM2.5 in the air	Air: Reducing emissions and population exposure to air pollutants	High
20	Deliver air pollution levels set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations in local areas	EIF A5: Roadside NO2 concentrations and monitoring and reporting as set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations	Air: Reducing emissions and population exposure to air pollutants	High
21	<p>Deliver air quality targets for PM2.5 concentration and exposure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an annual mean concentration target of 10 micrograms per cubic metre to be achieved by December 2030</li> <li>b. a population exposure reduction target of 30%</li> </ol>	EIF A3: Concentrations of PM2.5 in the air (see interim target delivery plan)	Air: Reducing emissions and population exposure to air pollutants	High

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	compared to 2018 to be achieved by December 2030 (Environment Act interim targets)			
22	Improve communication of air quality information	Qualitative reporting on progress, including reporting on actions to improve communication	Air: Increasing public engagement with air quality matters	High
23	Support catchment partnerships as a framework for coordinating action between the public, private and third sectors	Qualitative reporting on progress, including outcomes from the annual WEIF and Annual Catchment Partnership evaluation report	Water: Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments	Medium high
24	Require standardised sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in all new developments with drainage impacts and ensure sustainable maintenance arrangements are in place by 2029	Qualitative reporting on progress of actions	Water: Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments	Medium
25	Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 55% by December 2030 against a 2020 baseline (Environment Act interim target)	EIF B1c: Total phosphorus pollution loads entering rivers from water company sewage treatment works (see interim target delivery plan)	Water: Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments	High
26 (a and b)	Reduce total nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment a. by at least 12% by December 2030, compared to 2018 levels, and	Pollutant load reduction using a model currently under development (see interim target delivery plan)	Water: Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments	Medium

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	<p>b. by at least 18% in catchments containing protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution by December 2030</p> <p>(Environment Act interim targets)</p>			
27	<p>Construct 8 mine water treatment schemes and 20 diffuse interventions to control inputs of target substances to rivers, and complete 55 catchment studies by December 2030</p> <p>(Environment Act interim target)</p>	<p>The number of mine water treatment schemes, and diffuse interventions constructed, and the number of catchment studies completed (see interim target delivery plan)</p>	<p>Water: Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments</p>	<p>Medium high</p>
28	<p>Restore chalk streams to better ecological health, ensuring protections and investment towards these habitats</p>	<p>Qualitative reporting on progress, including evaluating impacts of the WRF and WEIF on chalk streams, and on government funding towards restoration projects ensuring the delivery of water company actions under the WINEP</p>	<p>Water: Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments</p>	<p>Medium high</p>
29	<p>Drive further investment to improve the water environment</p>	<p>Funding directed towards improving the water environment.</p> <p>Qualitative reporting on progress, including Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan (SODRP) targets progress reports,</p>	<p>Water: Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments</p>	<p>Medium high</p>

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
		annual WEIF evaluation, WRF evaluation report and Defra annual reports		
30	Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population from a 2019 to 2020 baseline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. by 9% by 31 March 2027 and</li> <li>b. by 14% by 31 March 2032</li> </ul> (Environment Act interim targets)	EIF E8: Efficient use of water (see interim target delivery plan)	Water: Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses	High. Public water supply will be reduced through the combined delivery of commitments 31 to 34.
31	Reduce household water use to 122 litres per person per day by 2038 from a 2019 to 2020 baseline	EIF E8: Efficient use of water and monitoring the total water put into the distribution network for household consumer usage (the distribution input)	Water: Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses	Medium high
32	Reduce non-household water use by 9% by 2038	EIF E8: Efficient use of water and monitoring the total water put into the distribution network for non-household consumer usage (the distribution input)	Water: Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses	Medium
33	Reduce leakage from a 2017 to 2018 baseline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. by 20% by 31 March 2027, and</li> <li>b. by 30% by 31 March 2032</li> </ul> (Environment Act interim targets)	EIF E8: Efficient use of water (see interim target delivery plan)	Water: Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses	Medium high

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
34	Ensure water companies deliver their water resources management plans, eliminating the water supply demand gap that grows to 5 billion litres a day by 2050	Annual reporting of delivery against water resources management plans by water companies to Defra	Water: Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses	Medium high
35	Modernise the abstraction licensing system, including moving it into the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR). The government is considering the recommendations of the Independent Water Commission	Annual EPR status updates	Water: Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses	Medium low
36	Support the agricultural sector in ensuring collaborative sustainable water use, through enabling an increase in the number of Water Abstractor Groups from 7 to 14 by 2030	Number of functioning Water Abstractor Groups	Water: Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses	Medium low
37	Reduce the impact of storm overflows on the environment and human health by reducing spill numbers and prioritising sensitive sites, in line with the SODRP	SODRP targets progress reports	Water: Delivering clean rivers, lakes and seas for people to enjoy	Medium high
38	Review the regulatory framework for sewage sludge spreading to agricultural land to ensure it effectively manages the risks to the environment and health	Annual EPR status updates	Water: Delivering clean rivers, lakes and seas for people to enjoy	Low
39	Better understand the health impacts associated with polluted waters	Qualitative reporting on progress, including preliminary findings and	Water: Delivering clean rivers, lakes and seas for people to enjoy	Medium low

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
		progress of the Faecal-Oral Transmission research project		
40	Reform UK Registration, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) to enable protections that address chemical pollution to be applied more quickly, efficiently and in a way that is more aligned with our closest trading partners, especially the EU, by December 2028	Qualitative reporting on progress to ensure legislative changes are in force by December 2028	Chemicals and pesticides: Using and managing chemicals safely	High
41	Take action on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) through a new PFAS plan	EA environmental permit registers	Chemicals and pesticides: Using and managing chemicals safely	Medium high
42	Implement targets and obligations agreed through multilateral environmental agreements and other forums	Qualitative reporting on progress of actions to implement targets and obligations agreed through multilateral agreements in the APR	Chemicals and pesticides: Using and managing chemicals safely	High
43	Substantially increase the destruction of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) found in waste by 2030	EIF J5: prevent harmful chemicals from being recycled	Chemicals and pesticides: Reducing the impact of legacy chemicals	Medium high
44	Seek to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by the end of 2025 to make sure there are negligible emissions to the environment in line with our commitments under the Stockholm Convention	Monitoring EA compliance activity demonstrated by the removal of illegal equipment from the PCB register	Chemicals and pesticides: Reducing the impact of legacy chemicals	Medium high

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
45	Review the delivery of the contaminated land regulatory regime by assessing the use of existing powers and local authority performance through a new State of Contaminated Land Report by 2026	Qualitative reporting on delivery of local authority progress against requirements stated in the State of Contaminated Land report in 2026	Chemicals and pesticides: Reducing the impact of legacy chemicals	Low
46	Deliver the domestic pesticides reduction target, as set out in the 2025 UK Pesticides National Action Plan, to reduce each of the 20 metrics of the Pesticides Load Indicator (PLI) by at least 10% by 2030 in the arable sector compared to 2018	Qualitative reporting in biennial publications showing progress against the PLI target	Chemicals and pesticides: Minimising the risks of pesticides whilst maintaining food security	Medium high
47	End the use of neonicotinoid pesticides (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) that are known to carry substantial risks to pollinator populations	Qualitative reporting on progress including publication of revised guidance, and assessment of options for changes to legislation.	Chemicals and pesticides: Minimising the risks of pesticides whilst maintaining food security	Medium low
48 (a, b, c, e, f, g and h)	By December 2030 the total mass of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. residual waste excluding major mineral wastes in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 437kg per capita</li> <li>b. residual waste excluding major mineral wastes in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 25.5 million tonnes</li> <li>c. residual municipal waste in the most recent full calendar year</li> </ul>	EIF J4i: Residual waste excluding major mineral waste per capita per calendar year (see interim target delivery plan)	Waste: Minimising waste	Medium high

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	<p>does not exceed 333kg per capita</p> <p>d. residual municipal plastic waste in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 42kg per capita</p> <p>e. residual municipal paper and card waste in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 74kg per capita</p> <p>f. residual municipal metal waste in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 10kg per capita</p> <p>g. residual municipal glass waste in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 7kg per capita</p> <p>(Environment Act interim targets)</p>			
48 d	<p>By December 2030, the total mass of residual municipal food waste in the most recent full calendar year does not exceed 64kg per capita</p> <p>(Environment Act interim target)</p>	Residual municipal food waste per capita per calendar year (see interim target delivery plan)	Waste: Minimising waste	Medium
49	Reduce illegal waste sites from 2023 to 2024 levels by 2029 to 2030	EIF J6: Waste crime	Waste: Removing criminal threats to a circular economy	Medium high

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
50	Reduce fly-tipping incidents from local authority reported 2023 to 2024 levels by 2029 to 2030	EIF J6: Waste crime	Waste: Removing criminal threats to a circular economy	Medium high
51	Publish the circular economy growth plan in early 2026, followed by its implementation	Circular economy growth plan publication	Waste: Transitioning to a circular economy	High
52	Increase the proportion of conifer species contributing to national tree planting	Forest Research official statistics on area of conifer species planted within total area of new woodland planting and the EIF D3 to monitor conifer proportions	Resources: Increasing the supply, harvesting and use of sustainable domestic timber	Medium high
53	Increase the use and manufacturing of hardwood species from 2024 levels	Forest Research official statistics on quantity of UK hardwood harvested	Resources: Increasing the supply, harvesting and use of sustainable domestic timber	Medium low
54	Make sure there is sufficient capacity, skills and innovation in the timber and forestry sector to support tree planting and timber production	Forestry Commission (FC) data on project funding for tree breeding and improvement and, skills and capacity development	Resources: Increasing the supply, harvesting and use of sustainable domestic timber	Medium
55	Increase the use of safe, best practice, high-performing timber in construction	Qualitative reporting on progress, including monitoring delivery of key actions in the Timber in Construction Roadmap	Resources: Increasing the supply, harvesting and use of sustainable domestic timber	Medium high
56	Manage our marine fisheries in a way designed to maintain or restore stocks to a sustainable level to achieve the environmental, economic and social	EIF C10a: Marine fish (quota) stocks of UK interest harvested sustainably. Internationally	Resources: Managing fisheries sustainably	High

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	commitments as required under the Joint Fisheries Statement and Fisheries Act 2020	shared stocks use the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science sustainability report. Other stocks, including those with insufficient evidence to assess their status, use Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)		
57	Bring at least 40% of England's agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2028, increasing to 60% by 2030	In development: sustainable soil management statistics	Resources: Managing, improving and protecting soil responsibly	Medium high
58	Improve the quality, consistency and availability of soil data by 2029	Ongoing development of EIF E7: Healthy soils	Resources: Managing, improving and protecting soil responsibly	Medium
59	Create and implement a new farming roadmap	Publication of the farming roadmap	Resources: Ensuring sustainable and resilient food production	High
60	Create and implement a new food strategy	Monitoring delivery of food strategy priority outcomes	Resources: Ensuring sustainable and resilient food production	High
61	Strengthen the conservation of genetic resources by 2030	Annual livestock inventory, native breed risk lists data and outputs from research	Resources: Ensuring sustainable and resilient food production	Medium high
62	Reduce and report on carbon emissions from farming and agricultural practices in line with government's Carbon Budgets 4, 5 and 6 (2023 to 2037)	Million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO <sub>2e</sub> ) reduction in line with the Carbon Budget	Climate change: Preserving and enhancing nature's potential to capture and store carbon and reduce	Medium high

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
		Framework. Reported using the EIF indicator A2	greenhouse gas emissions	
63	Restore approximately 280,000 hectares of peatland in England by 2050	Area of peatland brought into restoration management in hectares	Climate change: Preserving and enhancing nature's potential to capture and store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Medium high
64	Increase the number of trees on farms, with a focus on silvoarable (trees with crops) and silvopastoral (trees with livestock) agroforestry systems	Area of land using agroforestry system in hectares	Climate change: Preserving and enhancing nature's potential to capture and store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Medium low
11* System connection	Increase England's tree canopy and woodland cover by 0.33% of land area by December 2030 from the 2022 baseline of 14.9%. (Equivalent to a net increase of 43,000 hectares.) (Environment Act interim target).	Percentage of tree canopy and woodland cover (see interim target delivery plan)	Climate change: Preserving and enhancing nature's potential to capture and store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	High
65	Integrate climate resilience into decision making across the EIP programme to support the delivery of our outcomes in the context of climate change	Implementation of adaptation policies and plans as reported in the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) biennial progress report	Climate change: Delivering climate resilient environment outcomes	Medium high

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
66	Enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of the treescape by increasing its extent, connectivity and diversity, improving its condition and conserving the genetic diversity within and between species	Qualitative reporting against FC key performance indicators	Climate change: Delivering climate resilient environment outcomes	Medium high
67	Make terrestrial protected site designation and management more dynamic and adaptive to the changing climate	The percentage of SSSIs that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have had a climate change risk assessment</li> <li>• are at high risk from climate change with an adaptive delivery plan completed</li> </ul>	Climate change: Delivering climate resilient environment outcomes	Medium high
17* System connection	Make sure at least 49% of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) protected features are in favourable condition and at least 46% in recovering, by December 2030 (Environment Act interim target)	Percentage of MPA features in favourable and recovering condition (see interim target delivery plan)	Climate change: Delivering climate resilient environment outcomes	Medium
13* System connection	By 2043 increase saltmarsh by 15% compared to 2009 levels, seagrass by 15% compared to 2024 levels, and create functional oyster reef habitat at ecosystem scales in 5 to 8 suitable English water bodies	The percentage increase in saltmarsh extent and seagrass extent nationally and the number of water bodies with function oyster reef habitat	Climate change: Delivering climate resilient environment outcomes	Medium high
68	Support the Clean Power 2030 pillar of the government's Clean Energy Superpower Mission whilst protecting and enhancing the environment	UK sector greenhouse gas emissions	Climate change: Making society, infrastructure and the economy more	High

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
			resilient to the impacts of climate change	
69	Support the Accelerate to Net Zero pillar of the Clean Power mission by reducing carbon emissions from other environment-related sectors beyond land-use and marine habitats to ensure reporting in line with the government's Carbon Budgets 4, 5 and 6 (2023 to 2037)	Million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO <sub>2</sub> e) reduction in line with the Carbon Budget Framework. Reported using EIF indicator A2	Climate change: Making society, infrastructure and the economy more resilient to the impacts of climate change	High
70	Enable societal shift towards sustainable practices to contribute to achieving net zero and adapting our society and environments to the impacts of climate change	Uptake of sustainable actions measured through public attitude surveys	Climate change: Making society, infrastructure and the economy more resilient to the impacts of climate change	High
71	Enable business to contribute towards achieving net zero and adapt our economy and environments to the impacts of climate change	Qualitative reporting against Net Zero Council sector roadmaps	Climate change: Making society, infrastructure and the economy more resilient to the impacts of climate change	High
72	Monitor the delivery of water company drought resilience measures annually and review every 5 years to ensure that by 2040 we meet the target of only needing emergency measures once in 500 years	Qualitative reporting on progress, including monitoring water company annual review reports	Reducing environmental hazards: Strengthening resilience and adaptation to drought	High
73	Better protect 52,000 properties from flooding by March 2026	Number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion through the	Reducing environmental hazards: Strengthening resilience and adaptation to flood and coastal erosion risk	High

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
		government's investment programme		
74	Make sure that 92% of Environment Agency maintained flood and coastal risk management assets are at or above target condition by March 2026	Percentage of Environment Agency (EA) maintained high consequence assets at or above target condition	Reducing environmental hazards: Strengthening resilience and adaptation to flood and coastal erosion risk	High
75	Consider whether further reforms to the planning system are required to manage flood risk and coastal change in new developments as part of a planning reform consultation this year	Qualitative reporting on delivery of actions	Reducing environmental hazards: Strengthening resilience and adaptation to flood and coastal erosion risk	Medium
76	Deliver an improved evidence base to monitor wildfires, through fire and rescue service incident data	Publication of statistics on wildfire incidents attended	Reducing environmental hazards: Understanding the risks from wildfires and taking action to mitigate and adapt	Medium
77	Fund research to address the risk of wildfire	Qualitative reporting on progress, including undertaking a scoping review of evidence on the natural resilience of habitats to wildfires reported through APR in 2027, and publish a subsequent evidence review reported through APR in 2030	Reducing environmental hazards: Understanding the risks from wildfires and taking action to mitigate and adapt	Medium
78	Work with local authorities to provide further tools and support through Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework and associated Green Flag	EIF G3: enhancement of green and blue infrastructure	Reducing environmental hazards: Understanding the risks from climate change, such as	Medium

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	Award standards to plan and deliver trees, quality green spaces and other natural features in towns and cities to support communities, help reduce peak temperatures, and support resilient ecosystems		increased storms and heat events, and taking action to mitigate and adapt	
79	Continue to support woodland creation and peatland restoration projects to protect soils, rivers and biodiversity, and provide natural flood management and climate mitigation and resilience benefits, through funding and by recording hectares planted or restored	Woodland and peatland areas created or brought into restoration, measured in hectares. 4,859ha brought into restoration, aiming to deliver 0.765Mt carbon benefits by 2050	Reducing environmental hazards: Improving and restoring the resilience of the natural environment to environmental hazards	Medium
80	Maintain UK capacity and science capability to predict, detect and assess, respond to and recover from threats from invasive non-native species (INNS), animal and plant pests and diseases	Qualitative and quantitative reporting on progress, including year on year changes to the Plant Health Risk register (including new and existing risks to plant health); Animal Health and Welfare (AHW) Review update; and assessment of disease threats and horizon scanning results (including number of threats detected and assessed for wildlife and the environment)	Biosecurity: Understanding current and future biosecurity threats	High
81	Reduce the rate of establishment of INNS by at least 50% by December	EIF H1 metric: Abatement of the number of INNS entering and establishing	Biosecurity: Preventing biosecurity threats from	High

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	2030, compared to 2000 levels (Environment Act interim target)	against a baseline (see interim target delivery plan)	introduction, establishment and spread	
82	Maintain the effective structures, systems and governance processes the UK has in place to support the prevention of INNS, animal and plant pests and diseases	Qualitative and quantitative reporting on progress, including: EIF H1 metric on invasive species; implementation of UK-UP Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement; percentage of on-target actions in 'Reducing the Risk' sections of Trees Action Plan; number of Plant Health certified UK businesses; annual percentage of planting and restocking grant recipients using tree suppliers certified against the Plant Health Management Standard; establishment of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) evidence panel	Biosecurity: Preventing biosecurity threats from introduction, establishment and spread	High
83	Maintain UK capacity and technical capability to carry out surveillance and diagnosis of INNS, animal and plant pests and diseases	Qualitative and quantitative reporting on progress, including percentage coverage of FC's aerial surveillance programme; annual completion of priority tree pest surveys by FC;	Biosecurity: Minimising the risk of biosecurity threats through early detection and diagnosis	High

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
		completion of agreed annual and multi-annual surveys by the Animal and Plant Health Agency.		
84	Have plans and resources to respond to prioritised risks and issues, ensuring the delivery of contingency responses to, and recovery from, INNS and animal and plant pest and disease outbreaks	Qualitative and quantitative reporting on progress, including: number of contingency responses and eradications delivered by Non-native Species Inspectorate and EA; uptake of actions for management of INNS in environmental land management schemes (ELM) (measured in hectares); percentage of on-target actions in 'Reducing the Risk' sections of Trees Action Plan; number of new and/or updated Plant Health Contingency Plans published each year; area of tree felling required in England under Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) each year	Biosecurity: Responding rapidly to biosecurity threats to eradicate or control them and prevent or lessen their impact	High
85	Increase public and stakeholder awareness of the impact of INNS, animal and plant pests and diseases to drive positive behaviour change,	Qualitative and quantitative reporting on progress, including exhibit or speak at a minimum of 10 public or industry	Biosecurity: Increasing public and stakeholder awareness of biosecurity threats	High

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
	including through strong community-based partnership	events a year for the purpose of plant health and biosecurity outreach; National Plant Health Week campaign delivered annually; number of partner organisations who have signed the Plant Health Public Engagement Accord (cumulative).		
86	Make sure that everyone has access to green or blue spaces within a 15-minute walk from home	Currently published as two separate Official Statistics in development: 1. Access to Green Space in England 2. Access to Blue Space in England These will be published as combined statistics in March 2026	Access to nature: Improving public access to nature	Medium high
87	Reduce physical and intangible barriers to accessing green and blue spaces to increase the frequency of visits from those currently least likely to access them	EIF G4: Engagement with the natural environment and The People and Nature Surveys for England	Access to nature: Reducing barriers to accessing nature	Medium high
88	Develop measures to improve responsible access that protect and enhance nature and visitor experiences, aiming to increase the number of people visiting the countryside and coast for leisure and tourism purposes	EIF G6: Environmental attitudes and behaviours and The People and Nature Surveys for England	Access to nature: Increasing enjoyment and improving connections with nature	Medium

Commitment number	Commitment	How we will measure progress	EIP goal outcome	Relative contribution to EIP goal outcome
89	Reduce barriers to access, boost children's connection with nature and increase their understanding of the natural world and how to protect it	Number of registrations to National Education Nature Parks	Access to nature: Connecting all children with nature as part of everyday life	Medium low
90	Improve the condition, diversity and character of our landscapes and the condition of the historic environment and heritage features, including designated geological sites and scheduled monuments	EIF G1: Changes in landscape and waterscape character and G2: Condition of heritage features including designated geological sites and scheduled monuments	Access to nature: Protecting and enhancing landscapes' character, natural beauty, geological and cultural heritage, and historic environment	Medium high
91	Increase people's time spent in nature for physical activity and nature-based activities to support both physical and mental health	Physical activity and nature-based activities measured through publications such as the People and Nature Surveys for England, the Sport England Active Lives Survey and a new Green Social Prescribing (GSP) metric currently in development	Access to nature: Improving public health and wellbeing	Medium

## List of actions

The index of EIP actions in table 2 is a comprehensive list of the actions included in the EIP. These actions support the delivery of key commitments as outlined in the goal theories of change in section 1. Actions are designed to be flexible to allow ongoing improvements to the EIP as policy and delivery develops. Updates will be provided on changes to the delivery approach and associated actions through the EIP annual progress reports.

### Cross-cutting enablers

Table 2: List of actions in the EIP on cross-cutting enablers

Action number	Action
1	Develop Nature Positive Pathways for key sectors of the economy (including water quality and supply, agri-food supply chain and the built environment) through work led by the GFI, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) with input from stakeholders in the private sector such as the Aldersgate Group and the Broadway Initiative, government, civil society and academia. We provided seed funding to enable the development of a pilot pathway for the agri-food system in 2026.
2	Respond to the call for evidence on the role of the private sector in nature recovery by early 2026. Use the findings of the call for evidence to support corporate and financial institutions to play their part in achieving environmental targets.
3	Set out next steps later in 2026 on plans to streamline and strengthen nature market governance following the recent consultation on Voluntary Carbon and Nature Markets and Corry Review recommendation to explore a Nature Markets Accelerator.
4	Sponsor the British Standards Institution's (BSI) Nature Investment Standards Programme and introduce new standards for biodiversity, natural carbon and nutrient markets, to boost confidence and scale up investment for nature and sustainable farming.
5	Provide £250,000 funding to the Taskforce on Nature related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) in financial year 2026 to 2027. Encourage UK organisations to familiarise themselves with the TNFD nature related risk management and disclosure framework through the Defra-funded GFI-led TNFD UK Consultation Group.
6	Increase private investment through blended finance approaches, including our £30 million investment in the Big Nature Impact Fund to support woodland creation, peatland restoration and biodiversity net gain habitat bank projects, with first close expected by the end of the 2025 to 2026 financial year. The fund supports the England strategy of the UK Nature Impact Fund platform aiming to raise £120 million of investment and deliver long-term, risk-adjusted financial returns and measurable impact for a range of professional investors.

Action number	Action
7	Improve sustainability reporting by UK entities where they can play a role in supporting the climate and nature transition and the development of UK sustainability reporting standards.
8	Increase private investment in woodland creation, restoration and management during this Parliament. Decide on inclusion of high-quality UK woodland removals under the Woodland Carbon Code in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).
9	Look at the development of a Woodland Carbon Purchase Fund, a financial transactions mechanism to support woodland developers and investors by purchasing woodland carbon up front.
10	Complete preparation of the strategy for their area and oversee delivery of the actions proposed, with ongoing support from Natural England (NE), Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.
11	Bring a new legal requirement in to force for all tiers of planning to 'take account' of LNRs
12	Determine and announce timing for the first review and republication of all LNRs to ensure that all LNRs are updated where necessary and continue to help us meet our targets.
13	Meet the NEN's agreed minimum standard for environmental improvement on members' estates, including application of the Land Use Framework principles (as currently published) and publication of estate management plans by April 2026 with SMART targets as clear contributions to terrestrial nature targets.
14	Provide over £110 million direct funding to Protected Landscapes organisations by April 2026 to support local action on nationally important priorities, including nature restoration and access for all.
15	Champion Protected Landscapes by refreshing our national vision for these special places, eliminating bureaucratic barriers and ensuring teams have the tools and resources to achieve our ambitions.
16	Fund land-based providers to deliver a broad range of courses and programmes, including T-Levels, and expand provision for apprenticeships in a range of subjects including agriculture, horticulture, land security, land management, and forestry.
17	Work with the water sector to ensure there is workforce planning and access to the skills required to deliver the planned investment over the next 5 years to improve infrastructure, following a Skills Summit in July 2025.
18	Deliver on the Water Skills Pledge and explore delivery of water-specific sector-based work academic programmes.
19	Reflect land management skills feedback submitted through the Land Use consultation in the Land Use Framework and farming roadmap.

Action number	Action
20	Implement the approach set out in our upcoming public participation plan, which sets out how we will involve people and communities in our clean energy superpower mission and support them to access the benefits of climate and nature action.
21	Design for, support and promote engagement with sustainable behaviours, to enable delivery by the public across relevant EIP goals, in alignment with the public participation plan principles and in partnership with government, civil society and research institutions.

### Goal 1: Restored nature

Table 3: List of actions in the EIP on restored nature

Action number	Action
22	Support farmers and land managers to manage wildlife-rich habitat using appropriate agri-environment options for the habitat type, so the habitat can stay or become of sufficient quality.
23	Foster multi-landscape, large scale nature recovery initiatives such as Big Chalk and Coastal Wildbelt through the Protected Landscape Partnership.
24	Deliver agri-environment schemes to support farmers and land managers taking actions that improve the condition of SSSIs, like addressing water pollution, changing grazing regimes, tackling invasive species and restoring rivers and lakes.
25	Deliver Protected Site Strategies for up to 12 sites - including the 5 current pilots - by March 2026 to restore and improve their condition, helping to address upstream environmental pressure such as pollution and habitat degradation. Use this evidence to inform the rollout to other protected sites, including by updating relevant site condition assessments.
26	Use the Nature Restoration Fund to pool developer contributions for environmental mitigations, allowing for strategic conservation measures at scale. In 2026 we will launch the first set of Environmental Delivery Plans to enable the roll-out of the fund.
27	Complete the King's Series of 25 new or large extensions to National Nature Reserves (NNRs) by 2028.
28	Publish a Trees Action Plan in 2026 to set out how we will improve the resilience and condition of England's trees, woods and forests.
29	Set a target to increase woodland management in 2026 to improve woodland condition, resilience and biodiversity.
30	Manage the impact of mammals on woodlands better so that woodlands are more biodiverse, resilient and commercially viable.

Action number	Action
31	Maintain current protections in the National Planning Policy Framework for ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees and improve the implementation of the policy. Publish and complete updates to our Ancient Woodland Inventory by summer 2027.
32	Build upon and review the evidence base for the value of long-established woodlands and consider their biodiversity status. Publish the Long-Established Woodland Inventory by the end of 2026.
33	Deliver up to 300,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat creation and restoration by 2042 through agri-environment scheme agreements running since 2023. Deliver up to 200,000ha of peatland restoration and woodland creation.
34	Introduce the mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirement for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects by May 2026 to ensure nature considerations are placed at the heart of development.
35	Implement mandatory BNG for Town and Country Planning Act development by working through the consultation response on small, medium, and brownfield sites. Ensure that the nature market for off-site BNG continues to develop and grow so that developers have a good selection of competitively priced and high-quality biodiversity units available to meet their 10% gain.
36	Incentivise the planting of high-quality woodlands and trees outside of woodland with a further £816 million of funding between 2026 to 2027 and 2029 to 2030 financial years, including by continuing the England Woodland Creation Offer.
37	Improve the condition of ancient semi-natural woodland and restore plantations on ancient woodland sites back to semi-natural woodland habitat through our agri-environment schemes. We will monitor delivery of this action through our woodland management target.
38	Deliver on our commitment to enhance the biodiversity of all unrestored plantations on ancient woodland sites on the public forest estate. By 2042, we will increase the proportion of native tree species on all unrestored plantations on ancient woodland sites.
39	Incentivise farmers and land managers to create and restore hedgerows through our hedgerow offers in agri-environment schemes and integrate hedgerow data into spatial mapping in England.
40	Lead Restoring Meadow Marsh and Reef, a practical initiative working with our partners towards a more resilient English coast by restoring, recovering and enhancing priority habitats such as seagrass, saltmarshes and native oyster reefs.
41	Ensure government land contributes proportionately to achieving statutory environment targets and EIP goals for the government estate, Defra to set this out by March 2026.
42	Use the Species Recovery Programme to support projects taking targeted action to conserve and recover our most threatened species, tracking the number of priority actions taken for threatened species.

Action number	Action
43	Incentivise farmers and land managers through our agri-environment schemes to support the recovery of threatened species.
44	Provide opportunities for conservation translocations and reintroductions of native species where benefits to the environment and people are clear.
45	Support the England Species Reintroduction Taskforce to provide evidence-led advice and guidance on existing and potential species conservation translocations in England.
46	Publish a new Pollinator Action Plan in 2026, setting out the activities required to support pollinator populations by all responsible parties.
47	Manage widespread invasive species through Local Action Groups and public awareness campaigns.
48	Build the evidence base for delivering the species targets, including the biodiversity targets modelling programme, monitoring and evaluation programme and supporting on the ground surveys and monitoring.
49	Assist the National Wildlife Crime Unit to help prevent and detect wildlife crime by obtaining and disseminating intelligence, highlighting local or national threats through detailed analysis, and assisting law enforcement investigations. Work with international partners to ensure the legal and sustainable trade in wildlife.
50	Protect human health and safety and protect wildlife from harmful human activity, through compliance with wildlife management measures. Publish an animal welfare strategy later this year, which will include reaffirming our manifesto commitment to bringing an end to the use of snare traps in England.
51	Incentivise farmers and land managers through our agri-environment schemes to implement measures to support farm wildlife alongside productive farming, by providing year-round resources for farmland species.
52	Protect MPAs and HPMAs by implementing fisheries management byelaws by the end of 2026, other fisheries measures by the end of 2028 and management measures for other damaging activities by the end of 2030.
53	Review England's MPA network by the end of 2028.
54	Implement the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 and work toward targets under the UK Marine Strategy for Good Environmental Status.

## Goal 2: Air

Table 4: List of actions in the EIP on air

Action number	Action
55	Refresh guidance, webinars and materials aimed at local authority air quality officers during 2025 to 2026, reducing the time and investment needed to take action at a local level.
56	Pilot a new approach to streamline assessment of PM2.5 in the planning system with local authorities and developers, with work starting in 2025.
57	Enhance data access to inform local interventions in communities where those most vulnerable to air pollution are exposed to higher levels, working in partnership with NHS and local authority public health bodies. We will target local authorities with the highest levels of air pollution linked to deprivation, using a tool that shows neighbourhood-level information based on demographic characteristics.
58	Consult on new measures that cut emissions from domestic combustion, whilst minimising the impact on those that need to burn and respecting traditional celebratory festivals such as Bonfire Night and Diwali.
59	Consider responses to the recent consultation on reforms to industrial permitting. This includes considering sectoral reforms for combustion, batteries and anaerobic digestion, and wider reforms to the overall framework.
60	Explore options to reduce emissions from small industrial combustion plants.
61	Ensure 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in the UK will be zero emission by 2030, with 100% of new sales zero emission by 2035, supporting reductions in air pollution and CO2 emissions from road transport by 2030. This will be achieved through measures such as the Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate and vehicle incentives, including the Electric Car Grant; supporting the rollout of equitable access to widespread public charging infrastructure; and supporting private charge points in areas facing additional challenges.
62	Take steps to decarbonise the UK HGV fleet, including consulting on potential regulatory options to support; phase out the sale of new non-zero emission HGVs by 2040. Support the transition to zero emission HGVs through a mix of policy measures and guidance, including publishing the data gathered as part of the Zero Emission HGV and Infrastructure Demonstrator (ZEHID).
63	Support transitioning to a zero emission bus (ZEB) fleet, including by: working with the UK Bus Manufacturing Expert Panel to develop a clear pipeline of future zero emission bus orders by November 2025, using powers in the Bus Services Act 2025 to lay regulations by the end of 2026 to end the use of new non-ZEBs on local routes in England from a date no earlier than 2030, and supporting investment with devolved funding settlements.
64	Maintain air quality monitoring in up to 72 train stations across Great Britain until March 2030. Train operators and Network Rail will implement Air Quality Improvement Plans, including idling reduction and rail station ventilation improvements.
65	Deliver the interim decarbonisation goal set through the Maritime Decarbonisation Strategy to reduce domestic shipping fuel lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by 30%

Action number	Action
	by 2030 (compared to 2008 levels), on the pathway to zero emissions by 2050. We will assess the impacts on air quality as we develop maritime decarbonisation policies and will set out next steps in 2026 including through a formal consultation on domestic fuel regulations.
66	Work for adoption and implementation of the North Atlantic Emission Control Area (AtIECA) at the earliest opportunity, extending air pollution controls to all UK waters.
67	Support the International Civil Aviation Organization's review of the existing aircraft engine emissions standard for nitrogen oxides, recommending any updates in 2028.
68	Deliver aviation decarbonisation, including through increasing the uptake of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) to 10% by 2030, delivering airspace modernisation, and supporting the development of low and zero emission aerospace technologies. This includes improving understanding of the wider environmental implications of these measures, such as on-air quality and non-CO2 impacts.
69	Publish new statutory local transport plan guidance for local transport authorities in due course, which will set out the government's ambitions for local transport plans. This will include expectations on improving air quality in the local transport context.
70	Pursue legislative reform for micromobility vehicles, when parliamentary time allows, to provide a proportionate and more agile regulatory process. This will support our commitment to make smaller, lighter vehicles an everyday transport option and help make air quality improvements in our urban environments.
71	Continue to support councils with a £616 million investment to build and maintain walking and cycling infrastructure. This is in addition to wider funding to support active travel including the £15.6 billion Transport for City Regions settlements, £2.3 billion Local Transport Grant and £24 billion for strategic and local roads.
72	Publish the third Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy in early 2026, setting out the government's objectives for active travel.
73	Publish an updated 'Well Managed Highways Infrastructure' Code of Practice. This will reflect best practices, technological advancements, policy and legislative changes relevant to a range of topics including environment and air quality. Publication is planned incrementally to enable the earliest access.
74	Draw on findings from published research on brake and tyre wear emissions to take a leading role in developing internationally harmonised regulations for limiting these emissions through the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, targeting adoption by November 2026.
75	Conduct a follow-up study in 2026 to assess air quality onboard trains, with a focus on newer bi-mode, tri-mode, and electric trains, and revisit trains with implemented mitigations to evaluate whether levels of NO2 and PM have improved.
76	Conduct research in 2026 to assess the feasibility of introducing in-service emissions testing for diesel trains, including whether cost-effective testing requirements could be developed for the rail industry.

Action number	Action
77	Fund the UK Shipping Office for Reducing Emissions (UK SHORE) programme by providing a further £448 million of research and development funding to accelerate technologies necessary to decarbonise the domestic maritime sector, while addressing air quality impacts and supporting coastal communities and green growth.
78	Publish the final report of the first stage of the UK SHORE programme evaluation in early 2026, including assessment of the relevant impacts on greenhouse gas emissions. Future evaluation will consider non-greenhouse gas air pollutants.
79	Use Environmental Outcomes Reports, the planned new approach to environmental assessment, to better identify and manage the impact of development on air quality to protect health and the environment whilst streamlining the assessment process and focusing on outcomes.
80	Reduce ammonia emissions by supporting farmers and land managers to invest in low emission farm equipment and infrastructure, such as slurry storage covers, low emissions spreaders and slurry scrapers available through capital grant offers.
81	Monitor the success of the industry-led approach to reducing ammonia from urea fertilisers, delivered through Red Tractor farm assurance standards and Fertiliser Advisers Certification and Training Scheme farm advisers, and introduce new regulation if necessary.
82	Work with stakeholders to reduce ammonia emissions from farming through streamlined regulation and develop detailed proposals on the extension of environmental permitting for dairy and intensive beef farms for consultation.
83	Provide farmers and land managers with information around options and actions they can take to reduce ammonia emissions through programmes such as CSF.
84	Publish updates to the health advice accompanying the Daily Air Quality Index (DAQI), Defra's tool for communicating short-term changes in pollution levels, by March 2026.
85	Publish, where an emission target is missed or projected to be missed, an analysis of the abatement potential of the policies and measures under development.
86	Provide the public with information about longer-term trends in local pollution levels, to complement the DAQI, on our updated air quality web services by March 2027.
87	Launch a new air quality alert system by March 2026 to provide advanced warning of pollution to the people who need it most.
88	Work with the Royal College of Physicians and other professional bodies to ensure health care professionals have adequate knowledge to improve awareness and understanding of health impacts of air pollution by January 2029.

### Goal 3: Water

Table 5: List of actions in the EIP on water

Action number	Action
89	Include a regional element within the new water regulator to ensure greater local involvement in water planning, as announced following the Independent Water Commission.
90	Support the catchment-based approach to facilitate wider public participation in local water systems in preparation for engagement with reforms suggested by the Independent Water Commission.
91	Provide up to £1 million funding for comprehensive cross-border research to understand pollution and other pressures in the Wye catchment and develop plans to tackle these issues.
92	Consult a set of national policies to support decisions including those relating to SuDS.
93	Consult on legislative and policy options to reduce the prevalence of unadopted amenities on residential estates. The consultation will consider long-term maintenance and adoption options for SuDS.
94	Require water companies to upgrade 440 wastewater treatment works by 2030 to meet stricter phosphorus permit limits.
95	Double the funding for EA advice-led farm inspections over the 3 years to 2029 to ensure farmers are compliant with water quality regulation.
96	Provide advice, guidance and training to encourage voluntary farmer action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture, in addition to meeting regulatory requirements, for example through Catchment Sensitive Farming.
97	Streamline and improve regulations controlling agricultural water pollution. To support this, we have reviewed and published updated statutory guidance for the Farming Rules for Water.
98	Provide grants to improve slurry management, with impact shown by progress towards the interim target.
99	Provide funding to encourage farmers and land managers to protect and enhance watercourses, such as through agroforestry, riparian and wider catchment woodland creation, boundary features and buffer strips.
100	Provide grants to spark innovation and use technology to develop solutions which address challenges related to farming pollution.
101	Launch a free-to-use nutrient management planning tool to help farmers and land managers plan and manage the use of nutrients on their land in winter 2025.
102	Develop a programme to boost delivery and monitoring of the agricultural water quality targets, including EA's National Agricultural Programme for monitoring water quality improvements, so farmers adopt choices which reduce pollution.

Action number	Action
103	Identify priority sources of pollution for remediation and evaluate water quality improvements after construction of mine water treatment schemes and diffuse interventions.
104	Develop options for treatment scheme design and make recommendations on potential scheme locations. Design and plan schemes, apply for necessary planning and regulatory permissions.
105	Construct and maintain new mine water treatment schemes and diffuse interventions.
106	Investigate treatment and delivery options to improve treatment performance or lower lifecycle costs of remediation measures, or both.
107	Invest in chalk stream restoration through Water Restoration Fund and Water Environment Improvement Fund over the next 2 years.
108	Support and facilitate 11 flagship chalk stream restoration projects across England, through the EA's area and national teams, and through research and funding, and holding water companies to account for delivery.
109	Drive over £2 billion investment from water companies into the restoration of chalk streams. This includes prioritising chalk streams as part of the record £11 billion of investment to improve nearly 3,000 storm overflows in England and Wales during PR24, with 75% of high priority sites needing to be improved by 2035 and the rest by 2045.
110	Implement the EA's National Framework for Water Resources, a plan for securing long-term, resilient water supplies whilst protecting the environment, using cross-sector regional water resources groups' work, and deliver water resources management plans.
111	Reduce water company abstraction from chalk streams by 126 million litres per day by 2030
112	Support delivery of £24 billion of water company expenditure to improve the environment. This includes investment of over £10 billion to improve around 2,500 storm overflows in England, to deliver a 50% reduction in spills by 2030 from an average of 32 spills per year per overflow in 2024.
113	Direct funding to local catchment projects to improve the water environment and attract match funding through the Water Environment Improvement Fund. Funding allocations will run from April 2026 until 2028 or 2030, depending on spend type.
114	Deliver the Water Restoration Fund and direct £11 million of funding based on water company fines and penalties back into the water environment. The fund will be in operation until March 2028.
115	Invest over £100 million in fines and penalties levied against water companies since October 2023, as well as future fines and penalties, into projects to clean up our

Action number	Action
	waters, which could include local environmental programmes to address pollution and improve water quality.
116	Introduce a Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling scheme on water products, such as showers and toilets, in 2026.
117	Work with the manufacturing and retail sectors to improve or remove wasteful products and enable innovative water-saving products. Following the launch of a mandatory label, we will consider introducing minimum product standards and design guidance to reduce water wastage and remove inefficient or unclear products from the market.
118	Review planning policy and processes in new household development. Progress work to consider the role of water companies in large scale developments, following the recommendations of the Independent Water Commission for an enhanced role in this process.
119	Review water efficiency, water recycling and drainage standards to tighten standards and explore opportunities to increase water efficient housing through technological innovation, including piloting water reuse systems in Ox-Cam to drive increased water efficiency.
120	Investigate dual-pipe systems and water reuse options for new housing development, and consider a labelling and record system to map dual pipes for maintenance. As part of this, we will review and amend legislation to address wasteful product issues with toilets and enable new water efficient technologies.
121	Review planning policy and processes and investigate water reuse options for new non-household development. Consider voluntary schemes for non-household buildings and work with MHCLG and local authorities to improve knowledge and guidance of water reuse in planning processes.
122	Work with the retail market operator MOSL, retailers, regulators and water suppliers, to identify options to reduce non-household demand. This includes through MOSL's Market Performance Framework standards, Ofwat's new non-household performance commitment for water companies to reduce business demand for water (including managing penalties and rewards) and reviewing tariff structures in the non-household market to better understand incentives for water efficiency and demand reduction.
123	Work with Ofwat to hold water companies to delivery of leakage reduction targets – set at 17% for 2025 to 2030 in this PR period – through Ofwat's rewards and penalties.
124	Implement policies or standards associated with water usage data that enable water companies to incentivise more water efficient behaviours, reduce leakage, and amplify the benefits of their smart meter rollouts. This includes considering recommendations for government from Ofwat's Baringa report and supporting its Smart Water Metering Delivery Group.
125	Rapidly develop critical new water supply infrastructure, supported by a joint team called the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) and the National Framework for Water Resources.

Action number	Action
126	Review water company delivery regularly as part of the planning for water delivery taskforce meetings.
127	Work with abstractors to find voluntary local solutions to reduce unsustainable abstraction or, if required, using our powers to modify these abstraction licences.
128	Consider the recommendations of the IWC and respond in this year.
129	Deliver Local Resource Options screening studies to encourage farmers to work together to identify local water resilience solutions such as reservoirs, hydrocycles or water trading. Each group of farmers will receive a report detailing the best options for their area.
130	Create new Water Abstractor Groups.
131	Crack down on sewage pollution by holding water companies to account for delivering the targets set out in the SODRP.
132	Invest over £10 billion into storm overflow improvements in England from 2025 to 2030 to improve over 2,500 overflows.
133	By the end of 2025, and then every 5 years, publish a progress report on delivery against the SODRP.
134	Hold water companies accountable for meeting their statutory requirements, including the prevention of harm from storm overflows.
135	Use newly published guidance – setting out our expectations on targets, legal duties and prioritising – with water and sewerage companies, and regulators, to ensure a clear planning framework.
136	Consider the recommendation for reform of sewage sludge regulations made by the Independent Water Commission. Outline next steps as part of Defra’s wider work on water reform.
137	Undertake research to assess the human health risks from human faecal-oral transmission of disease relating to wastewater contamination of inland waterways, including persistence of viable human pathogens from treated sewage. This will address a key evidence gap and improve understanding of the public health risks associated with recreational water activities.

## Goal 4: Chemicals and pesticides

Table 6: List of actions in the EIP on chemicals and pesticides

Action number	Action
138	Take regulatory decisions made by other trusted jurisdictions as the starting point for UK regulatory decisions to enable new protections to be applied more quickly and

Action number	Action
	more efficiently, and to align regulation more closely with our closest trading partners unless there are compelling reasons to diverge. We will protect people and the environment while reducing business complexity and trade barriers and provide industry with the certainty they need to grow and invest.
139	Extend the industry deadlines for submitting transitional registration data under UK REACH, through legislation to be made by October 2026, following consultation which launched in July this year.
140	Work in partnership with the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales, to implement a UK REACH restriction on lead in ammunition via legislation to be made by the end of August 2026.
141	Assess and, where appropriate, add substances to Annex XIV of UK REACH ('the Authorisation List') by the end of December 2027 to manage the risks they pose, and to encourage industry to use alternatives.
142	Run the UK REACH authorisation process, to ensure that the risks related to substances of very high concern (SVHCs) on the Authorisation List are properly controlled and encourage their replacement.
143	Publish an annual UK REACH work programme to set out priorities for UK REACH.
144	Review the interim principles for additions to the UK REACH Candidate List of SVHCs by the end of December 2026, with a view to updating the Candidate List.
145	Publish a PFAS Plan in 2026. In this plan, we will set out a range of regulatory and non-regulatory interventions, measures and initiatives with specific actions and delivery milestones. These will raise understanding and awareness of PFAS in the environment, identify and address releases of harmful PFAS and protect people and the environment from harm relating to PFAS exposure. The plan will set out a coordinated response, extending across government and industry.
146	Provide advice, guidance and tools to support the management of PFAS at contaminated sites on an ongoing basis in response to contamination becoming apparent. This includes ensuring that technical guidance and tools are reviewed and updated as necessary.
147	Make a decision in 2027 on implementing a potential UK REACH restriction on PFAS in fire-fighting foams, based on a prior proposal to be provided by the HSE and with the consent of the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales.
148	Implement updates to the Stockholm Convention on POPs, through legislation to be made in accordance with the deadlines expected to be set by the convention in late 2025.
149	Restrict the manufacture, import and export of additional mercury added products in line with the requirements of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, through domestic legislation that will come into force by the end of 2025.
150	Deliver a series of compliance campaigns related to the sampling and testing of waste for POPs to identify which waste streams are affected on an ongoing basis. This

Action number	Action
	includes providing industry with practical guidance as necessary relating to the identification, classification and disposal of waste containing POPs.
151	Deliver audits, sampling and testing at waste treatment sites on an ongoing basis to support the effective regulation of waste management facilities treating waste streams which have been identified as including POPs. This should ensure that POPs are destroyed and that appropriate monitoring and control of releases are in place.
152	Take enforcement action where we find that equipment is in use beyond the legal deadline.
153	Make sure equipment taken out of use is decontaminated or disposed of appropriately as soon as possible.
154	Survey all English local authorities to assess the condition of contaminated land in their respective area and report on these findings by spring 2027.
155	Work with stakeholders to encourage uptake of IPM by developing and promoting tools and knowledge over the course of the NAP timeline (the NAP sets out a multi-year programme of actions).
156	Develop guidance to pesticide users and improve inspection and compliance regimes over the course of the NAP timeline to encourage the safe and responsible use of pesticides.
157	Identify and assess potential changes to legislation that would stop the use of emergency authorisations for products containing clothianidin, imidacloprid or thiamethoxam. We will work with the devolved governments to do this by the end of 2027.

## Goal 5: Waste

Table 7: List of actions in the EIP on waste

Action number	Action
158	Implement Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR) to move the cost of dealing with household packaging waste to packaging producers.
159	Instruct PackUK, the pEPR scheme administrator, to recover pEPR money paid to local authorities that are not spent on waste management services. This will ensure sufficient investment for improving recycling performance.
160	Introduce the Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers from October 2027. This will include single-use drinks containers from 150ml to 3 litres made of polyethylene terephthalate plastic, steel, and aluminium.
161	Introduce Simpler Recycling in England from 2025, ensuring the same recyclable waste streams are collected for recycling from all households and workplaces.

Action number	Action
162	Implement the Design for Life roadmap to transition the UK away from all avoidable single-use medtech products by 2045.
163	Introduce measures to drive the reduction and near-elimination of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill from 2028. We will support this through the collection and packaging reforms. Potential options beyond this include expanding the list of separately collected materials that are banned from landfill without some form of treatment process to include paper and card, food, garden waste, wood and textiles.
164	Pursue the near elimination of biodegradable non-municipal waste to landfill from 2028, identifying during 2026 which further wastes could be restricted from entering landfill. The circular economy growth plan will set out options to promote greater circularity in sectors which will be key to reducing residual waste, including that entering landfill.
165	Introduce separate food waste collections for all households from 2026.
166	Stop criminals using permit exemptions to hide illegal waste activity by removing 3 permit exemptions and tightening 7 more, stop allowing multiple exemptions on a single site or on sites with a permit, and introduce record-keeping requirements.
167	Reform carriers, brokers and dealers regulation by moving into the tougher environmental permitting system with stronger penalties to ensure that only the right people can transport and manage waste, making it easier for regulators to act against non-compliant operators.
168	Introduce a digital waste tracking service to modernise existing waste record keeping from 2026 to enable regulators to better detect illegal activity and tackle waste crime.
169	Publish guidance in early 2026 to support local councils to seize and crush more vehicles used for fly-tipping, including using new technologies.
170	Monitor and evaluate progress towards circularity through the circular economy growth plan, showing how we expect government initiatives to effect change and achieve our wider goals and targets.

## Goal 6: Resources

Table 8: List of actions in the EIP on resources

Action number	Action
171	Leverage current grant schemes and green finance to increase conifer planting.
172	Collaborate with local nature recovery strategies to encourage productive woodlands.
173	Invest in targeted innovations to harness private investment and develop more efficient ways to harness timber.

Action number	Action
174	Build resilience in the supply chain to extreme weather, biosecurity threats and economic shocks by supporting innovation, productivity and capital investment in tree and seed production.
175	Facilitate initiatives to enhance the quality, quantity and genetic diversity of domestically produced tree seed and planting stock. This includes investment in tree improvement programmes to select for resilience and productive traits, including through the Centre for Forest Protection and other Defra funded research.
176	Work with key sector partners to implement actions in the Forestry Sector Skills Plan 2025, overcoming barriers to the take up and provision of forestry training at all levels..
177	Implement actions in the Timber in Construction Roadmap 2025. This roadmap sets out how the government will promote the use of timber to help reduce embodied carbon in the built environment and at end-of-life, and drive investment into tree planting, forest management and domestic supply chains. It will create new green jobs and industries.
178	Deliver the FMP programme, which focuses on the sustainable management of stocks. This includes the publication of the next 5 plans in English waters by the end of 2025 and continuing to deliver the actions in the 6 existing published plans. Our delivery partners are leading on the preparation of a further 4 FMPs, to be published by the end of 2026.
179	Negotiate with our international fisheries partners to seek to increase the overall number of stocks fished at sustainable levels.
180	Extend the requirements for Vessel Monitoring Systems to all English-licensed fishing vessels and non-English fishing vessels operating in English waters this year. This is to ensure regulators have as accurate as possible an understanding of the spatial activities of all vessels, enabling better informed management of the marine environment.
181	Deliver the Fishing and Coastal Growth Fund, investing £360 million over the next 12 years to support the next generation of fishermen and breathe new life into our coastal communities. The investment will secure our fishing industry for decades to come and make it fit for the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. We will work with the industry to target investment where it matters most.
182	Publish principles of sustainable soil management by 2026. Encourage farmers and land managers to sustainably manage and protect their soils through agri-environment schemes.
183	Publish a methodology and guidance for consistent soil health monitoring by 2026, empowering farmers and land managers to establish baselines and implement sustainable soil management practices.
184	Publish an initial statistic of soil health for England during 2026, aiming to establish a soil health baseline by 2029.

Action number	Action
185	Create the farming roadmap, setting out the government's vision for England's farming system in 2030 and 2050 and the long-term strategy for achieving this. This will provide clarity and stability for farmers, land managers and the wider supply chain.
186	Transform our food system through achieving the 10 priority outcomes of the food strategy. This will maintain food security by building resilience in the face of climate shocks, geopolitical changes and protect the supply chain which keeps us fed. It will support the farming roadmap to improve the impact of farming on soil, nature and biodiversity, as well as sustainable fisheries management in accordance with the Joint Fisheries Statement and Fisheries Act 2020.
187	Work with stakeholders and update the UK Farm Animal Genetic Resources inventory, Breeds at Risk list and Native Breeds at Risk list, or their equivalents, annually. This will help monitor changes in native livestock populations, identify trends and potential threats and safeguard livestock diversity to conserve native breeds most at risk.
188	Conserve plant genetic resources using gene banks and increase the use of plant genetic resources through research.

## Goal 7: Climate change

Table 9: List of actions in the EIP on climate change

Action number	Action
189	Support farmers and land managers to decarbonise agricultural emissions through advice, regulations and incentives to adopt sustainable land-management approaches, new technology, and innovative practices.
190	Continue to internally monitor uptake of relevant actions through agreements under our farming schemes and publish data on a quarterly basis, as calculated from agreements data from the Rural Payments Agency.
191	Review Farming and Countryside Programme objectives annually to ensure alignment with carbon budget delivery requirements.
192	Work with industry to reduce methane emissions from livestock such as through our existing Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, and through new support mechanisms to stimulate the market and encourage uptake of new technologies like methane suppressing feed products from 2025.
193	By 2028, develop and publish new quantified assessments for how at least 6 non-peat habitats - specifically, species-rich grasslands, floodplain mosaic habitats, saltmarsh, hedgerows and scrub — contribute to carbon storage and sequestration, with linked assessments of their biodiversity.
194	Develop guidance setting out minimum technical requirements that farm carbon accounting tools should meet to generate an actionable farm carbon audit, as well as

Action number	Action
	a suite of standard calculation methodologies to support farm carbon accounting tools, by 2028.
195	Work with industry (via the Defra Food Data Transparency Partnership) to better assess the environmental impact of food and drink across supply chains by standardising priority environmental footprint methodologies, including for carbon emissions, by 2030 and creating governance mechanisms for data sharing.
196	Legislate for a ban on the sale of peat and peat containing products when parliamentary time allows.
197	Invest £85 million by 2030 in improving and restoring our peatlands, supporting us in our long-term ambitions to unblock delivery for up to 23MtCO <sub>2</sub> e savings by 2050.
198	Fund water infrastructure, facilitation grants and paludiculture trials. This funding will enable farmers and land managers to make changes to their water management and undertake more sustainable actions on peat.
199	Work with partners, farmers and land managers to restore 40,000 hectares of peat before April 2030. The Nature for Climate Peatland Grant scheme will continue until March 2027. Peatland restoration will then be supported by Landscape Recovery and Countryside Stewardship, which will provide long-term funding to support large-scale restoration projects and plan future restoration projects.
200	Mobilise private investment, including supporting the emergence of voluntary markets for peat such as the Peatland Code.
201	Publish the Peatland Restoration Register in 2026 as part of further investment in improving the new England Peat Map. The register will be a centralised geospatial record of restoration projects across England, allowing us to track progress and make it easier to identify peatland areas requiring restoration management.
202	Incentivise land managers to integrate tree planting and food production into individual fields through agri-environment schemes.
203	Develop new measurable and timebound climate resilience objectives and standards to support the next National Adaptation Programme (NAP4). Clarify the underpinning planning assumptions for the objectives and standards and develop suitable indicators of progress.
204	Publish NAP4 in 2028 to report relevant actions and policies that will contribute towards our EIP goals and our legal requirements under the Climate Change Act 2008.
205	Promote the use of the new monitoring, evaluation and learning framework by the end of 2025. It will provide an evidence-based framework for measuring progress on adaptation and evaluating policy in the context of climate impacts, with supporting resources and guidance.
206	Explore options to increase the diversity of climate-resilient forestry species. Identify core future species for productive forestry to focus research and tree breeding on,

Action number	Action
	supported by an enhanced regulatory framework for emerging forestry species by 2028.
207	Make sure that new woodlands have current and future climate conditions considered in their design and species choice. Consider options for spatial targeting of woodland creation grants for resilient woodlands, integrating with the Land Use Framework. We will evaluate grant applications for new woodland by 2030 to assess progress against this action.
208	Revise the UK Forestry Standard Practice Guide on building wildfire resilience into forest management planning by 2028.
209	Complete initial climate change risk assessments for all Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) as part of condition assessments by 2032.
210	Implement climate change adaptive delivery plans for at least 10% of SSSIs identified as being at high risk by 2030.
211	Further develop the adaptive management for features identified to be at high risk on NE-managed National Nature Reserves to support management planning by April 2026.
212	Aid the National Energy System Operator to create a Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) to align the rapid deployment of energy infrastructure with wider land use objectives. Throughout its development, the SSEP will consider wider demands on land and sea, including food production, transport, water supply, nature recovery and fisheries. The development of the SSEP is being informed by the analysis which underpins the Land Use Framework. The final methodology for the SSEP has now been published.
213	Accelerate deployment of offshore wind through the Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package. We have consulted on proposed environmental compensation measures reforms for offshore wind for the sector this year and will launch a new Marine Recovery Fund by the end of 2025.
214	Provide UK Research and Innovation with £15 million to deliver a research programme to fund world-leading research projects to help improve the UK's resilience to climate change impacts, including new approaches to managing climate impacts in urban areas, on vulnerable people and supporting increasing private investment in climate adaptation.
215	Publish the transport adaptation strategy, following a consultation in 2024, aimed at enabling progress ahead of NAP4.
216	Partner with business on an ongoing, cross-government basis to jointly work towards positive environmental outcomes. The Net Zero Council will help address cross-economy challenges and maximise opportunities. Ensure that objectives of the Council for Sustainable Business, which advises Defra on how businesses can help deliver the EIP, are aligned.
217	Set out how the government's integrity principles for voluntary carbon and nature markets, published in 2024, could be applied through policy, guidelines and

Action number	Action
	regulatory oversight. This will build on the consultation paper published in April 2025, which the government will publish a response to early in 2026.
218	Enable businesses to take informed decisions on sustainability through more consistent and accurate data on their emissions. For example, develop standard methods and infrastructure to improve how emissions from food and drink are understood across the supply chain through the Defra Food Data Transparency Partnership (FDTP). Research recommendations on standardised product level emissions are expected in 2025 and new models and guidance for farm level emissions are expected in 2028.

## Goal 8: Reducing environmental hazards

Table 10: List of actions in the EIP on environmental hazards

Action number	Action
219	Implement the EA National Framework for Water Resources, using cross sector regional water resource groups' work. The water industry is expected to deliver sustained reductions in leakage through active management, mains pipe renewals and supporting customers with customer supply pipe leakage. Regional groups have an important strategic role in monitoring and tracking overall water demand and leakage regionally, as part of their wider monitoring and adaptive planning approach.
220	Deliver water resources management plans, through the water industry building new water resources infrastructure and delivering sustained reductions in leakage through active management, mains pipe renewals and supporting customers with customer supply pipe leakage.
221	Implement drought management actions in drought plans to ensure a secure water supply.
222	Deliver Local Resource Options screening studies to encourage farmers to work together to identify local water resilience solutions such as reservoirs and create new water abstractor groups.
223	Invest a record £2.65 billion over 2 years, from April 2024 to March 2026 as part of the Plan for Change. In the first year the target of 25,000 was exceeded with over 27,500 properties better protected from flooding.
224	Restore and repair existing high-consequence defences by the end of March 2026, including those damaged in storms over recent and ongoing flood events.
225	Publish a consultation on further planning reform by the end of 2025, including potential changes to manage flood and coastal risk.
226	Work with stakeholders to develop the statistics and evidence-base to enable their own analysis and research. This may include sharing incident data, supporting secondary analyses.

227	Provide support and guidance to local authorities and other statutory bodies to ensure effective communication during high wildfire-risk periods. For example, Fire Kills provides resources to support prevention activities.
228	Review the Wildfire Framework for England to provide clarity on roles and responsibilities.
229	Include a category for wildfires in the fire and rescue service incident data, via the Fire and Rescue Data Platform (FaRDaP), following approval of the change to the Single Data List.
230	Monitor usage and quality of the data supplied through the new categories in FaRDaP.
231	Develop and publish wildfire statistics.
232	Conduct research on increasing the natural resilience of habitats to wildfires, such as through re-wetting or restoring hydrological function, including case studies of success, by 2030. An initial scoping review will be reported on in the annual progress report (APR) in 2027. This will develop our understanding of actions we can take to naturally reduce the risk of wildfires.
233	Develop the Urban Greening indicator and baseline by 2026.
234	Publish the Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard User Guide by the end of December 2025.
235	Work with 100 local authorities to embed the Green Infrastructure Framework in their local plans and strategies, by 2030. This will involve engagement with local planning authorities before and during the plan-making process.
236	Incentivise the planting of high-quality woodlands and trees outside of woodland with a further £816 million of funding between the 2026 to 2027 and the 2029 to 2030 financial years, including by continuing the England Woodland Creation Offer.
237	Deliver up to 300,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat creation and restoration by 2042 through agri-environment scheme agreements running since 2023. Deliver up to 200,000ha of peatland restoration and woodland creation.

## Goal 9: Biosecurity

Table 11: List of actions in the EIP on biosecurity

Action number	Action
238	Horizon scan at least every 5 years, for INNS likely to arrive and establish over the next 10 years, with the results feeding into an INNS risk management exercise to identify priority species for contingency responses. The next scanning exercise will be completed by the end of March 2030.
239	Review and update the Plant Health Risk Register monthly and use it to inform risk-based decision making.

Action number	Action
240	Maintain the Human Animal Infections and Risk Surveillance group's specialist expertise and capability in host and pathogen interactions, environmental threats to human and animal health and risk assessment methodology across UK government. The group will continue meeting monthly to effectively identify signals to emerging and potentially zoonotic infections which may pose a threat to public or animal health.
241	Make sure that Defra and Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate can provide resources, staffing levels and training that ensure specialist expertise is developed and maintained to stay up to date on the identification and characterisation of emerging aquatic animal diseases and aquatic animal diseases of concern under climate change.
242	Continue to use the UK's Veterinary Risk Group to effectively identify and assess how to manage new and re-emerging animal health and welfare threats in the UK, including wildlife threats, and report monthly to Defra and devolved governments.
243	Enable the Non-native Species Inspectorate (NNSI) to focus on meeting our interim target of a 50% reduction of establishment by 2030 by ensuring clear prioritisation of action and the maintenance of their capacity and resource through 6-monthly reviews at the GB INNS Programme Board.
244	Complete INNS pathway action plans consultation by the end of 2025, with an annual review of progress on their implementation conducted through the GB INNS Programme Board.
245	Undertake eradication actions in response to newly detected INNS and monitor the success of those actions through annual review at the Great Britain INNS Programme Board.
246	Operate a SPS imports regime which supports the protection of the UK's biosecurity, public health and environment, with risks reviewed regularly and controls relevant to current threats.
247	Set out commitments and timescales for reducing the risk of pests and diseases in the Trees Action Plan next year.
248	Incentivise more biosecure plant supply chains by ensuring that plant biosecurity requirements continue to be effectively incorporated into relevant government grants and contracts and ensuring that version 1.3 of the Plant Health Management Standard is available and used for audits.
249	Deliver the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway to support land managers by offering financial support, encouraging market demand, and enacting regulatory changes to promote higher animal health and welfare standards – all review and follow-up visits to be completed by 19 June 2027 and all claims to be submitted by 19 September 2027.
250	Update the England Wildlife Health Strategy by the end of 2026, focusing on tackling disease incursion into the wildlife population and improving wildlife health and resilience.

Action number	Action
251	Provide UK leadership and support to the United Nations in establishing and operationalising a new independent evidence panel on anti-microbial resistance in early 2026, providing up to 5 years of financial support to help shape the Panel's ways of working and priorities.
252	Maintain an effective Non-Native Species Information Portal through quarterly oversight meetings to assess ongoing delivery.
253	Continue daily inspections by the NNSI to detect and respond to breaches of INNS related legislation and quarterly oversight meetings with Defra.
254	Invest in new technologies, such as novel diagnostics, remote sensing and artificial intelligence, to optimise the quality and efficiency of diagnostics and surveillance for quarantine pests and diseases of trees and wood products at the border and inland by 2028.
255	Establish a new National Biosecurity Centre at Weybridge by 2034 with: completion of design by the end of 2026, approval of business cases for main build in summer 2027, completion of construction by the end of 2032, new animal and laboratory science buildings fully operational by the end of 2034, and completion by the end of 2037.
256	Apply outputs from the Genomics of Animal and Plant Health Disease Centre Phase 2 research programme to increase our ability to use novel techniques to diagnose, sequence and survey at the border, in wildlife, in the environment and to track disease outbreaks, with programme completion scheduled for March 2027.
257	Prevent, eradicate, contain and/or manage INNS in our environment, prioritised by greatest impact and the likelihood of success, by 2030.
258	Manage a continuing programme of biocontrol feasibility studies, research and development (such as the <i>Stenopelmus rufinasus</i> weevil on <i>Azolla Filiculoides</i> water fern) alongside other management options for highly impactful INNS, animal and plant pests and diseases, enabling integrated management options to reduce ongoing costs and use of pesticides.
259	Review, update and test contingency plans ensuring outbreak readiness for future plant health threats up to 2028 and up-to-date response protocols are in place.
260	Continue to implement official management programmes for eradication or containment of regulated plant pests and diseases already present up to 2028.
261	Provide targeted data, advisory services and funding to landowners and land managers to enable effective response and recovery from tree pest and disease outbreaks, up to 2028.
262	Make sure the Fish Health Inspectorate within the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences has the right people, skills, knowledge and objectives to carry out disease control work for serious diseases of aquatic animals. To support this there is an annual review of the memorandum of understanding between Defra and Cefas on the provision of aquatic animal health services, covering elements like the delivery and enforcement of legislation, the provision of epidemiological risk, scientific

Action number	Action
	and veterinary advice, investigation of emerging issues, diagnostic functions, and research programmes.
263	Increase public and stakeholder awareness of INNS and animal and plant pest and disease outbreaks in England by conducting annual awareness raising campaigns, events-based education and guidance and training targeted to sectors, so that the public and stakeholders feel empowered to identify, report, or where possible take action to prevent or manage these.
264	Increase public awareness of plant health and promote behaviour change by 2028, by delivering annual National Plant Health week campaigns along with tailored communications, education and training programmes each year.
265	Provide information to stakeholders on statutory responsibilities, disease recognition, biosecurity, trade matters and associated issues for aquatic animals in a clear, understandable way that supports effective delivery. This means using plain English, clear formatting, links to relevant legislation and practical examples where possible.
266	Build awareness of, and compliance with, the English code and guidance for reintroductions and other conservation translocations, using qualitative disease risk evaluations particularly where wildlife is sourced from abroad or bred in captivity, guided by a clear project plan out to 2034.

## Goal 10: Access to nature

Table 12: List of actions in the EIP on access to nature

Action number	Action
267	Create 9 new National River Walks, one in every region of England.
268	Establish 3 new national forests.
269	Consult on measures to ensure that everyone has access to nature close to home and to strengthen the public's legal rights to access through the Access to Nature Green Paper, to be published during this Parliament. This will include exploring the feasibility of increased access onto unregulated waterways.
270	Launch an accreditation model for towns and cities by April 2026 for towns and cities to improve urban greening and access to green and blue space in areas with high environmental and social need. Ensure up to 10 towns and cities achieve accreditation by the end of 2026.
271	Repeal the cut-off date for recording historic Rights of Way by 2031.
272	Provide advice on applying the accessible green space and urban greening factor standards as part of the green belt golden rules detailed in the National Policy

Action number	Action
	Planning Framework, to ensure that new residents in developments from 2025 can access good-quality green and blue spaces.
273	Work with 100 local authorities and developers to embed NE's Green Infrastructure Framework in development designs and planning decisions.
274	Identify how best to improve the quality and sustainability of parks and green spaces, including issues relating to planning, finance and inclusion, by working with third sector stakeholders.
275	Refresh the Green Flag Award scheme by 2026 to allow for a greater focus on biodiversity, addressing local environmental and health priorities and increasing community empowerment.
276	Provide financial support to landowners and land managers using grants to improve access to nature through environmental land management schemes, the England Woodland Creation Offer and the Community Forests and Woodland Creation Partnerships.
277	Develop indicators to measure the impact of the green infrastructure standards by the end of 2026.
278	Strengthen legislation to give National Parks and National Landscapes a clear mandate to widen the public's access to nature by the end of this Parliament.
279	Extend our Access for All programme to include National Trails from 2025. This will support accessibility infrastructure in the countryside such as improved paths, installation of disabled toilets and replacement of stiles with accessible alternatives.
280	Champion Protected Landscapes by refreshing our national vision for these special places, eliminating bureaucratic barriers and ensuring teams have the tools and resources to achieve our ambitions.
281	Publish further details on supporting access to new and existing woodlands in a new Trees Action Plan, to be published in 2026.
282	Develop and publish Nature Community Principles and underpinning standards for engaging communities with nature in 2026.
283	Deliver a new National Trail along the route of the Coast-to-Coast path by Spring 2026.
284	Complete delivery of the King Charles III England Coast Path by Spring 2026.
285	Create new publicly accessible woodlands, as part of the government's tree canopy and woodland cover target, through expansion of the Public Forest Estate, with over 780 hectares of woodland added to the Public Forest Estate by the end of 2026.
286	Create better facilities and infrastructure in the Public Forest Estate to increase the numbers of visitors and improve their experience. This includes investing £3 million in

Action number	Action
	the financial year 2025 to 2026 in access for all facilities, such as accessible bike trails, all-terrain mobility scooters for hire and new changing facilities.
287	Extend the delivery of our Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme to the end of March 2026, enabling farmers to support nature recovery and providing opportunities for more people to enjoy landscapes.
288	Invest £1.5 million fishing licence income annually from 2025 to the end of 2028 to deliver partnership projects which support and promote access to angling while contributing to nature recovery across England's water bodies.
289	Work with more education providers to add their grounds to a virtual National Education Nature Park (NENP). NENP brings together education providers to improve their sites for nature, participate in activities and learning, and contribute to community science. 25% of all schools are already engaged, nearly 3,500 settings have mapped more than 14 million square meters of habitat.
290	Work with all education settings to develop a holistic climate action plan which will include engaging young people in nature and enhancing the biodiversity of their sites.
291	Work with land managers and owners to offer educational visits to woodland, farmland and the countryside.
292	Evaluate the health and wellbeing benefits to pupils of increased green infrastructure in new school buildings, including biophilic pilot schools, with a longitudinal study starting in 2026.
293	Develop a new GCSE in natural history to give young people the opportunity to learn about the natural world The GCSE will help young people understand and respect the natural world and contribute to its protection and conservation.
294	Enhance the climate education content which is already present in the national curriculum in the subjects of geography, science and citizenship, and we will also include sustainability within the design and technology programme of study. Ensure that the relevant programmes of study introduce key concepts on climate education at primary level and we will make citizenship compulsory in key stages 1 and 2, ensuring primary aged children are introduced to key climate education content.
295	Protect marine historic landscape and historic sites such as heritage coasts and protected wreck sites, when implementing marine plans, in line with the UK marine policy statement. These marine plans guide and direct licensing decisions in the waters adjacent to England, ensuring that developers have to conserve and protect heritage assets.
296	Improve the condition of natural and cultural heritage, through an integrated approach with other action on nature, including through the delivery of agri-environment schemes, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Heritage 2033 strategy.
297	Protect and conserve the historic environment, through the collation and sharing of national data sets and sensitivity maps, including working with 47% of all local authorities by the end of 2026. This work will allow information sharing on non-

Action number	Action
	designated heritage assets, which will inform decisions on land management activities, for example tree planting or felling.
298	Provide Protected Landscape teams training and resources on building partnerships with diverse and underrepresented groups and collect data on the diversity of visitor groups to National Parks and National Landscapes to inform where outreach needs to be targeted by April 2026.
299	Update Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment advice by the end of 2026 to better inform future landscape and seascape change and help deliver the Land Use Framework.
300	Complete the King's Series of 25 new or large extensions to National Nature Reserves by 2028.
301	Mentor and support partnerships of business, communities, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), and others who manage existing and aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks, through contribution to the quality assurance and evaluation process, including new applications from the Charnwood Forest Aspiring Geopark and the Cross-Channel/Transmanche Aspiring Geopark in 2026.
302	Deliver multifunctional benefits from England's land, such as enhanced natural and cultural heritage - by reviewing implementation of the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention by end of 2026.
303	Achieve a year-on-year reduction in the number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk register through Defra's existing Environmental Land Management schemes, the development of future farming schemes and Natural England's work in NNRs.
304	Publish an evaluation framework by April 2026 to improve how health and wellbeing outcomes from outdoor interventions are evaluated and included in decision making across sectors.
305	Publish an evaluation report of phase 2 of the GSP programme by the end of 2025. The report will build on findings from the previous evaluation and deepen understanding of value for money, data tracking through the GSP pathway, and explore sustainable funding options.
306	Establish a metric on the number of people accessing green or blue space for nature-based activity specifically to improve health by March 2026, helping to track the impact of Green Social Prescribing.
307	Create a nature for health investment partnership by the end of 2026 to develop investment pathways to create new markets and drive integrated funding models for nature-based solutions that deliver health benefits and economic growth.
308	Deliver Sport England's Every move strategy, maximising the power that sport and physical activity has to help people spend time in nature and enable wider change on social and environmental issues through community engagement.