

Land and nature

Strand	Action	Action summary	Date	Status	Activity Summary
Ecological Emergency	LN1	Produce ecological emergency plan	2023	Completed	An Ecological Emergency Action Plan was developed and launched by the Wilder Calderdale partnership. The plan sets out clear ambitions and actions for the restoration of habitats, including peatlands, woodlands, grasslands and rivers, and making space for nature in the built environment.
Ecological Emergency	LN2	Collect and collate species and habitat condition data to inform ecological planning	2023	On track	Data acquired on habitats and species is used to inform ecological plans and conservation. Surveys of key species, including water voles, otters, white-clawed crayfish and hedgehogs, are ongoing to inform targeted action.
Restoring Peatland	LN3	Work with organisations to support peatland restoration through research, awareness and resources	2023 onwards	Work underway	Partners, including Calderdale Council, Moors for the Future, the Yorkshire Peat Partnership and the University of Leeds / Water@Leeds, continue to collaborate on peatland restoration to perform research and share best practice.
Restoring Peatland	LN4	Work with landowners to restore peatland	2023 onwards	Work underway	<p>Work is underway with landowners and partners to create new and update existing peatland restoration plans, as well as access funding.</p> <p>This follows on from the production of a landowner engagement strategy to inform habitat restoration efforts, including of peatlands.</p>

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Restoring Peatland	LN5	Promote peat-free horticulture	2023 onwards	On track	Calderdale Council successfully eliminated the use of peat across its horticulture operations in 2024. It is now encouraging others to do the same through the Peat Free Partnership and promotion via the website.
Slowing the Flow	LN6	Increase NFM capacity	2023 onwards	On track	<p>The Council, with support from the Environment Agency, has funded nineteen new Natural Flood Management projects across Calderdale. This includes fourteen grants to landowners, totalling over £300k and five to organisations.</p> <p>Partnership project looking at large-scale landscape recovery; 'Calder and Colne Landscape Links' created five new jobs in Calderdale, funded by DEFRA.</p>
Farming for the Future	LN7	Work with landowners to improve ecological land management for nature, soil health and flood risk where appropriate	2026	Work underway	A landowner engagement strategy was developed to inform habitat restoration efforts. We continue to engage with landowners responsible for the stewardship of peatlands, woodlands, and ancient grasslands, connecting them with funding opportunities and advice to support sustainable management and restoration of habitats.

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Farming for the Future	LN8	Assess carbon impact of Calderdale's land use and identify opportunities for change	2026	Work underway	A natural capital audit is in development for Calderdale. This will include data on a range of ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, biodiversity, natural flood management, and air and water quality.
Farming for the Future	LN9	Support access to local, sustainable food	2024 onwards	Work underway	Regular events are taking place to facilitate engagement. A Food Strategy for Calderdale is soon to launch. Stage 1 of the Landed Community Kitchen pilot is complete, with funding available to support development at two sites. Calderdale Ecological Land Trust is supporting three new market garden sites and growers. The Calderdale Food Charter is being used to engage the public.
Absorbing Carbon	LN10	Conserve and enhance existing woodlands	2026	Work underway	Calderdale Council has recently input into Yorkshire Water's woodland strategy and developed a Landowner Engagement Strategy to support broader efforts to conserve and enhance woodlands. To put this into action, we've been working with landowners and the Woodland Trust to survey a number of large, privately-owned woodlands. These surveys will help generate the information needed to offer tailored advice on funding opportunities for sustainable woodland management and restoration.

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Absorbing Carbon	LN11	Increase tree canopy coverage	2026	Work underway	<p>National Trust and Yorkshire Water are currently restoring biodiverse clough woodlands at a number of moorland sites across Calderdale, while tree-planting continues on Council-managed land.</p> <p>Calderdale Council and White Rose Forest have also worked to produce draft technical guidance for developers and highways on increasing street trees. This is currently progressing through the Council's process for adoption.</p>

Status definitions:

Completed: Key requirements have been met.

On Track: Key requirements are on target to be met by the target date.

Work Underway: Work has started on this action. It is unclear whether it will be fully achieved by the target date.

Significant Barriers: Barriers will prevent this action from being completed without urgent attention.

Not Started: There has been no work completed on this action to date.