

Workshop Co-developing pathways for transforming land use for net zero, nature and people

The LUNZ Hub Net Zero Futures Platform aims to work closely with stakeholders across the four nations of the UK to understand how pathways to net zero, nature and people can be aligned to regional contexts in order to deliver meaningful change. At the start of 2025, we achieved a big milestone in this project by working with stakeholders in each of the four nations to co-develop pathways for delivering on their nature and climate goals. From the rich discussions and material these sessions generated, the Net Zero Futures Platform team is producing narratives and quantified pathways that will be modelled to explore the impacts.

In January and February 2025, [the Net Zero Futures platform](#) conducted a series of two-day online workshops with attendees from across the land use and agriculture sector in each of the devolved nations, to co-create pathways towards land use for net zero, nature and people by 2050. The workshops used an iterative pathway development approach to first explore “extreme” proto-pathways, which then informed the development of a more balanced pathway for achieving multiple objectives. The pathways developed in the workshop will be modelled to evaluate the impacts, co-benefits and trade-offs of the pathways.

Over the course of the two days, a common pathway development framework was applied across the four UK nations to develop the pathways, allowing for both consideration of nation-specific needs and contexts, and for comparability and learning across the nations. The pathway development framework was designed based on the outputs and conclusions from the [first workshop of the Net Zero Futures platform](#). It provides the broad structure for the ‘storylines’ that underline the pathways, differentiating pathways based on differing key principles and values.

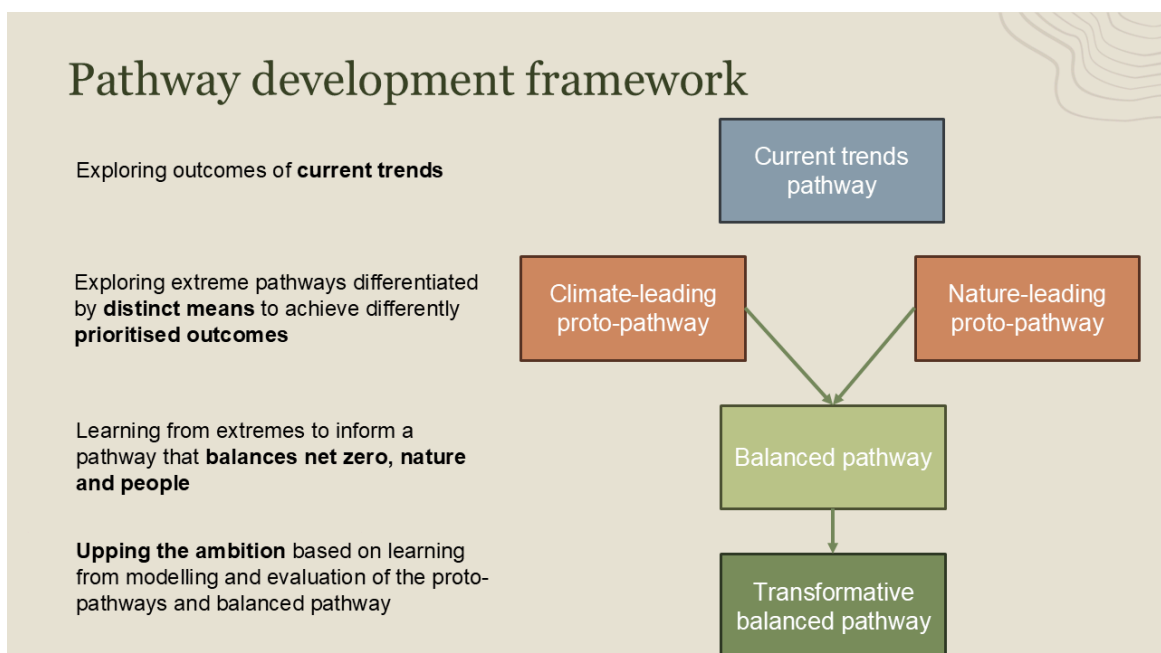


Figure 1: The common pathway development framework used in the workshops. The climate-leading and nature-leading proto pathways and the balanced pathway were developed in the workshops. The transformative balanced pathway will be developed later in the process, building on learning from the evaluation of the other pathways.

Over the course of the two-days, attendees co-developed four different pathways:

- A **climate-leading proto-pathway**, which assumes that addressing climate change head-on is needed before other priorities can or should be considered by 2050.
- A **nature-leading proto-pathway**, which focuses on reversing biodiversity loss, viewing restoring nature and ecosystems as the most important priority and net zero as secondary.
- Two **balanced pathways**, which focus on leveraging synergies and minimizing trade-offs between nature and net zero targets and the actions used to achieve them.

Participants first co-developed the two extreme proto-pathways by selecting and prioritising actions for achieving the overall aims of their pathways. The actions covered the themes of arable, horticulture, livestock, farm-level management, energy, woodland, habitats, peatlands and a broad group of socio-economic actions, such as dietary change and reducing food waste. Game-changing actions and important enablers of actions (e.g. policy, finance, capacity strengthening or education) were identified to enrich the pathways. Participants then co-developed balanced pathways by discussing and agreeing acceptable compromises between the two extreme proto-pathways, whilst maintaining the ambitions of achieve both nature and climate targets.

Other sessions in the workshops focused on gathering information that would support the parameterisation of the pathways for the subsequent modelling work that will assess their feasibility, impacts and efficacy in achieving their targets. For these sessions, participants voted on parameter options for a select few actions or provided semi-quantitative or contextual information to guide parameterisation by the project team. Participants were guided in these sessions to consider how the actions should (or need to) change by 2050, while maintaining consistency with the selection and prioritisation of actions in the pathways and ensuring distinctness between the pathways.

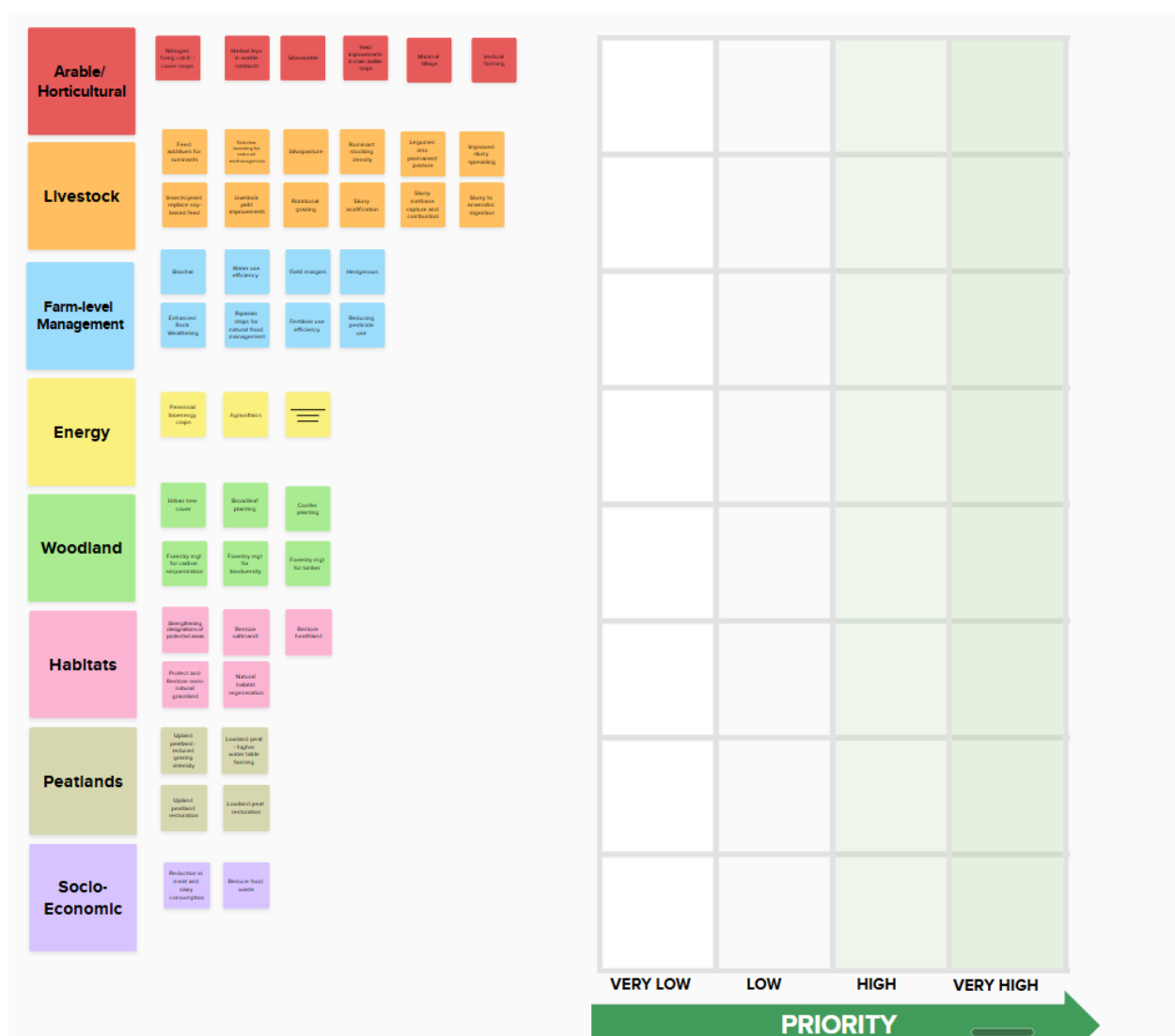


Figure 2: A snapshot of the online activity for prioritising actions to build the pathways

The workshops provided a wealth of information across the land use and agricultural contexts for the different nations. The outputs are now being analysed and synthesised by the Net Zero Futures Platform team to create pathway narratives and final parameterisations of the pathways for modelling. The modelling exercise of the Net Zero Futures Platform will evaluate the impacts, co-benefits and trade-offs within the pathways as well as the extent to which they meet the nation-specific targets and collectively, when aggregated, the UK targets. The pathways and their modelling will be presented back to stakeholders in a third in-person workshop in early 2026 where stakeholders from across the four nations will be brought together to learn from each other's pathways to up their ambition by co-creating a transformative balanced pathway that will be analysed and modelled in a second iteration.