

Public Document Pack

Peak District Local Access Forum

On: Thursday 7 December 2017

At: Aldern House, Board room

Agenda

Start: 10.00 am

1	Apologies and welcomes	
2	Minutes from the last meeting, 21st September	
3	Matters Arising	
4	Landscape Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheffield Lakeland• South West Peak	Keith Tompkins Sally Bentley
5	Draft National Park Management Plan 2018/23	Matt Mardling
6	Derbyshire CC RoWIP Update	Gill Milward
7	Staffs PROW consultation	Mike Rhodes
8	Access Update	Sue Smith
9	PDNPA Transport Design Guide	Mike Rhodes
10	Members' feedback including:	
11	Any Other Business	
12	Date and venue of next meeting	

Close and Lunch @ 1pm

*Background papers available

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MEMBERS OF THE PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Updated: October 2017

John Thompson (Chair)

Appointed until: September 2019

John has over 40 years' experience and knowledge of Derbyshire and Peak District countryside issues, having latterly worked for the National Park Authority as Director of Recreation and Education until his retirement in May 2007. In this role he was involved in access and rights of way developments and improvements, developed close and effective partnerships with a number of bodies including national and regional sports and recreation panels, three water companies, the National Trust and other land owning and management interests. He has also served on the National Forest Board for six years. He is also active in his local community, and is currently chair of the Anthony Gell School Foundation Trust, which has supported development of improved sports facilities for the school and community, and is a trustee (former chair) of the Wirksworth Recreation Ground Trust, providing opportunities for local sports.

Bob Berzins (Vice-chair)

Appointed until: June 2019

Bob's main area of interest is fell running. He is a member of Sheffield-based Dark Peak Fell Runners, writes columns for the Fell Runners Association website and magazine, and represents fell runners throughout the National Park. Through his involvement in the Stanage Forum he has developed his interest in access and conservation, and works with landowners, keepers and conservationists to improve understanding of the impacts of fell running on local moorland.

Charlotte Gilbert (Vice-chair)

Appointed until: December 2020

Charlotte lives in Alport near Bakewell and has a great interest in access to the countryside from many different perspectives; as a farmer and land manager, as a walker and horse rider and as a conservationist. She is Chair of Peak Horsepower bridleway group whose aim is to extend the bridleway network in the Peak District.

Ian Bunting

Appointed until: December 2017

Ian is a Visitor Experience Manager for Severn Trent Water and is responsible for conservation, access and recreation around several reservoirs. He is a keen walker and pot holer in the Peak District and is a volunteer at community projects and Heritage organisations. Having a farming background he understands some of the challenges surrounding access but is keen to make it as open to as many as possible.

Edwina Edwards

Appointed until: September 2018

Edwina is the Chief Executive of Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport and has also worked voluntarily for them for several years. She has also worked for the Youth Hostels Association and has served in various roles for Girlguiding in Derbyshire and is Midlands Region DofE coordinator. A keen walker, cyclist and fell runner, she is also very much part of the local Yowlgrave community and comes from a farming background.

Richard Entwistle

Appointed until: December 2019

Richard has lived near the Peak District for over 35 years and has been a frequent visitor to the National Park as a sightseeing visitor, a keen walker and occasional driver on the historic unsurfaced roads. He is very keen that all user groups have fair access to the countryside, and so has been involved with the Stanage Forum steering group representing the Green Lane Association (GLASS).

Henry Folkard

Appointed until: August 2018

Henry's professional association with the Peak District began in the late 1970's when, as Area Officer for the Manpower Services Commission's Job Creation Programme, he worked to develop a range of special projects in the National Park. He is currently the British Mountaineering Council's (BMC) Area Access Officer, was a founder member of the Stanage Forum and member of the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area, Eastern Moors Stakeholder Group, Sheffield Moors Partnership and the Kinder and High Peak Advisory Committee. He has contributed to the BMC's policy on, and responses to, the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act. He has a strong amateur interest in ornithology and botany and landscapes are a particular interest.

Clare Griffin

Appointed until: October 2020

Clare enjoys a wide range of outdoors recreation, including fell running, orienteering and trail bike riding. She is a member of the British Orienteering Federation, Fell Runners Association, Macclesfield Harriers running club, Trail Riders Fellowship and Vintage Motorcycle Club and has recently joined Peak Park Conservation Volunteers working parties. She works at Manchester Royal Infirmary and lives in Bollington.

John Hall

Appointed until: November 2019

John is a farmer in Edale.

Terry Howard

Appointed until: August 2018

Terry has an in depth knowledge of the Peak District as a walker for over 50 years. He is currently the President of the South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Ramblers, Chairman of Sheffield Ramblers and Access Secretary to Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland. A former Teacher of Environmental Studies and Youth Leader, he has organised many outdoor training events for Teachers and Youth Leaders. He has been involved in many joint working groups within the Peak District and is currently the Chairman of the Kinder and High Peak Advisory Group. Currently involved in promoting walking for those seeking a healthier lifestyle and promoting the understanding of the Peak District, its heritage and wildlife.

Matt Hutson

Appointed until: December 2018

Matt is an Outdoor Education professional, living in Buxton with his young family. He is the current Peak District Network co-ordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, as well as the Regional Representative for the Institute of Outdoor Learning and the British Association of International Mountain Leaders. From an educational background (working with EBD and disadvantaged groups) he is passionate about responsible access to the Countryside for all and is currently completing his Masters dissertation on the economic footfall of youth expedition programmes in the Peak District National Park. In his spare time he is a keen hillwalker and paddler.

Adge Last

Appointed until: October 2020

Adge is an outdoor education professional whose work supports the personal development of young people from Sheffield. He has links to the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel and Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres, as well as contact with local groups in Great Longstone regarding motor vehicle issues. Actively involved in rock climbing, cycling (both road and mountain biking) and walking, he lives and works within the National Park at Thornbridge.

Andrew Murley

Appointed until: March 2018

In his early years Andrew hiked and cycled around most of the Peak District and became a member of Buxton Mountain Rescue Team; he is still an associate member. Since the onset of various ailments he now ventures out in a wheelchair and tries to visit as much of the Peak District as possible on the accessible routes. He has lately gained a qualification in Managing Sustainable Rural Development. He attempted to relate most of his studies toward the Peak District and the last year of study was purely devoted towards the interaction between Peak District farmers, the local economy and local community. He is keen to see the residents, communities and economy of the Peak District and local surrounding area benefit from the opportunities afforded them through work performed by the Local Access Forum.

Geoff Nickolds

Appointed until: October 2020

Geoff Nickolds spent most of his career with Severn Trent Water where, as Conservation, Access and Recreation Manager he was responsible for recreation, access and biodiversity issues. This included over forty reservoir sites and countryside receiving over four million visitors each year, with facilities including visitor and education centres, restaurants, access trails, car parking, bird hides and water sports.

After leaving Severn Trent Water, Geoff served as Chairman of an Environment Agency Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (2005-2012), and as a Member of the Peak District National Park Authority (2007 - 2015) where he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Authority and had member lead roles on both biodiversity and recreation. His work as an independent Conservation, Access and Recreation consultant has included strategic advice on proposed reservoir and wetland developments for Thames Water, South East Water and the Environment Agency, and on implications of the Water Framework Directive for water based recreation for Defra.

Geoff is a member of the Forestry Commission Regional Advisory Committee and of the Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the East Midlands. He has also been a member of the National Trust Midlands Regional Advisory Board and National Trust Council. Spare time interests include membership of (and visiting) the National Trust and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and walking and cycling.

Paul Richardson

Appointed until: March 2020

Paul has been visiting the Peak District National Park all of his life and has been a resident for 20 years. He owns and manages a business based in Hope, and his interests outside of the working environment have included rock climbing, walking

and mountain biking. He has recently stepped down from Chair of the Peak District Mountain Bike group which was formed to help provide a voice for mountain bike riders that are resident in the national park, a group that is now some 3000 strong and growing. His work as a volunteer with the National Trust and his degree, have provided him with a good background in both theory and practice of the managed landscape.

Jon Stewart

Appointed until: October 2020

Jon has been involved in conservation and recreation work in the Peak District for over ten years through roles with English Nature/ Natural England (including input to CRoW access and Moors for the Future). He is now employed as General Manager for the National Trust with responsibility for delivery of the Trust's key aims of conservation and access/enjoyment in the Peak District as the largest landowner. He brings strong perspectives on conservation, access and land ownership/ management.

Ally Turner

Appointed until: October 2020

Ally is a keen horse rider and walker. She has recently retired from being a secondary school teacher with experience of working with pupils with Special Educational Needs and disadvantaged young people. She lives in a farming community near Longnor.

Sue Weatherley

Appointed until: June 2018

Sue comes from a farming background and has worked in public service in Derbyshire in a variety of roles for over 30 years. She lives in Youlgrave and is now retired. She is an active walker and cyclist, and even manages to do some open water swimming. At present she is Access Officer for the Derbyshire Dales Group of the Ramblers.

Appointees:

John Walton

Appointed by the Peak District National Park Authority

John is self-employed and has been a High Peak Borough Councillor since 2003. He lives within the National Park and supports a balanced approach to tourism in the Hope Valley. He supports protection of the environment, development for business and pleasure which is sympathetic to the natural beauty of the area and development on brown sites with careful planning.

Jason Atkin

Appointed by Derbyshire County Council

Jason is an elected Councillor on both Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council and is a member of the Planning Committees of both these Councils. He lives just outside the National Park boundary in Darley Dale and is a shop manager. His family have been farmers in Derbyshire for over 100 years and he runs his own business. In his County Councillor role he has had experience of cultural heritage issues as a representative on the Derwent Valley World Mills Heritage site. He is keen to promote affordable housing schemes to preserve the communities within the National Park and to support closer workings with other Authorities that surround the National Park and support national promotion of the National Park and closer working ties with the other National Parks.

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Peak District Local Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 21 September 2017 at Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw.

Members Present:

Bob Berzins
Councillor Jason Atkin
Richard Entwistle
Clare Griffin
Adge Last
Paul Richardson

John Thompson (Chair)

Charlotte Gilbert
Edwina Edwards
Henry Folkard
Terry Howard
Chris Page
Sue Weatherley

Others Present:

Sarah Fowler, (PDNPA)
Gemma Gregory, (DCC)
Councillor Andrew McCloy, (PDNPA)
Gill Millward, (DCC)

Mike Rhodes, (PDNPA) (Secretary)
Councillor Lesley Roberts, (PDNPA)
Sue Smith, (PDNPA)
Jason Spencer, (Minutes)

1. PRESENTATION TO EDWINA EDWARDS

At the start of the meeting the Chair of the National Park Authority, Cllr Mrs Lesley Roberts made a presentation to Edwina Edwards in recognition of her role as Chair of the Local Access Forum over the past 7 years. On behalf of the National Park Authority and the Forum, Cllr Roberts thanked Edwina for her significant contribution to the work of the Forum and successfully raising the profile of access issues within the Peak District.

Edwina responded by thanking Forum Members and Officers for their support recognising that everyone involved had contributed to the growth of the reputation of the Forum. Edwina specifically thanked John Thompson for his invaluable support as Vice-Chair.

2. APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Murley, Jon Stewart, and John Walton.

Jason Atkin was welcomed to his first meeting of the Forum since his appointment by Derbyshire County Council.

It was noted that due to his relocation to Yorkshire this would be the last meeting to be attended by Chris Page. He was thanked for his contribution to the work of the Forum and was wished well for the future.

It was noted that Gemma Gregory was attending the meeting to represent Richard Taylor.

3. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA

The Forum identified the following issues for discussion at the meeting that were not included on the agenda:

- Terry Howard indicated that he wished to raise issues relating to the Clarion Call and a forthcoming edition of Countryfile

- Henry Folkard advised that he wished to raise issues relating to the Forestry Commission Woods in the Dark Peak, Sheffield Moors Partnership, the Eastern Moors Partnership and problems with access to open access land at West Nab
- Chris Page indicated that he wished to provide an update on proposals for a canoe trail from Ladybower Reservoir to the River Trent
- Charlotte Gilbert wished to raise an issue relating to consultation from the Welsh Assembly

4. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING, 15TH JUNE

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June were approved as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

P2 Issues raised by Bamford Parish Council

It was noted the issues identified had been raised by John with Councillor Simon Spencer as the relevant Cabinet Member at Derbyshire County Council. Simon Spencer agreed to look into them and responded by referring to ongoing work by officers who would keep the Forum updated.

P3 Mountain Biking Initiatives

It was noted that John Horscroft had not given a presentation at the Ramblers AGM but he was to be invited to talk on the issues around a voluntary code of behaviour.

P4 National Park Management Plan Consultation

It was noted that the views of the Forum had been shared at a separate consultation meeting and that the feedback from the consultation would be presented to the forthcoming meeting of the National Park Authority. Bob Berzins would attend the Workshop as the LAF representative on 3rd October.

Following on from the discussion about the history of the National Park, Terry Howard expressed concern that he had heard that the National Park Authority was disposing of historic documents and photographs. Sarah Fowler agreed to look into this.

6. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Mike confirmed that, following Edwina Edwards' decision not to stand for re-election, John Thompson had been nominated to the role of Chair for the following year. Following a vote his appointment was confirmed by the Forum.

AGREED: To appoint John Thompson as Chair of the Forum for one year ending in September 2018.

John took the Chair at 10:20am. He said he was honoured to be appointed and thanked Edwina for her excellent work as Chair over the last 7 years.

Mike reported that two Members had expressed an interest in the role of Vice Chair, Bob Berzins and Charlotte Gilbert. It was suggested that the role could be shared between Bob and Charlotte. This option was put to the vote and confirmed.

AGREED: To appoint Bob Berzins and Charlotte Gilbert as Co-Vice Chairs for one year ending in September 2018.

7. MILES WITHOUT STILES

Sue Smith gave a presentation on the Miles without Stiles initiative being developed by the National Park Authorities. It was anticipated that this would result in good quality mapping of accessible and well maintained routes and an identifiable consistent way marker for designated routes across the Country.

In discussing the initiative the Forum considered issues relating to what constituted an accessible route noting that accessibility was dependent upon the individual user and the equipment they used. The following were discussed:

- Traffic free routes
- Cattle and livestock
- The impact of weather on routes
- The provision of shelter and other facilities and their impact on the landscape.

There was support for the development of consistent branding. The suggestion that this includes a grading assessment was welcomed. It was suggested that use of the word “easy” should be avoided.

The Forum noted possible sources of funding to progress the initiative including the Access Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership, grants from Sport England and others and contributions from the Highways Authority and Landowners.

It was noted that routes could be promoted using interactive maps, the production of handbooks, photo trails and events led by Rangers. It was anticipated that routes would be available towards the end of 2017 and that the handbook would be launched in Spring 2018.

Sue was thanked for the presentation and it was noted.

8. MOORLAND OWNERS' LIAISON

Rhodri Thomas, the Natural Environment and Rural Economy Team Manager from the National Park Authority, presented a request from the Peak District Moorland Owners Liaison Group that the Local Access Forum provides help in addressing issues of concern around visitor engagement.

The request had arisen from a meeting held in May involving Peak District “moorland owners”, the National Park Authority, Natural England and the Moorland Association. Four key moorland issues had been identified for further action-including:

- Visitor Engagement
- Fire Risk
- Resilient Sustainable Moorland Management
- Moorland Birds

Discussions on visitor engagement had centred on issues such as dogs off leads, damage to infrastructure, erosion problems caused by mountain bikes, scramble bikes and 4x4s and organised events. It had been suggested that the Forum may be in a good position to help build on existing publicity campaigns, access point signage, seasonal signage and other measures to encourage responsible behaviour by moorland visitors.

While the Forum was happy to look at these issues further and promote responsible behaviour, it was suggested that it should be a two way process so that improvements to access could be linked to the need for users to behave responsibly and respect the needs of those who own and manage the landscape.

AGREED: That the Chair and Mike Rhodes work together to feedback to the Liaison Group and use this as an opportunity to follow up the need to have appropriate representation on the Local Access Forum following Caroline Hanson's resignation.

9. MEND OUR MOUNTAINS FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

Sarah Slowther, Fundraising Development Manager at the Peak District National Park Authority attended to provide an update on the Mend Our Mountains Make One Million Appeal to be carried out by the British Mountaineering Council in conjunction with the UK's family of 15 National Parks with the aim of raising £1 million in a year for projects to restore and protect iconic landscapes. 17 projects had been identified to benefit from the campaign and in the Peak District projects to repair paths along The Great Ridge and Cut Gate had been selected.

The campaign was also to be used as an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges of looking after the upland and recreational landscape and foster a sense of collective public responsibility.

Sarah also provided an update on progress made by the National Park Authority in giving consideration to setting up a charity. It was noted that following a discussion at a meeting of the Authority a working group had been set up including Members and Officers with the aim of learning from best practice and making recommendations to the Authority. Sarah also highlighted work carried out in producing a short video "Together we can do more".

During discussion of the presentation, Forum Members expressed concern over how the move towards a Charity would impact on the ring fenced Access Fund which had been successful in raising funds and delivering projects without the need for a Charity vehicle. In response to concerns about a lack of clarity on why a charity was needed, how this would impact on National Park Authority structures and why a Community Interest Company was not being pursued instead. It was confirmed that these issues were being explored by the working group and feedback from the Forum would be welcome.

As Chair of the Authority's Audit Resources and Performance Committee, and a member of the working group, Andrew McCloy provided more background on why the option of setting up a charity was being investigated and gave assurances that the group was exploring the kind of concerns raised by the Forum. The aim was to make sure that when Authority Members were asked to make a decision it was the right one that did not result in any unintended consequences that would adversely affect the Authority and its existing partners.

AGREED:

- 1. John Thompson to pull together the issues raised during the discussion and write to the Authority so that the concerns expressed by the Forum could be considered by the Working Group.**
- 2. To welcome the Mend our Mountains Campaign, and endorse the choice of Peak District sites identified as beneficiaries of the initiative.**
- 3. Mike Rhodes to follow up on the concessionary access issues regarding the Great Ridge.**

Jason Atkin left the meeting at 12 noon during consideration of this item.

10. DERBYSHIRE CC ROWIP UPDATE

Gill Millward presented a report providing an update on progress made towards the delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

During consideration of the report attention was drawn to progress made in delivering surface improvements at Bamford Clough, Chapel Gate and Hurstclough Lane and in addressing the backlog of legal orders to produce the Definitive Map. Gill also provided an update on work being carried out to identify lost ways and gave feedback from the joint LAF sub-group set up to look at this, with a workshop event planned for Saturday 14 October.

Charlotte Gilbert provided feedback on the Pennine Bridleway and a recent meeting between officers from the County Council, Natural England, the Pennine National Trails Partnership and local user groups to discuss options for funding/delivering the remaining sections of the route around the west side of Glossop. This included looking at possible alternative routes and other funding opportunities, as well as lobbying for an extension of existing funding.

Gill referred to the Key Cycle Network consultation due to take place in the Autumn, which she would circulate to Forum members for comment. She highlighted how the County Council's efforts in developing a network of multi-user Greenways contributed to the "miles without stiles" initiative, with scope for joint working and confirmed the Council was also involved in providing facilities for users on its sites, such as accessible toilets, electric bikes and tramper hire.

Terry Howard reported that, following concerns expressed at a previous meeting about poor communication between the Council and volunteers, he had received positive feedback that suggested this was being addressed and volunteers were much more positive.

AGREED:

- 1. To note and welcome progress made in delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2017/18.**
- 2. To note the 14 October event on Lost Ways.**
- 3. To note the update on the development of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail.**

11. GREEN LANES UPDATE

Sue Smith provided an update on progress with managing recreational motor vehicles in the National Park.

It was noted that the National Park Authority had made a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) permanently prohibiting all mechanically propelled vehicles from Washgate, near Hollinsclough save for the Bemrose Trail and Reliance Cup events on such terms as required by the Authority.

It was also noted that the Authority had resolved to proceed to publicise a proposal to make a permanent TRO to prohibit mechanically propelled vehicles at all times on a route at Wetton.

AGREED: To note the report and note the response submitted by the Forum to the consultation at Wetton.

12. MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

Spirit of Kinder Event

It was noted that although the event had been successful there were no plans to repeat the event during 2018. However there was likely to be an event in 2019 based around issues raised by the Clarion Call. Terry provided an update on a proposal by Sheffield Museums to provide an archive facility at Western Park.

Countryfile

It was noted that the BBC intended to include a piece about the Sheffield Access Pioneers during the 1 October edition of the programme Countryfile.

Forestry Commission land in the Dark Peak

Henry Folkard provided an update on the recently published Forest Plan on Woodlands highlighting that issues raised by the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) about recreational access had not been taken into account. It was agreed that the Forum would send in a belated response to the consultation based on the BMC response.

Action - Mike Rhodes

Eastern Moors Partnership

Henry Folkard provided an update on the recent and forthcoming pathfinder events on Landscape, Cultural Heritage and Access. The first event had been very successful so it was hoped that future events would be just as successful.

Stanage Forum

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at the Methodist Hall in Hathersage on Saturday 23 September and all were welcome to attend.

Standing Stones – West Nab

It was noted that access to the site had been restricted by blocking the informal parking space used by visitors. There were limits to what action could be taken as the obstruction was not on access to the site itself, even though the end result was the same. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Access Sub Group.

Action - Sue Smith for agenda

Derwent Canoe Trail

Chris Page advised the Forum that the new Chair of British Canoeing intended to progress the development of a Canoe Trail running from Ladybower Reservoir to the River Trent. It was recognised that this would be a challenge but discussions had already taken place at the Catchment Partnership and additional support was hoped to be found. Mike agreed to discuss with Chris outside of the meeting how the Forum might be able to assist.

Action - Mike Rhodes

Welsh Assembly Consultation on Access

Charlotte Gilbert brought the Forum's attention to a recent consultation from the Welsh Assembly on proposals to allow cycling and horse riding on footpaths. Charlotte will circulate details and encouraged members to respond as the consultation was open to individuals who may visit Wales. If successful, changes in Wales could extend to England in the future.

Forestry Commission West End

Bob Berzins highlighted recent felling that had taken place at West End where dense woodland was a barrier to reach open access land higher up. The Forestry Commission had been approached, but no progress had been made. Mike agreed to raise this with them.

Action - Mike Rhodes

Regional LAF Meeting

It was noted that John Thompson would attend the meeting on 10 October and feedback at the next Peak District LAF meeting.

13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting on Thursday 7th December 10am in the Boardroom at Aldern House, Bakewell.

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Draft Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23

Section 1: The Peak District National Park

The Peak District National Park plays a special role well beyond its borders. It is of international, national, regional, and local importance. Established in 1951, it was the UK's first National Park; there are now fifteen. As well as providing a breathing space and opportunities for learning, discovery and enjoyment for millions of people, the designation of National Parks is because of their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage - the 'special qualities' that make them so important. The special qualities of the Peak District National Park are detailed in Section 6. Please see figure 1 for a visual representation of the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides.

From the 1995 Environment Act, the purposes of designation are to:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

If there is a conflict between these two purposes, the Act states that conservation takes priority. In carrying out these purposes, the National Park Authority shall seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.

A wide range of distinctive landscapes make up the Peak District National Park. These form the basis for its designation as a National Park. The term landscape does not simply mean 'the view'. It encompasses the relationship between people, place and nature. Whilst the Peak District National Park attracts 12.25 million visits a year, it is home to some 38,000 residents and provides approximately 18,000 jobs, many of which are based on the special qualities. There is a need to protect our cherished landscapes whilst accommodating some changes arising from social, economic and environmental necessity.

Our aim is not to preserve a past landscape. It is to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park. By this, we mean we will maintain a distinctive sense of place for future generations to enjoy.

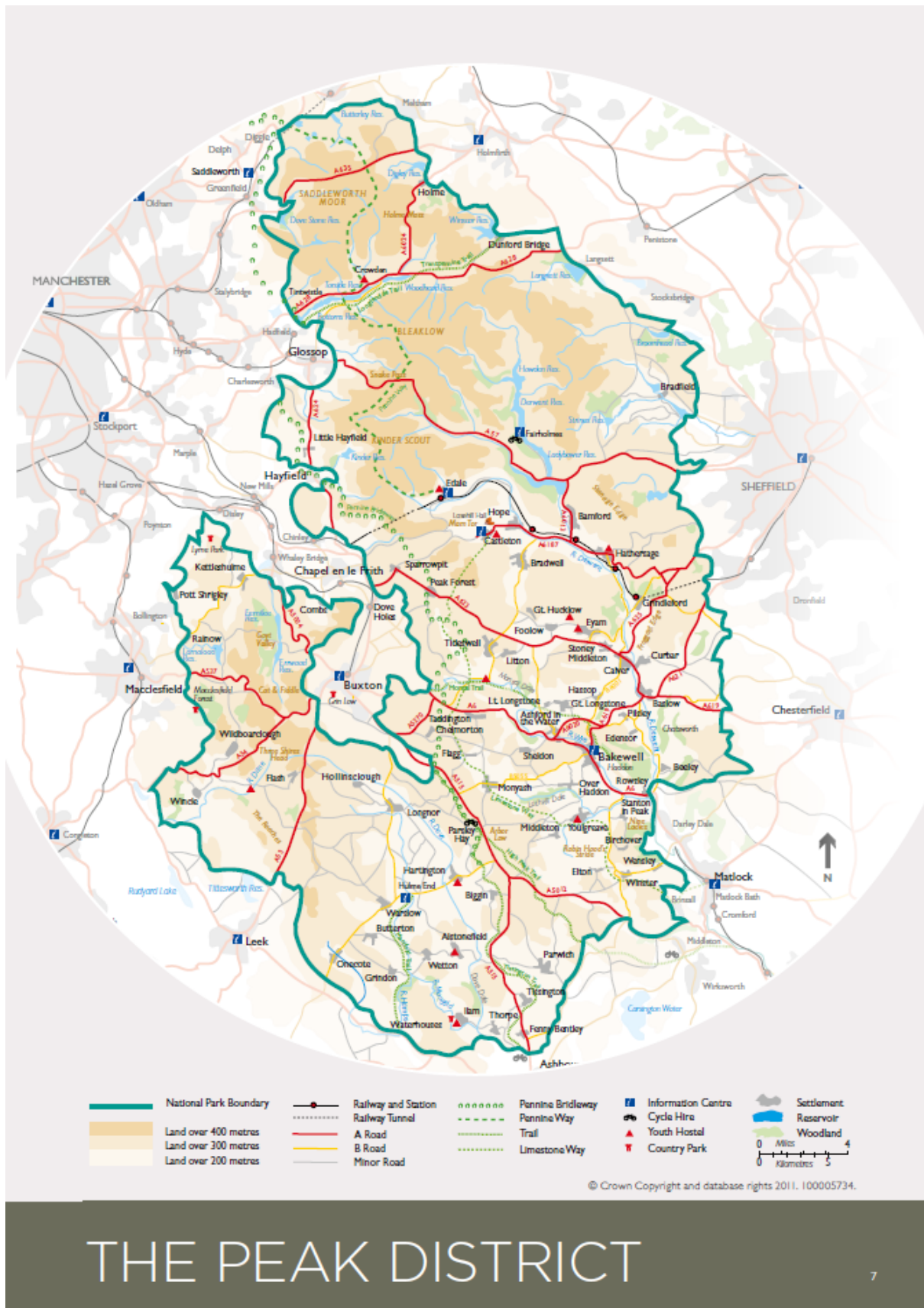


Figure 1

Peak District National Park: benefits in numbers



Benefits within the Peak District National Park

555
square miles
of PDNPP contributing
to natural beauty

over
1/3
of the PDNPP
is open access

1,472
scheduled monuments
in the PDNPP

1/3
of the PDNPP is designated
for nature conservation

45
million
burgers
beef and lamb to clean burgers
produced in the PDNPP each year

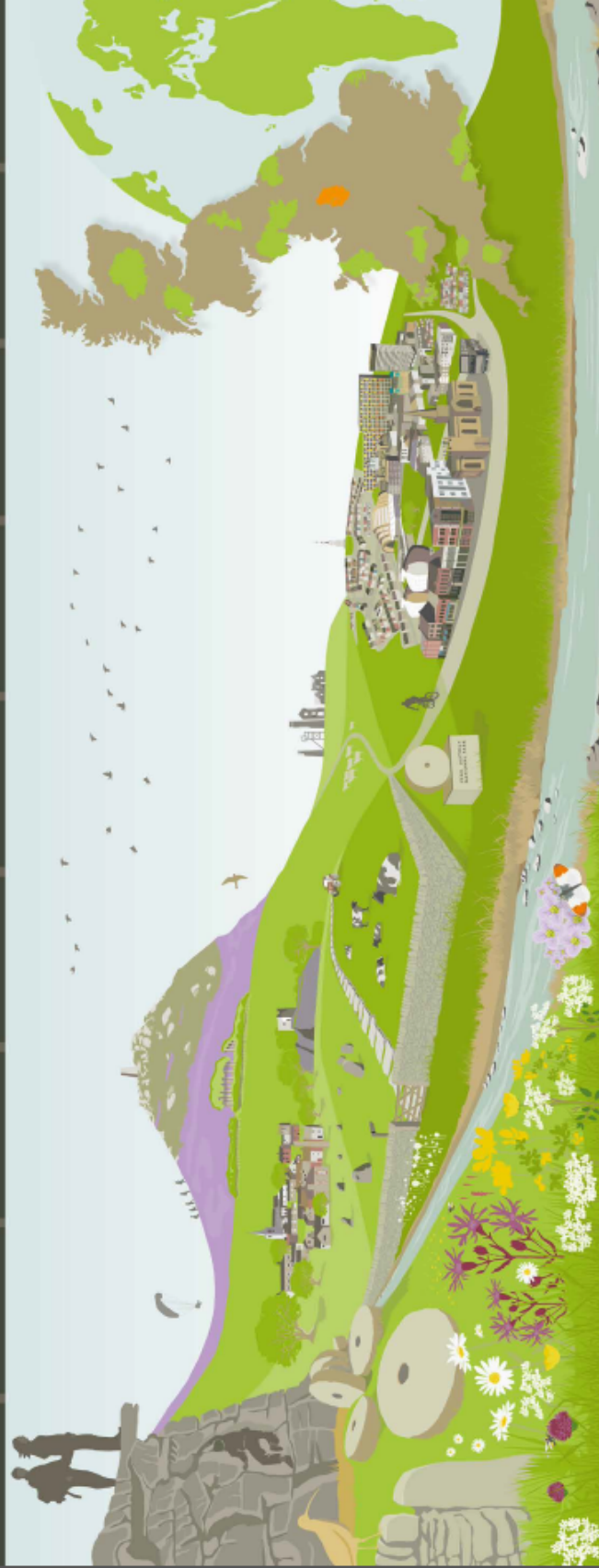
5%
flood risk
reduction
blanket bog restoration
reduces peak storm water flows

£3.8
billion
value of the output produced
in the wider Peak District

£1.6
trillion
value of the natural
environment

PDNPP contributes to
12
percent
of land area with that is a
protected area

Benefits for the UK and the globe



158
UK priority species
in the wider Peak District

over
2,910
listed buildings
in the PDNPP

over
1,300
miles
of rights of way
in the PDNPP

65
miles
of cycling trails
in the PDNPP

450
billion litres
of drinking water a year
provided by the PDNPP

over
12
million
visits to the PDNPP a year

206
million pints
of milk produced in
the PDNPP each year

PDNPP contributes
to the
£2.2
billion
UK health benefits of
outdoor exercise

up to
20
million tonnes
of carbon is stored in
PDNPP peat bogs

Biodiversity, geodiversity, cultural heritage, soil quality, pollination,
energy provision, past regulation, tranquillity, recreation, clean air

Sense of history, regulating water flow,
clean water, timber, food

Carbon storage, sense of place, tourism,
inspiration, natural beauty

Section 2: The National Park Management Plan

The 1995 Environment Act requires the Peak District National Park Authority to produce a management plan that outlines the vision for the management of the National Park. It must reflect National Park purposes and be updated at least every five years.

It is not the intention of the plan to duplicate or³ outline what others are already doing. The intent is to add extra value to the good work already in hand. Moreover, we need to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Peak District National Park's special qualities.

Many organisations care for the Peak District National Park. Therefore, the management plan brings together their work. This avoids confusion and potential conflict and is more efficient in the use of finances and resources.

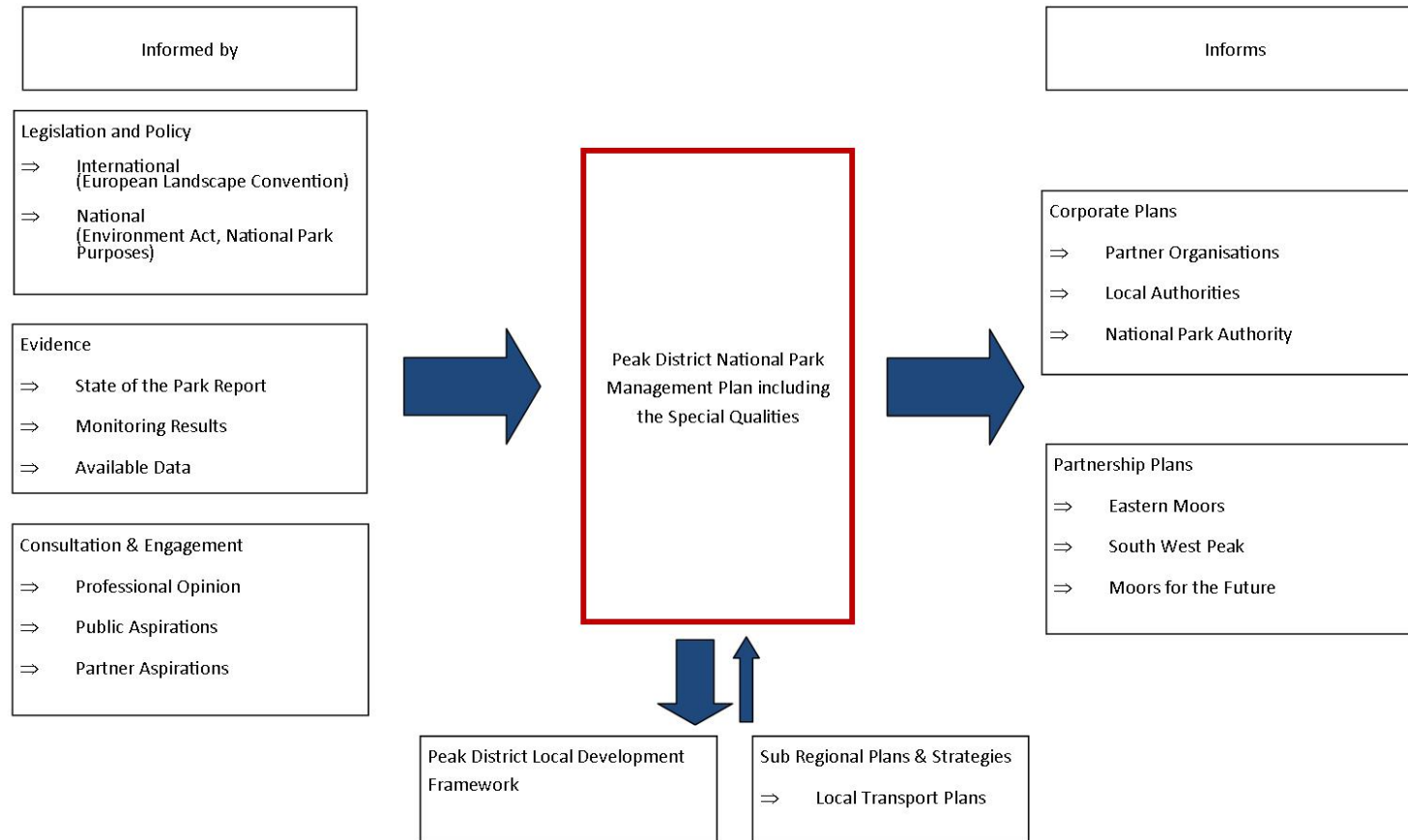
The National Park Management Plan provides the framework that encourages everyone to work together to achieve National Park purposes. It is not a plan for an individual organisation or group but a plan for the place. It is, therefore, a partnership plan. It is the single most important policy document for the Peak District National Park. It tells everyone what the main issues and priorities are. It then sets out how we are going to tackle those issues over the next five years.

The National Park Management Plan then informs the content of the corporate plans of all partners and provides the context for the Peak District Local Development Framework.

The management plan has been informed by a number of factors. These include relevant international and national legislation, national policies, professional opinion, public aspirations and evidence from a range of sources. For example Defra have published an 8-Point Plan for England's National Parks, which this management plan will help deliver appropriate elements through the delivery plan.

See figure 2 for a visual representation of how the National Park Management Plan is informed by and informs other strategies and policies.

Figure 2: How the National Park Management Plan relates to other plans, policies and strategies



Section 3: Working Together to Secure the Most for the Peak District National Park

Protecting and enhancing the much-loved and valuable landscape of the Peak District National Park requires political support, sufficient funding and technical expertise. Working to secure these is more important than ever. There are many demands on public funding and this makes it harder to protect adequately the National Park and its special qualities. Because of this commercial income, donations and external funding have greater significance. The management plan is a way for all partners to work together to do this, rather than competing for the same funds. It also provides an opportunity for the benefits to extend beyond the Peak District National Park boundary, as there may be benefits for the surrounding areas too.

The exit from the European Union will present challenges and will provide opportunities. Therefore, there are two tasks. We must make the case for the support and resources needed to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park; we must also take advantage of opportunities as they emerge.

Improving our current ways of working is an important step in addressing these issues. A range of people and organisations are involved in caring for the Peak District National Park. Although they are used to pooling resources, now is the time to work even harder to achieve this. Collectively, we can create new ways to deliver our services. By avoiding duplicating each other's efforts, there are real economies of scale to win. There are many long-standing and valued partnerships to nurture. For example, the Peak District Local Access Forum is a fantastic example of a partnership that brings together many partners to add value over and above what the individual partners already achieve. Attracting new partners will bring new knowledge, enthusiasm and fresh ideas. By doing this, we can find alternative ways to conserve the Peak District National Park's special qualities. We can make better use of people's talents, find better ways to access funds and use them efficiently.

Discussions in the development phase of this management plan have provided a common understanding that we want to collectively influence to provide a supportive policy, decision making and funding framework. It is agreed that we want support and funding for conservation of the Peak District National Park. We need supportive policy and legislation, as well as sufficient funding. The Peak District National Park delivers a wide range of benefits. We want people to acknowledge this value and so to want to invest in conserving and enhancing the benefits the National Park provides. We want the resources and means to conserve the special qualities. To do this, we need to have a collective voice, as this is more influential than individual voices.

Discussions led to this way of working because decisions made nationally and locally can create a benefit and a negative impact on the landscapes and the communities of the Peak District National Park. There are unintended consequences, such as the loss of irreplaceable natural and cultural features or loss of services to communities who enjoy the Peak District National Park. It takes concerted work to maintain the natural benefits society gains from the Peak District National Park. Bringing people together has a greater impact than many individual contributions.

It was also agreed that we would work together to engage in new ways of working. We want to embed smart and effective ways of working in the Peak District National Park. We want to access funding for joint working in rural areas. As Britain's first national park, we have always been pioneering and want to continue to be a test bed for new ways of working. To achieve this, we will need to join or create new partnerships as well as developing our existing partnerships. We need to be smarter in how we work together to take advantage of all opportunities.

This is because austerity is likely to be with us for some years. Our exit from the European Union brings uncertainties. We need to use our resources efficiently and effectively, and we need to find additional sources of funding. Engaging in new ways of working will be central to achieving this. Working together in new ways of working will have greater impact than as individuals.

Section 4: National Park Management Plan Vision

When developing the management plan, early public consultation revealed a strong preference for the management of the Peak District National Park to focus on the first statutory purpose. Therefore, we have refined the vision to better reflect our two statutory purposes and duty. By conserving and enhancing a diverse working and cherished landscape we will be delivering the first statutory purpose. By ensuring we provide a welcoming and inspiring place for all we will be delivering the second statutory purpose. By seeking to have thriving communities with a sense of place and a sustainable economy that conserves the special qualities we will be performing the duty.

Figure 3: The Peak District National Park Management Plan Vision



To help us to achieve the vision, we have developed seven areas of impact and an associated delivery plan. The main element of the vision that each area of impact contributes to is highlighted throughout the area of impact section of the management plan. However, in reality many of the areas of impact will be helping to deliver more than one element of the vision.

Section 5: The Areas of Impact of the Peak District National Park Management Plan

Introduction

The seven areas of impact are those themes where our actions have the potential to add the greatest value to existing work or to drive forward bold new agendas. They are the focus of the National Park Management Plan, with deliverable actions for each area of impact. The areas of impact are in no particular order. They should be read as an integrated set, rather than in isolation.

Area of Impact 1:

A National Park for everyone

What does this mean and why does it matter?

One purpose of the Peak District National Park is to give people the opportunity to understand and enjoy its special qualities. The National Park provides a stunning setting for escape, adventure and relaxation. There are many ways for visitors to enjoy its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Many people and organisations tell parts of the Peak District National Park's story. These develop the connection between people and place. However, not all groups in society visit and not all visitors have the confidence to explore beyond the beaten track.

Although there are over 12 million visits to the National Park every year, there are some barriers to access. Some of these are physical barriers, such as a lack of user friendly or affordable public transport links. This makes some areas difficult to reach without a car. In some places, there is no access for those with limited mobility. Other barriers relate to perceptions. Perhaps there is a lack of confidence to explore and discover the natural world. Cultural or social factors can prevent people from visiting. Perhaps they do not feel welcome or safe. People who do not visit the Peak District National Park will miss the benefits it offers.

Widening connections with the Peak District National Park brings many benefits. People will become healthier through physical activity in the outdoor environment. Experiencing cultural heritage and the natural world will enrich their lives. Local people will gain. They too, will get a wider range of recreation and access services. Visitors will put money into the local economy.

What we want to do:

Overcome physical barriers to access

We want to improve access to the Peak District National Park to enable more people to enjoy its special qualities.

We want to help people to appropriately travel to and explore the Peak District National Park. Everyone should be able to experience the full range of special qualities, including those with limited mobility where possible. We need a transport system with services that dovetail. Appropriate access into and within the Peak District National Park will be encouraged.

Why?

The Peak District National Park is for all. Some people have no access to either the National Park or some sites within it. With planning and resources, we can make a difference.

Research shows that spending time undertaking physical activity in an outdoor environment improves health and wellbeing. This is particularly true for the vulnerable and people from poorer backgrounds. Physical activities can help with key health issues such as depression, obesity, diabetes and dementia. The lack of physical activity in England is costing the NHS almost £1 billion a year.

Overcome perceived barriers to access

We want all people to feel able to visit the Peak District National Park and enjoy its special qualities.

We want to build up the confidence of those who do not feel able to visit and encourage them to come. We want to inspire those who do not feel they have a connection with the natural world and arouse their curiosity.

Why?

The people living around the Peak District National Park are from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds. Many people do not know what the National Park is or how to engage with it. Some do not know that the Peak District National Park exists. Research shows that young people do not get many opportunities to connect with nature. Moreover, some are not sure of the welcome they will receive. The National Park is for the enjoyment of all. Overcoming these perceived barriers to access will enable a greater diversity and number of people to enjoy and learn about the Peak District National Park.

Area of Impact 2:

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park provides a valuable space for escape, excitement, adventure and relaxation. It is a place to enjoy. We can create experiences that move, teach and inspire people. They can learn more about the value of its landscape, wildlife and ways of life. They can discover what the National Park gives to us. The National Park is the setting

for our shared cultural heritage, a cornerstone of our lives and values. We want to help people to recognise and understand this when they enjoy the special qualities. This applies equally to the people who live and work here as to visitors.

Promoting opportunities to enable the enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the Peak District National Park is a statutory purpose of the National Park. Achieving this is fundamental to the future existence of the Peak District National Park. Understanding that its special qualities are at risk from a range of pressures can help reduce those pressures and increase people's enjoyment. With enjoyment, there comes responsibility. It is important that everyone recognises the part they can play in helping to protect the Peak District National Park. Duty for its care is a shared one.

What we want to do:

Balance opportunities for enjoyment with conserving a fragile environment

We want the enjoyment of the Peak District National Park to be at a scale that respects the needs of all, and allows all to enjoy.

We want those who organise events in the Peak District National Park to celebrate its special qualities and help local communities to prosper. Those who care for the National Park will help them.

We want to help people explore the Peak District National Park widely but responsibly. We want to spread the benefits visitors bring across the area without harming the special qualities.

Why?

Visitors are very welcome but their activities can affect the Peak District National Park and its communities. Most effects are positive but some are negative. We do not know what the capacities are for all areas to absorb activities without damage. Some sites in the National Park are very attractive to visitors. There are times when their numbers are so great, this may affect the enjoyment of other visitors or the lives of the people who live and work here. Other areas need the benefits that visitors can bring.

Ensure shared responsibility

We want people to appreciate, understand and care about the impacts they have on the National Park and other users.

We want people to be aware of, and respect, each other when enjoying the Peak District National Park. They should have an understanding of the effect that their activities can have on the experience and livelihoods of others as well its natural and cultural heritage. We want people to have a better understanding of the value of the special qualities.

We want people to care for their National Park. They can take positive action by volunteering to help protect the natural or cultural heritage. They can raise funds and

donate to a National Park cause.

Why?

The Peak District National Park was the first UK National Park. People have visited and enjoyed it for decades. Their enjoyment in the future requires us to maintain its special qualities. Farmers and land managers do much of this work but it is a shared undertaking. It includes the need to respect the landscape, including its natural beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage, other users and the local communities. By welcoming and inspiring people, and informing their thinking, we can help them to have a positive impact on the special qualities.

Area of Impact 3: Preparing for a future climate

What does this mean and why does it matter?

Climate change is the greatest long-term threat to our upland landscapes. It has the potential to change the features that make up the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Climate change will modify the Peak District National Park's special qualities and alter the opportunities for the public to enjoy them. It will also alter the benefits the Peak District National Park provides. At this time, it is uncertain what the effects will be.

Responsible and inventive management can help to mitigate the effects of climate change by creating and maintaining resilient landscapes. Resilient landscapes consist of fully functioning ecosystems that allow nature and people to adapt to climate change. This will aid wildlife and communities within the Peak District National Park, as well as those that feel a knock-on impact - regionally, nationally and even globally. The challenge is twofold. We must balance the need to actively manage our contribution to climate change, with the desire to conserve and enhance the special qualities.

Greenhouse gases contribute to climate change. This will change some of the habitats that are special to the Peak District National Park. We need energy production that does not produce greenhouse gases. However, this must not result in harm to the National Park's special qualities. For instance, the development of wind and solar farms, along with their access tracks, power-lines and ancillary buildings, could have a major impact on the landscape. Biomass burners need regular access for large vehicles. Therefore, we will work with the landscape and with communities to ensure we are forward thinking about climate change and find renewable energy solutions that are of an appropriate design and scale, so that they do not compromise the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

What we want to do:

Reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities

We want to reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities, including enjoyment of the National Park.

Traditional Peak District National Park and management has tried to adapt to changes to keep the National Park relevant to society. We need to look to the future and decide what we must do differently in light of what we know about the potential effects of future climate changes. We cannot keep things the same. We need to build our evidence base to help make these decisions.

Why?

Climate change will modify the Peak District National Park's special qualities. At this time, it is uncertain what the effects will be, but they are likely to be wide ranging. It is likely that there will be direct effects on species such as moorland birds and habitats such as blanket bogs. An increase in invasive pest species and wildfires may worsen the effects. Water quality in our rivers and streams and the production of clean drinking water may be reduced. The risk of flooding may rise. Climate change may reduce the ability of Peak District National Park habitats to store carbon. Increased surface run-off will increase soil erosion and result in sediment and nutrient loading of streams, resulting in a loss of freshwater biodiversity. Fire hazards may increase as peat soils dry out and woodlands suffer from summer drought. Increased temperatures from climate change will affect the economy of the Peak District National Park, particularly farming and tourism.

We have a unique opportunity to influence visitors to understand climate change and reduce their own carbon footprint. We want to encourage visitors to the Peak District National Park to choose sustainable travel options and take away key messages on mitigating and adapting to climate change. This could have a wider benefit if visitors continued the habit when they returned home, for example, travelling using a lower carbon mode, like cycling instead of driving.

Area of Impact 4:

Promote the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park has a direct positive effect on the quality of life of those living within and outside its boundary. Its natural processes enrich our air, water and soil. This provides a wide range of benefits, some of which have only recently been recognised. Putting a value on these benefits is only just happening. At present, the nation is taking advantage of these natural benefits without considering how sustainable this is.

Some benefits are obvious and have a clear market value. Examples are providing food, timber and clean water. Others are not as widely understood. For instance, the Peak District National Park plays a critical role in reducing the risk of flooding by holding water in its uplands. It also captures significant quantities of carbon and pollutants. It supports the wildlife that pollinates our plants. As a space for recreation, it provides a place for spiritual refreshment and a link to our cultural heritage. Research shows that spending time outdoors in species rich environments improves health and wellbeing.

Many businesses draw value from the Peak District National Park. Some are within its borders but others are in the surrounding towns and cities. They take advantage of their relationship with its special qualities. We need to encourage businesses to embrace the landscape, and its enhancement, as part of their business model. This will help to ensure the sustainability of these benefits. In addition, businesses provide part of the experience that visitors seek when entering the National Park and ensuring that such businesses thrive in a way which promotes and protects the special qualities of the National Park is an important part of people's enjoyment of the place.

The Peak District National Park helps to support the health and wellbeing of our planet. Managing this resource effectively is central to our purpose.

What we want to do:

Develop an awareness and understanding of the benefits of the Peak District National Park

We want more people to understand and value the benefits that society derives from the Peak District National Park.

Why?

The natural systems in the Peak District National Park are vital. They provide food and water; they regulate our environment. In addition, they underpin our cultural and spiritual wellbeing. There is a limited understanding of the value of some of the wider benefits that the special qualities provide. Few people put a value on the spiritual calm they gain from walking in a meadow and many people take tap water for granted. Even when broadly understood, it is difficult to assess who benefits, by how much, and where. This means that decision-making is not currently fully informed. Equally, delivering these benefits comes at a cost. We want to manage our special qualities to sustain the benefits. We need an agreed set of benefits to use to raise awareness of them.

Engage with businesses on the benefits of the Peak District National Park

We want to support a dynamic network of businesses committed to conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park on which so many livelihoods rely.

We want to increase business's knowledge of the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides and encourage them to promote this to others.

We want an environment where businesses can modernise and evolve while conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park and enriching the communities that live within it.

Why?

Most businesses in the Peak District National Park are small and diverse in what they do. As well as farming, businesses work in the leisure, retail, manufacturing, local food, creative and cultural sectors. About half the National Park's residents commute beyond the boundary for work. However, about four in ten jobs within the National Park are filled by people who commute in. Most businesses recognise the value of their links with the National Park. They could strengthen this affinity by promoting the National Park brand. However, for a number of businesses the everyday challenges of sustaining their business, such as access to finance and maintaining premises that may not be fit for purpose, are likely to take priority.

Engaging in good environmental practice can be a challenge for small businesses. They may have relatively high overheads and small profit margins.

Area of Impact 5: **Ensuring a future for farming and land management**

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The impact of farming and land management on our landscapes is significant. Around 84% of the total area of the Peak District National Park is farmed land. Farmers and land managers are essential for conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park. Farms must be viable and resilient businesses to survive. Decision-making is mostly driven by economic pressures. If farmers are to be encouraged to deliver more environmental and public benefits than they do now, there needs to be an evaluation of the benefits. This will enable the creation of new types of support schemes. Current schemes are becoming less attractive to farmers due to complexity, increased recording requirements and reduced payments.

Some support payments do not focus enough on enhancing the special qualities or on providing long-term benefits. There is great uncertainty about the future level and type of funding support after our exit from the European Union. However, there is an opportunity to influence new schemes to pay farmers and land managers to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

Farming and land management that produces more at the expense of the environment is not sustainable. It will leave the landscape less resilient to the uncertain effects of climate change. People need to support sustainable farming and land management that protects what is special about the landscape. This includes recognising that the land can provide benefits beyond food and timber. We want to work alongside people who manage the land to ensure that decisions are made that protect and enhance our special landscapes.

The immediate key challenge for ensuring a future for farming and land management is securing future land management support schemes. This underpins the whole future of many farms. However, even when measures have been put into place to secure this, there are two further challenges for the future – ensuring succession for farming and supporting farm diversification.

Many farms are struggling, with some farm households surviving only because of support payments and off-farm income. The viability of farms varies quite a lot, both within and between the farm types of dairy and livestock (beef and sheep). Some could survive without Government payments but many rely on them. Many holdings are part time. As a result, the sector has at times struggled to attract and retain younger people. Currently, there is an upsurge in numbers of students at agricultural colleges and participating in on-farm training.

It is important there are a range of farm businesses available for these young people to start and grow their farm business as well as joining family farm businesses. Then older farmers and land managers can pass on their local knowledge and skills.

Many farmers started their career with the intention of just farming; now many are finding diversification is essential. This requires additional knowledge, skills and time. In addition, starting a new venture brings new risks. Therefore, we need some innovative support to secure viable farms.

Secure future land management support schemes

We want to ensure land management in the Peak District National Park delivers the full range of benefits.

We want to encourage farmers to protect and enhance the natural and cultural environment. All who care for the land in the Peak District National Park must present a clear collective voice to shape future policies and support schemes. The Peak District National Park should be a test-bed for new and innovative support schemes and new ways of working.

Why?

Our exit from the European Union may bring changes to support and incentives for land management. This may affect the provision of benefits. This creates the opportunity to develop schemes that will deliver a full range of benefits from public money. There is a need for a new policy that balances the needs of the environment and farming; and delivers the full range of benefits.

Revised support schemes should support ways of farming in the uplands that benefit nature and deliver to existing and new markets. Consumers like to support local markets. New schemes should reward land managers for the full range of benefits they provide. These include carbon storage, improving water quality and preventing floods, as well as conserving and enhancing cultural heritage assets and natural heritage. Moreover, they should reward sustainable food production. Schemes need to be simple and work in ways that engage farmers in defining and delivering clear results.

Ensure that the management of the uplands conserves and enhances the special qualities of the Peak District National Park

We want management of the uplands to be sustainable by delivering positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.

Why?

The Peak District National Park is renowned for its upland landscapes. Its blanket bogs, upland heaths, clough woodlands and rocky outcrops provide habitats for many species. They provide the setting for recreational activities. They support the economy by providing jobs for the tourist and land management sectors. They also provide benefits to society such as flood alleviation and carbon sequestration.

This is relevant to the Peak District National Park because 37% of its 555 square miles is upland moor. In order to conserve and enhance these areas we need to focus on ensuring responsible enjoyment, managing fire risk and increasing the variety and abundance of moorland birds, including under represented birds of prey. Partnerships such as the Local Access Forum, Fire Operations Group, Moors for the Future and the Birds of Prey Initiative have made progress over the past five years but there is further work to be done

Area of Impact 6:

Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park's contrasting landscapes are one of its special qualities. They each require their own method of land management. The 2010 Making Space for Nature report called for more, bigger, better and joined up ecological networks to enable nature to thrive. The most effective way to do this is to focus on restoring, conserving and enhancing the locally, nationally and internationally important habitats that make up the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park. This means working in a wide enough geographical area and in a strategic way so the change is bigger. It means bringing together organisations and specialists to work together for the landscape as a whole. We need specialists like ecologists, cultural heritage experts, tourism bodies, outreach workers and businesses, to work as teams. To do this, we need to build on, and expand, our existing ways of working and partnerships.

Good management of our natural and cultural resources is crucial in providing benefits to local communities and the wider public. We need to find new ways to improve the quality of these resources. We need to be able to measure the changes that are already occurring, as well as the effect of the improvements we make. This requires us to monitor changes at the right scale.

What we want to do:

Establish monitoring at a landscape scale

We want to 'join up' and develop our monitoring work. This will deliver a clear picture of the large-scale changes to the landscape.

This requires a wide-ranging record. It must include flora, fauna, cultural and heritage features, agricultural features and land cover.

Why?

Within the Peak District National Park, there are eight landscape character areas, each with distinctive characteristics. However, there is no standard way of monitoring changes to those characteristics. This makes it difficult to target our efforts. We can use the Landscape Strategy to develop an integrated landscape-monitoring scheme. This will help us to understand how and why the landscape is changing. It will help us determine whether changes are positive or not and how we should address the changes. These issues affect the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

Establish a White Peak partnership

We want a wide-ranging partnership in the White Peak area of the Peak District

National Park with a clear vision and actions.

Why?

In the uplands, the Dark Peak and South West Peak both have landscape scale partnerships with a vision and actions. Please see figure 4 for a diagram of the three National Character Areas. We now have many processes and systems in place to deliver partnerships and projects at a landscape scale. We should look to build on these to deliver improvements to the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the White Peak. However, whilst the White Peak has a landscape partnership, it is still developing and needs to agree a vision.

The White Peak and Dark Peak are quite different. Limestone geology dominates the White Peak. The Government calls for more, bigger, better and joined up habitats. Currently, the important habitats that make up the White Peak are mostly in the Dales. They are patchier on the plateau, usually within large areas of more intensively farmed land. Their small size makes it difficult for them to adapt to the effects of climate change and to provide viable habitats for good populations of species. Nature needs connected landscapes and habitats to thrive. We need a wide-ranging plan to provide the most benefit to wildlife, cultural heritage, landscapes and people.

A White Peak landscape scale partnership will support land management. It will help us to link up key habitats to create wildlife corridors. We will be able to increase the size and the quality of these habitats. Better management will make them more resilient. They will cope with, or recover more quickly from, difficult conditions. Landowners will get support to protect, enhance or restore the heritage features. We will also be able to increase people's enjoyment of these special landscapes. In addition, we will explore whether there are different ways of responding to ash dieback disease. Ash trees and woodlands are a strong landscape feature of the White Peak and they are currently under threat from Ash Dieback disease.

Figure 4: The 3 National Character Areas within the Peak District National Park



Maintain exiting landscape scale delivery

We want to continue to build on the work delivered in the Dark Peak to maintain and fund a fit for purpose vision.

Why?

The Dark Peak is the first upland in England, when travelling north from London, so the issues are unique. There has been much work undertaken in the Dark Peak to restore the quality of its moorlands. They provide a dramatic landscape and a globally rare habitat. The aim of this work is to restore and conserve the ecological integrity of the blanket bog whilst raising awareness of the multitude of benefits that moorlands provide including carbon sequestration, flood alleviation and recreational opportunities.

Historic over grazing altered species composition and caused erosion. More recently, atmospheric pollutants have and continue to change the species composition, as have wild fires. Recent environmental schemes are addressing these issues. Nevertheless, there are still problems to solve. In particular there is a need to ensure that moorland management delivers sustainable environmental, social and economic outcomes. In addition, there is the

continuing as absence of birds of prey which needs to be addressed.

The Moors for the Future Partnership has been a leader in this work but is funded on a project-by-project basis. Following the UK's departure from the European Union, LIFE funding, which has been a significant source of funding for the programme, is likely to end. We need to ensure that the environmental gains that have been made can continue.

Area of Impact 7:

Supporting sustainable communities

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park is a living, working landscape with a resident population of around 38,000. People are integral to the life and management of the Peak District National Park. They have lived, worked in and shaped the landscape for thousands of years.

A sustainable community relies on social, economic and environmental factors. Peak District National Park residents live in an amazing landscape full of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage which are all closely connected and interdependent.

The relative remoteness of some areas of the Peak District National Park is part of what makes living here desirable. However, this can make the affordability of local housing and access to services more challenging. To retain communities as vibrant and thriving places, such issues need to be addressed. Added to these challenges is the expectation of an ageing population. Big questions arise as to the future sustainability of our communities with a potential reduction in working age people and an increase in elderly people. In addition, younger people need to be able to remain in their communities and not feel compelled to leave. The availability of affordable homes and suitable employment are important factors, along with the other elements that make up a sustainable community, such as the sense of community brought about by people sharing experiences.

Building strong connections between local people and the area in which they live can help to foster sustainable communities. Taking part in traditional customs or local affairs and actively caring for the local environment gives people a sense of place. Yet, with an aging population and fewer people wishing to take part, some communities may struggle. Respecting and valuing the key role of older people in our communities will be important as well as re-engaging people with what is special about the Peak District National Park and learning from each other about how to manage local issues affecting housing and services.

There is a need to more fully understand what a thriving and vibrant community can be in the context of these changes. The skill is how we support sustainable communities and conserve and enhance the Peak District National Park's special qualities.

What we want to do:

Improve access to services

We want to ensure adequate access to services across the Peak District National Park by supporting new models for service delivery.

We want to maintain a range of settlements as the focus for key services. We want to support people to shape their own community and support service providers to explore new and alternative models of service delivery. We want to support the local economy.

We want a Peak District National Park-wide enhanced broadband service, delivered in innovative ways with communities, that enables communities to access services.

Why?

Sustainable communities need suitable employment and many services including schools, shops and health facilities but we need to continue to explore new ways of providing these services. As well as meeting local needs, local services and businesses benefit communities financially by enabling visitors to spend money. Community resilience also depends on people playing an active role in their communities.

Many of our villages have a range of thriving local facilities. However, some find it difficult to retain their services, with health and social care being particularly affected. Many shops, post offices, healthcare facilities and pubs have closed. As our residents' age profile is increasing, many need access to these services now more than ever. Older people play a key role in our communities, often being part of local governance and supporting more vulnerable neighbours. They need access to services in order to fulfil this role. A steady decline in commercial bus services over recent years has made access even harder for people without their own transport. This needs to be addressed in innovative ways.

In response, many communities are now delivering their own services, including running community shops and pubs. Some areas are now served by mobile services and community-run initiatives. We support such innovation and will seek to help communities share and learn from each other. Yet these services often emerge after the loss of traditional means of accessing services, like doctors' surgeries and public transport. A Peak District National Park-wide enhanced broadband service delivered in innovative ways with communities has a role to play in accessing services. We must continue to play a key role in supporting and delivering both traditional and innovative local services.

Support the provision of locally needed housing

We want to ensure a proactive approach to addressing the local need for appropriate housing in the Peak District National Park.

We will explore opportunities for proactive delivery for locally needed housing in a way that supports and delivers conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the Peak District National Park. We will work together to grow our understanding of different housing products.

We will work together in the active delivery of affordable housing appropriate to the needs of local people. We want to support community-led housing initiatives that recognise the importance of delivering affordable homes with the community at the heart of the development process.

We want to attract appropriate levels of inward investment from Government and others that reflects the cost of building affordable homes in the Peak District National Park.

Why?

The need to meet National Park purposes can constrain development. This is why we need a proactive approach to appropriately address the housing needs of local communities. We support schemes that add to the valued character of an area. Balancing development with conservation allows us to meet local needs while fulfilling our statutory purposes.

We need to work together to ensure that adequate finances are available to ensure win-win solutions for our communities. Well designed, affordable housing which supports communities in perpetuity will address local issues and support the conservation objectives of the Peak District National Park.

Evidence shows that there is not enough affordable housing in some parts of the Peak District National Park to meet demand. This affects a range of people, including young people wishing to start a home or take over a family business and those looking for retirement properties or to downsize.

Existing national and local policy has begun to address local needs. Yet in the National Park, planning policies typically only release new land to address the most acute housing problems. This delivers some affordable homes. However, it does not always meet local aspiration for new housing, which some see as necessary for vibrant and thriving communities. We need to review our policies and the way that land is released for the best planning of the area and in order to conserve and enhance the character of local villages.

We need to review our evidence to determine the extent of these issues and consider how additional houses would affect the vitality of a community. We also need to consider what limits to development are necessary as we move into the future.

Section 6: The Special Qualities of the Peak District National Park Management Plan

Introduction

The Peak District National Park is the UK's first national park. It is a treasured landscape of exceptional natural beauty shaped by the interaction of people and nature over thousands of years. Lying at the southern end of the Pennines, surrounded by urban areas, it is easily accessed by the 16 million people living within an hour's drive.

The Peak District National Park is distinct from the surrounding lowlands and its three main landscapes, the Dark Peak, White Peak and South West Peak, each have their own character and sense of place. Over a third of the area is protected for nature conservation and the mosaic of landscapes support an abundance of plants and animals. People have lived here for over 10,000 years shaping the landscape and leaving a wealth of cultural history. It remains a lived-in landscape where industrial features make up one of the many layers of the landscape.

For hundreds of years, this diversity of landscapes and rich cultural heritage has created recreation opportunities from adrenaline sports to leisurely rambles. Here, millions of people can get active, escape the pressures of everyday life, explore creative activities and learn about landscapes, cultural heritage and wildlife. The landscape also provides wider-reaching benefits like fresh water, flood prevention, food and carbon storage.

Special Qualities

Special qualities define what is distinctive and significant about a national park. The Peak District National Park has seven special qualities that it will seek to conserve and enhance. One of its purposes is to promote opportunities for people to understand and enjoy these special qualities.

Currently, not all the special qualities are in a desirable condition. The intention is to work in partnership to conserve and enhance the special qualities. This means we will maintain and enhance a distinctive sense of place for future generations to enjoy. As landscapes and ideals change over time, the aim is not to preserve a landscape frozen in time. Understanding the special qualities helps us to plan effectively and manage the Peak District National Park in order to conserve and enhance them.

The special qualities that follow are in no particular order and should be read as an integrated set. They are interlinked, with some providing the foundation for others. For instance, 'habitats and species' are integral to 'beautiful views', while the 'undeveloped' nature of the area is at the core of many of the special qualities.

The next step is to define measurable indicators for each special quality through consultation and then assess their current condition. Aspirations for the future condition of each special quality will allow clear actions to be set to close the gap between this and their current condition. Aspirations will be long-term and actions will be delivered through the National Park Management Plan (NPMP). Ultimately, the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities will underpin all of the work across the Peak District National Park through the 2023-28 NPMP.

Special quality 1:

Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology

The combination of contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology across the Peak District National Park creates its famous beautiful views.

The area's geology is often revealed in spectacular ways. Visitors stumble upon stunning panoramas when landscapes suddenly change, like the hairpin bends at Crowdecote with their unexpected view across the 'dragon's back' of Chrome and Parkhouse Hill. Others explore the 'shivering mountain' of Mam Tor, following the dramatically collapsed road. Those walking the Manifold Valley in the summer see the river 'vanish' at Wetton Mill, running through caves and underground passages before reappearing at Ilam Park.

The contrasting landscapes that give the Peak District National Park such iconic views have been produced by the interaction between people and nature over thousands of years, giving different areas their own individual character and sense of place.

The Dark Peak's Millstone Grit horseshoe has scattered rock outcrops and deep cloughs across a moorland landscape, its elevation giving panoramic views that contrast the perceived wilderness of the moors with the neighbouring cities. Walk on Holme Moss and enjoy uninterrupted moorland views across miles of heather and peat and out over the neighbouring cities. Experience the unique position of the Peak District National Park, with beautiful views surrounded by urban life.

Views across the White Peak's rolling limestone plateau reveal a farmed landscape enclosed by dry stone walls and interspersed with deeply dissected wooded dales and grasslands. These views are accessible and intimate. Visit Monsal Head to take in spectacular views across the lush green valley, where the historic railway viaduct spans the gorge. The viaduct is part of the Monsal recreation trail, giving users a birds-eye view of the river and the surrounding pastures.

The South West Peak's sweeping views reveal iconic ridges and valleys with unusual features like the 'Winking Man' rock formation at Ramshaw Rocks. Discover the Upper Dane Valley and pause on Axe Edge to enjoy breath-taking views as far as the eye can see in all directions, with the outlines of instantly-recognisable Peak District hills stretching away to the east in sharp contrast with the flat, tree-covered expanse of the Cheshire plains to the west.

Special quality 2:

Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats

As one of the UK's most accessible national parks, the Peak District National Park allows millions of people to enjoy distinctive habitats and a wealth of wildlife.

From the atmospheric dark moors and bogs of Bleaklow to the leafy woodlands, sparkling rivers and dramatic limestone cliffs of Dovedale, the Peak District National Park's wildlife and habitats are internationally important and valued by millions of people. They differ from the surrounding lowlands and densely populated towns and cities, being created by the interaction between centuries of land management and the area's distinctive climate, steep slopes and dramatic topography.

The diverse mosaic of habitats support a rich range of wildlife; from Jacob's ladder to lapwing, from dipper to mountain hare. Many are locally, nationally and even globally rare. Wildlife is an integral part of the Peak District experience for residents and visitors, young and old, the expert and the curious.

Lying at the southern tip of the Pennines, the Peak District National Park is at a crossroads, where the uplands of the north-west meet the lowlands of the south-east. With many species at the edge of their ranges, the mix of species is unique. The bilberry bumblebee, once widespread across the north and west of England, is still found on the bilberry moorlands of the South West Peak. The iconic 'mountain blackbird', or Ring Ouzel, is thriving on Stanage Edge, its most south-easterly breeding area. The rare leek-coloured hawkweed, previously thought to be globally extinct, was rediscovered along the Monsal Trail in 2017.

Visit the Dark Peak and explore iconic expanses of blanket bog, moorland and heathland, interspersed with flushes and springs. Fringed by upland oak woodlands and grasslands rich in colourful waxcap fungi, these uplands are bisected by the streams and rivers that feed the many local reservoirs. Stop to watch rare upland birds like golden plover through binoculars or lie back to see a sea of fluffy white cotton grass bobbing in the breeze against a bright blue sky.

A trip to the White Peak reveals precious and vulnerable ash woodlands, ponds and clear-flowing streams, limestone heath, lead mine remains and species-rich grasslands. Walk through the steep-sided valley of Lathkill Dale during spring and be surrounded by flower-rich grassland and the instantly recognisable song of the skylark. Picnic at Cheedale and be transfixed by the rhythmic bobbing of a dipper or hear the familiar plop of a water vole launching itself into the river.

Explore the South West Peak and find habitats similar to the Dark Peak, but in a much more intimate mosaic. Smaller blocks of moorland fringed with rush pastures, hedges, rivers and farmland. Listen out for the 'go back, go back' cry of a red grouse or the burbling song of a curlew. Look closely and spot an elusive camouflage-striped snipe emerging from the bog or a short-eared owl swooping over the moors.

Special quality 3:

Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions

The Peak District National Park is an accessible backdoor wilderness allowing millions of people to find a welcome sense of tranquillity.

For generations, working people have escaped from towns and cities to visit the Peak District National Park and enjoy its tranquillity. Being immersed in tranquil, undeveloped places allows people to step outside their busy lives and be refreshed. It improves mental and physical wellbeing and is one of the most sought-after qualities of the countryside.

As modern life offers fewer opportunities for tranquillity, the Peak District National Park's tranquil places are all the more important. They offer a powerful sense of timelessness and escape, with the relative peace and quiet in stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of the surrounding cities. This contrast is why the Peak District National Park is so special. It retains its distinctly tranquil and undeveloped character, despite being one of the most popular, accessible and well-known areas in England. And its close proximity to the cities means many millions of people are able to benefit from its relative tranquillity.

This tranquillity is experienced in many ways. For some, it is about quiet appreciation of natural wonders. Standing on the summit of Black Hill as the sun sets provides a rare opportunity to find solace in an open landscape away from the distractions of modern living. Being surrounded by the sounds of bubbling water, rustling leaves and evocative bird song on a quiet day at Padley Gorge can bring peace to a busy mind. Stepping into the cool, atmospheric confines of Lud's Church on a hot summer's day can be a profound experience. Watching the dark night skies at Minninglow is a world away from the bright lights of nearby urban neighbourhoods, inspiring people to marvel at our place in the universe, just as our ancestors have for thousands of years.

For others it is about the relative tranquillity of the Peak District National Park's villages and town. These can be a world away from inner-city life, with many people finding serenity in the narrow streets, characterful buildings and small shops. This glimpse into a rural way of life feels, for many, like stepping into another time.

Special quality 4:

Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry

People visiting, working and living in the Peak District National Park today are immersed in a lived-in landscape that has been shaped by people for thousands of years. Here, human activity can be traced back for more than 300,000 years, with caves revealing the tools used and animals hunted by our Palaeolithic ancestors. With one of the richest concentrations of prehistoric monuments in the country, explorers can glimpse the lives of past communities, their lost traditions and ancient beliefs displayed through stone circles, burial mounds and hillforts.

Some of the diverse cultural heritage is prominent within the landscape, from the Bronze Age Nine Ladies stone circle to the eleventh century Peveril Castle and the great estate houses of Chatsworth, Haddon Hall and Lyme Park in their iconic parkland settings. Generations of farmers have created a rich tapestry of surviving farmsteads, unique field patterns and iconic dry stone walls that criss-cross the landscape. Past industry has left quarries, mills, weirs, railways and limekilns, many of which can be explored today. Approach the dark silhouette of Magpie Mine, visible on the skyline, and discover the remains of a lead mine that has stood here for over 300 years.

Trade and transport routes, vital to people and industry throughout the years, have also left their marks on the landscape. Waymarked turnpike roads, packhorse routes and saltways are still visible. The historic green lanes now used for recreation were once main travelling routes. Cycle the Tissington Trail and follow a Victorian railway route that transported Peak District National Park minerals and produce from farms, cottage industries and mills to the rest of the nation. Travel the long, straight road between Ashbourne and Buxton and marvel that this was a route used by Roman legionaries. Walk ancient tracks like the Long Causeway and trace the footsteps of medieval ancestors.

The landscape itself bears witness to these past lives, having been transformed by people. The Peak District National Park's famous grassy dales and open moorland have been largely created by people and their industry; moulded by over 10,000 years of woodland clearance and thousands of years of agricultural development. Subsequent industries supporting generations of local people have further shaped the landscape, leaving distinctive imprints in managed woodlands, mine shafts, meadows, quarry faces and lead rakes. Many of these have become unique habitats.

This transformation continues today with valuable woodland, grassland and moorland habitats being restored through landscape-scale projects.

Special quality 5:

Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions

Generations of life are reflected in the diversity of the Peak District National Park's buildings, whether agricultural or industrial, religious or social, domestic or educational. Together, these create the characteristic settlements typical of the area, with manor houses, churches, schools, farmhouses, inns, shops and industrial buildings of all sizes, from large mills and factories to small smithies and workshops. The settlements range from loose, linear communities of farmsteads and paddocks to nineteenth century planned estate villages. They have a rich history, with many mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The settlements and communities have evolved alongside industry. The area has been farmed for thousands of years and many farmsteads have medieval origins, with some dating back to former royal and private forests. Industries have shaped the character of settlements through weavers' cottages, terraced workers' houses, mills, smithies and workshops. Large landowning families have also given some communities their iconic character, such as the Chatsworth Estate and Edensor village.

Today's surviving historic places are a rare connection to a unique past; painting a picture of people's lives in the Peak District National Park. These traditional settlements built by communities to meet local needs create the unique character of the place, with their distinctive grouping and use of locally available stone – limestone in the White Peak and gritstone in the Dark Peak. Walk through scattered medieval farmsteads in Abney or discover ancient villages of labourer's cottages like Bradwell and feel connected to the lives of those who lived and worked here in the past. Explore Bakewell with its Anglo-Saxon church founded in 920 and famous five arched bridge from 1200 and marvel at the ingenuity of our ancestors.

These distinctive historic places have a sense of community with local people feeling pride in the area and connected to its history. Today's communities are involved in everything from conservation projects and producing future village plans to providing community transport. Community initiatives like Bamford's community-owned Anglers Rest and the community-led Calver Weir Restoration Project show how local communities continue to shape the area. Many cultural traditions continue today, with crowds of local people and visitors attending events like Tissington well-dressing, Edale fell race, Castleton Garland Day and Winster Pancake Run. Such traditions link together local communities, past and present.

Many stories and products are associated with Peak District National Park settlements. Visit Eyam to learn how seventeenth century locals isolated themselves to stop the Bubonic Plague spreading. Go sightseeing in Castleton and explore its caves, including the Blue John and Treak Cliff caverns where the famous Blue John gemstone is found. Try a Bakewell pudding, which local legend attributes to an inexperienced cook's attempt at a jam tart.

Special quality 6:

An inspiring space for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet reflection

The Peak District National Park is bordered on all sides by major towns and cities. It is within an hour's travel for around 16 million people, providing a rural oasis in stark contrast to its urban neighbours.

Although today many visitors take access to the Peak District National Park for granted, prior to 1949 the majority of its moorland and hills had no public access. People were passionate about exploring Kinder Scout, so it became the stage for the Kinder Mass Trespass in 1932. Protests like this reflected a desire for greater public access to the uplands, leading to the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. National parks were established as places of escape and enjoyment, with the Peak District National Park being the first on April 17th 1951.

Today it provides a vital space that nurtures physical and mental wellbeing. Escape the daily routine and find activities to suit all ages and abilities, with a third of the Peak District National Park being open access land, over 1,300 miles of rights of way and a network of accessible routes or 'miles without stiles'. Plan scenic family bike rides away from the traffic on old railway routes. Reflect on the day's experiences while relaxing in picturesque villages, country cafes and traditional public houses. Walk in one of the UK's best-loved, most accessible places, where networks of walking routes have been developed over generations by some of the oldest rambling groups in the country. Accept a challenge by walking the hugely popular Pennine Way, which begins in Edale.

People looking for outside adventure are spoilt for choice. Enjoy a night sleeping under the stars at one of the many campsites. Satisfy that inner adrenaline junkie by paragliding above breath-taking landscapes, climbing world famous crags, scrambling over boulders or potholing through subterranean limestone labyrinths. Be immersed in the landscape while horse-riding along ancient bridleways, mountain-biking on rocky descents or fly fishing on fast-flowing rivers.

The Peak District National Park is somewhere for visitors to discover more about wildlife, geology, history and rural life through exploration, visitor centres, school trips, volunteering and guided walks. It is an unrivalled setting to escape the pressures of everyday life and recharge drained batteries motivating people to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle.

Special quality 7:

Vital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary

It is clear that people who visit, live or work in the Peak District National Park directly benefit from it. Yet many of its benefits go beyond its boundary to positively impact the UK and the rest of the world, including people who may never visit the area or may be unaware of its existence.

Protecting national park landscapes on a large scale enhances natural resources and allows vital benefits such as flood prevention, clean water provision and food production to function more naturally. Scale enhances the benefits that can be provided by an area, enabling them to flow beyond its boundaries. Such public benefits originate in the landscape, but many have been shaped by people through industry, land management and farming.

The Peak District National Park is a refuge for species that used to be widespread. Species like the small heath butterfly, water vole, curlew and a range of hay meadow plants. Climate change will make this role ever more important. Increasing temperatures, changing habitats and unpredictable weather will force wildlife to move in search of suitable homes. Protected areas like the Peak District National Park where wildlife can thrive are vital, particularly as they may then repopulate other areas in the future.

Being surrounded by urban areas makes the Peak District National Park's protected space of even greater significance as a breathing lung and green oasis for the millions of people who live in close proximity. The landscape character flows beyond the Peak District National Park's boundary, creating a valued setting and positively impacting the surrounding areas. Turn on a tap in Sheffield and drink water that originated in the Peak District National Park's hills and was filtered by its uplands. Take a deep breath in Buxton and breathe clean air produced by the Peak District National Park's vegetation. Live downstream and benefit from a reduced risk of flooding due to the Peak District National Park's upstream habitats, which store and slow the flow of water.

These positive impacts also flow beyond the UK. Climate change is predicted to affect the everyday lives of billions of people, but by absorbing and storing millions of tonnes of carbon, the Peak District National Park's habitats can help to lessen these future impacts by increasing climate change resilience. As part of a global network of protected landscapes, the Peak District National Park plays a crucial role in protecting the vital ecosystems that will sustain life into the future. By contributing to visions of sustainable biodiversity and social and economic wellbeing at local, regional, national and international levels, the Peak District National Park provides benefits that extend well beyond its boundary to the whole planet.

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Thursday 7 December 2017

Item: 6

Title: Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Update

Author: Gill Millward, Countryside Access Improvement Officer,
Derbyshire County Council

Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Progress to December 2017

Below is a summary of the main work in progress in relation to each of the five RoWIP aims:-

Aim 1: Existing Public Rights of Way network

- **Path condition surveys:** November's survey to assess the ease of use of the network got underway on time with the help of more than 40 volunteers, including several of our LAF members. They will be involved in surveying 295 randomly selected routes with a total distance of around 160km
- Following a public consultation back in 2016, we now have approval to proceed to initiate the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process to prohibit mechanically propelled vehicles from using Stoney Middleton Byway Open to All Traffic No. 15 (also known as Jacobs Ladder) between its junction with The Nook and New Road. The Peak District LAF is a statutory consultee and will be consulted on the County Council's intention to make a TRO. The report to the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure on 26 October 2017 can be viewed here: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/26.10.2017%20\(4c\)%20BOAT%2015%20Jacobs%20Ladder_tcm44-295496.pdf](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/26.10.2017%20(4c)%20BOAT%2015%20Jacobs%20Ladder_tcm44-295496.pdf) and should be read in conjunction with the minutes of the meeting: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/2017.11.16%20\(3\)%20Mins%20of%2026%20Oct%202017_tcm44-295806.pdf](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/2017.11.16%20(3)%20Mins%20of%2026%20Oct%202017_tcm44-295806.pdf)

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- In terms of dealing with the **backlog of legal orders**, since the beginning of September 2017, seven cases have been reported to Committee and two orders have been made/advertised. Six orders have

been confirmed and brought into effect. These have resulted in two footpaths being added to the Definitive Map in the Parishes of Wingerworth (NE Derbyshire) and Willington (South Derbyshire), along with Derby Lane at Monyash now being recorded as a Byway Open to All Traffic

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Greenway Development:** a summary of the main projects which are underway across the county can be found in Appendix 1. (NB This will be available on the LAF's web page along with the rest of the papers)
- **Greenway Maintenance:** Work is underway to carry out structural repairs to Hopton Tunnel and the resurfacing of a section of the High Peak Trail to the west of Intake Quarry near Middleton Top Visitor Centre. There is a temporary closure in place (with no designated alternative route) until 23 February 2018. Details of this and other path closures across the county can be viewed here:
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/rights_of_way/path_closure_register/search_the_register/default.asp
- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail:** The annual condition survey has been completed and repairs/ general routine maintenance are being programmed accordingly. This includes the much needed surfacing and drainage improvements for a 500m section of the Pennine Bridleway/ Trans Pennine Trail between the A57 and Woolley Bridge Road in Hadfield. The work which is due to be completed this financial year is being jointly funded by Natural England/ Pennine National Trails Partnership and Derbyshire County Council. High Peak Borough Council is funding the resurfacing of several connecting paths leading into the adjacent housing estate

Aim 4: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network

- The **Derbyshire Woodland Festival** took place at Elvaston Castle Country Park over the weekend of the **23 and 24 September**. The event attracted 10,000 visitors
- **Derbyshire Cycling Plan – Key Cycle Network:** A 12 week public consultation is underway until 24 January 2018. People are being asked if they agree that the routes on the map should be included in the Key Cycle Network and if there are any routes they would add, remove or change. The on-line consultation which is being hosted by Active Derbyshire (the new name for Derbyshire Sport) can be viewed here, along with the map and detailed explanation of each route:
www.activederbyshire.org.uk/forms/view/keycyclenetworks

Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** In the second quarter of 2017/18, volunteers working with or on behalf of the Countryside Service have contributed 802 days, estimated to be worth around £180,000

- **Groundwork Creswell** has continued to deliver a range of work on the network of paths and trails across the county through its existing Service Level Agreement. This has included clearing drains on the Pennine Bridleway, vegetation clearance and litter picking on the Clowne Branch Line, as well as working with local groups on various access projects in Little Eaton, Overseal and Heage/ Nether Heage

Recommendation

That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2017/18.

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Gill Heath
Cabinet Member for Communities

2 Staffordshire Place
Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH
Telephone: (01785) 278612
E-mail: gill.heath@staffordshire.gov.uk
Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Stakeholders – via email

My Ref: GH-36 / CS

Your Ref:

Date: 16 October 2017

Dear Colleague

As a passionate user of rights of way in in the county, I wanted to invite you to take part in our 10 week consultation to shape how we maintain the network in the future.

As you know, our stunning rural county boasts a huge network of over 4,500km of public footpaths and bridleways; are enjoyed by thousands of people every year. Staffordshire County Council is responsible for working with landowners and others to keep these public rights of way open, safe and appealing for people to use and enjoy.

As the County Council's income reduces whilst demand for services such as adult social care continues to increase, we need to find savings and new ways of working in everything we do.

The amount that the County Council can spend on the network from April 2018 is reduced so we need to revise our current working practices and ensure that we are making the most difference with the budget available.

As a result, we have undertaken a 'root and branch' review that looks at seven areas, including the roles and responsibilities of the staff involved, a more formal enforcement protocol and ways to maximise income from fees and charges.

Whilst these areas of work are still developing, we have now launched our stakeholder and partner consultation around our proposals for new maintenance standards. These standards centre on the principle that we will focus our money and activity on the most 'valuable' footpaths and bridleways, which are important to our communities and for promoting tourism.

As you may know, there is currently no formal system for how our small in-house team maintains and inspects rights of way, and how they respond to the thousands of reports



presented to us every year. So, whilst every right of way is important, we do need a system whereby we can ensure that our limited County Council resources are focused on those routes that are most valuable and offer most benefit to Staffordshire people.

As a result we have developed a hierarchy system which sets the standard for the activities and our responses to reports on all rights of way. Following a desktop research exercise, each right of way has been provisionally categorised as an A, B or C route, depending on the likely demand on that route (based on the size and location of the population, and its scenic amenity) and its wider benefits (based on whether it is a promoted route and/or is valuable to the visitor economy, used by multiple-users, whether it has links to country parks, shops, schools, etc).

This means that proactive maintenance will be primarily focused on A routes, and issues will be addressed on these ahead of those categorised as B or C. The categorisation of the path will also affect how quickly issues are resolved, with an issue on an A priority route being addressed faster than the same issue on a C route. To be clear, this does not mean that routes classed as C will not receive any County Council support, every right of way is important.

The approach will see us focus resources onto the most used and valued paths, although issues concerning safety will be prioritised regardless of the category. Those proposed to be in the C category are those that are most likely to be infrequently used and are deemed not to offer as much benefit to the public as those in the A and B categories. We would carry out our statutory responsibilities to maintain access and the surface of all rights of way, but would only be able to respond to non-emergency issues when limited resources allow.

Whilst we will continue to bid for improvement funds whenever they are available and will meet our statutory responsibilities, it is clear that we need more help from the community. Whilst many individuals and organisations are already taking the opportunity to get involved and make a difference, we need more people to get involved and volunteer so that we continue to have a rights of way network we can all be proud of.

As an organisation that is passionate about our rights of way, we would welcome your views on a number of proposals to help us maintain these important community assets. Whilst the amount that can be spent by the County Council on the network is not the subject of the review, stakeholders, partners and user groups can steer:

- how each right of way is categorised indicating where the County Council should focus the majority of its resources compared to where local people could get more involved. We are welcoming any local insight or intelligence that could help;
- whether a new online system to help people report and monitor issues would be useful;
- an enhanced volunteer programme indicating what the priorities for council supported volunteer programmes should be ie what would make the most difference in your organisation to get more people involved.

We are also asking local parish councils to consider taking on some of the liaison with landowners about their statutory responsibilities about rights of way on their land. As



the majority of reports being made to the County Council are about broken stiles and gates on privately-owned land, which are the responsibility of landowners, we need parish councils to be our eyes and ears on the ground, and encourage landowners to replace them where necessary.

The consultation will also gauge the enthusiasm of organisations to get more involved with helping to maintain rights of way.

I do feel that your organisation's input into this consultation is absolutely essential to ensuring that we can find the best way of managing the network in the future.

The consultation runs until 25 December, and you can submit an individual or organisational response online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/rightsofwayreview until then, where you will also find more specific information and frequently asked questions.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or Nicola Swinnerton, Rural Access and Development Manager on rightsofwayreview@staffordshire.gov.uk with any questions you may have.

Yours faithfully



Gill Heath
Cabinet Member for Communities

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Item 9

Briefing Note for the Peak District Local Access Forum Meeting – Thursday 7th December 2017 (TN)

The Peak District National Park Transport Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document Public Consultation (13th November 2017 to 12th January 2018)

Purpose of the note

The purpose of this note is to update the Peak District Local Access Forum on the progress of the Peak District National Park Transport Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document, and to raise awareness of the current public consultation process.

Background

The Peak District National Park is a unique place, not only with regard to its varied geology, landscape and special qualities, but also because of its position at the heart of the country, surrounded by large urban areas. This has led to a complicated mix of responsibilities across the National Park and its constituent authorities. The Peak District National Park Authority is the planning authority for the whole of the Park, regardless of any other local authority boundaries. However, there are 11 constituent authorities whose area falls within the National Park: -

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Kirklees Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, Oldham Council, Sheffield City Council, Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

There are 7 highway authorities with direct responsibility within the National Park; Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Derbyshire County Council, Kirklees Council, Oldham Council, Sheffield City Council and Staffordshire County Council

There is one Trunk Road (the A628) which falls under the management of Highways England and there is one cross-Park railway, the Hope Valley Line carrying a mix of passenger and freight trains, which falls under the responsibility of Network Rail.

There are 6 Transport Authorities, who are each responsible for public transport; Cheshire East Council, Derbyshire County Council, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, Staffordshire County Council, Transport for Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive

The National Park has a population of approximately 38,000 people, whilst approximately 16 million people live within 1 hour's drive of the National Park. This results in around 11 million visitor days made spent in the Park each year, with approximately 89% of visits being made by private car. National Park roads carry a mix of resident, business and visitor traffic, which led to some of the Peak District roads being grouped amongst the Top 10 riskiest roads in the Country during the second half of the last decade (according to the European Road Assessment Programme).

Whilst the National Park is the Planning Authority for the whole of the National Park, the majority of highway schemes that have come forward over recent years are classed as permitted development. This means that highway authorities have the right to maintain and carry out enhancement schemes on or adjacent to the highway; however, they are bound by Section 62 of the Environment Act (1995) to have regard to National Park purposes in carrying out their work.

Road safety had become a particular concern over the life of the Labour Government, with Safety Partnerships and Highway Authorities being rightly tasked with tackling the causes of accidents. This included a review of rural speed limits, with the result that the A and B roads across the National Park generally have lower speed limits than the C or Unclassified roads and lanes.

In an era of litigation, most road safety practitioners erred on the side of caution when designing schemes, and this led to some signage schemes where the infrastructure was at odds with the National Park Setting.

Because of the impact of some of the signage schemes, and because the Highway Authority with the largest area was Derbyshire, our then Chief Executive Jim Dixon negotiated an agreement whereby the national Park Authority was consulted on highway schemes. This gave us the opportunity to work with the highway engineers to influence schemes to ensure that they did the job required of them, but that they were also designed with the National Park setting in mind.

This was a rewarding but time consuming process. An attempt was made to extend this agreement to our other constituent highway authorities and the Highways Agency / Network Rail, with mixed results. The Highways Agency and subsequently Highways England are generally very good at ensuring that we are consulted; however with other bodies the results have been mixed. This situation is further complicated by the recent approach of outsourcing transport work to consultancies as highway authorities have seen budget cuts.

Planning policy approach

Within the Peak District National Park Core Strategy, our Strategic Planning document Policy LT3 sets out the requirement for transport infrastructure to have regard to the National Park setting and valued characteristics. However within the accompanying text we suggested bringing forward a design guide for transport infrastructure for the National Park.

The intention behind this approach was based on the need to ensure that the purposes and special qualities of the National Park are reflected in the planning, design and installation of transport infrastructure. This includes; New roads, road signs, junctions, cycle paths, bridges, bus shelters, footpaths alongside the highway, shared space, railway infrastructure, car parks etc.

The purpose of a Supplementary Planning Document is to provide further detail and guidance in relation to policies within other Development Planning Documents. As such it will take the intent of Core Strategy Policy T3 and our emerging Development Management Policy DM2: Access and Design Criteria to provide greater clarity and guidance for both Developers and Constituent Authorities undertaking work within the National Park.

How will the design guide work?

It is anticipated that the guide will be used to provide design guidance in decision making on both planning applications and for General Permitted Development schemes. It is hoped that this approach will lead to a more consistent approach to how schemes are delivered within the National Park.

The Design Guide advocated a top-down approach based on the following assessment: -

- 1) Park – this sets the general approach for undertaking works within the Peak District National Park
- 2) Place – this directs the scheme designer to be aware of the landscape character of the scheme's location, and suggests ways in which a scheme can work with that landscape.
- 3) Element – this suggests ways in which individual scheme elements can be delivered within the National Park.

The basis of the guide is to try and ensure that where transport infrastructure is required it is both functional and in keeping with its National park setting. To do this it needs to: -

- Respond to needs
- Be legally compliant
- Be safe
- Be consistent
- Be flexible / adaptable
- Be cost effective

In order to try and ensure that the Design Guide achieves these aims we have taken a collaborative approach to its development including through both a stakeholder workshop and an informal stakeholder consultation.

How to respond to the consultation?

The Peak District National Park Authority is holding a nine week public consultation into the Transport Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document from Monday 13th November 2017 to Friday 12th January 2018. The details of the consultation can be found via the following link to our website: -

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/transportdesignguideconsultation

The consultation web-page contains a link to an on-line survey, which enables respondents to comment on the document. Alternatively, representations in respect of the document can be sent either in writing to: -

Tim Nicholson, Transport Policy Planner, Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1AE;

Or by email to: policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk

We would welcome a response from the Peak District Local Access Forum Meeting to the public consultation.

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