

Public Document Pack

Peak District National Park Authority

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Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1AE



Our Values: Care – Enjoy – Pioneer

Our Ref: A.1142/4712

Date: 18 April 2024



NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting: **Programmes and Resources Committee**

Date: **Friday 26 April 2024**

Time: **10.00 am**

Venue: **Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell**

PHILIP MULLIGAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 26th January 2024** *(Pages 5 - 8)*
- 3 **Urgent Business**
- 4 **Public Participation**
To note any questions or to receive any statements, representations, deputations and petitions which relate to the published reports on Part A of the Agenda.
- 5 **Members Declarations of Interest**
Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary, personal or prejudicial interests they may have in relation to items on the agenda for this meeting.

FOR DECISION

- 6 **MFFP - Business Strategy and Annual Business Plan** *(Pages 9 - 36)* 20 mins
Appendix 1
Appendix 2

FOR DISCUSSION

- 7 **Welcoming Place Aim Overview (SLF)** *(Pages 37 - 50)* 30 mins
Appendix 1
Appendix 2
Appendix 3
Appendix 4
- 8 **Thriving Communities Theme Update** *(Pages 51 - 56)* 30 mins
- 9 **Exempt information S100 (A) Local Government Act 1972**
Draft motion:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 10 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A paragraph 3 "information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)".
- 10 **Exempt minutes from 26 January 2024** *(Pages 57 - 60)*

Duration of Meeting

In the event of not completing its business within 3 hours of the start of the meeting, in accordance with the Authority's Standing Orders, the Committee will decide whether or not to continue the meeting. If the Authority decides not to continue the meeting it will be adjourned and the remaining business considered at the next scheduled meeting.

If the Committee has not completed its business by 1.00pm and decides to continue the meeting the Chair will exercise discretion to adjourn the meeting at a suitable point for a 30 minute lunch break after which the committee will re-convene.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (as amended)

Agendas and reports

Copies of the Agenda and Part A reports are available for members of the public before and during the meeting on the website <http://democracy.peakdistrict.gov.uk>

Background Papers

The Local Government Act 1972 requires that the Authority shall list any unpublished Background Papers necessarily used in the preparation of the Reports. The Background Papers referred to in each report, PART A, excluding those papers that contain Exempt or Confidential Information, PART B, can be inspected on the Authority's website.

Public Participation and Other Representations from third parties

Please note meetings of the Authority and its Committees may still take place at venues other than its offices at Aldern House, Bakewell when necessary. Public participation is still available and anyone wishing to participate at the meeting under the Authority's Public Participation Scheme is required to give notice to the Customer and Democratic Support Team to be received not later than 12.00 noon on the Wednesday preceding the Friday meeting. The Scheme is available on the website <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/about-us/have-your-say> or on request from the Customer and Democratic Support Team 01629 816352, email address: democraticandlegalsupport@peakdistrict.gov.uk.

Written Representations

Other written representations on items on the agenda, except those from formal consultees, will not be reported to the meeting if received after 12 noon on the Wednesday preceding the Friday meeting.

Recording of Meetings

In accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 members of the public may record and report on our open meetings using sound, video, film, photograph or any other means this includes blogging or tweeting, posts on social media sites or publishing on video sharing sites. If you intend to record or report on one of our meetings you are asked to contact the Customer and Democratic Support Team in advance of the meeting so we can make sure it will not disrupt the meeting and is carried out in accordance with any published protocols and guidance.

The Authority uses an audio sound system to make it easier to hear public speakers and discussions during the meeting and makes a live audio visual broadcast a recording of which is available after the meeting. From 3 February 2017 these recordings will be retained for three years after the date of the meeting.

General Information for Members of the Public Attending Meetings

Please note that meetings of the Authority and its Committees may take place at venues other than its offices at Aldern House, Bakewell, when necessary. The venue for a meeting will be specified on the agenda. There may be limited spaces available for the public at meetings and priority will be given to those who are participating in the meeting. It is intended that the meetings will be audio visually broadcast and available live on the Authority's website.

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MINUTES

Meeting: **Programmes and Resources Committee**

Date: Friday 26 January 2024 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: Prof J Dugdale

Present: Cllr C Greaves, Mr J W Berresford, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr P G Fryer, Cllr A Gregory, Ms A Harling, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr A Nash, Mr K Smith, Dr R Swetnam, Mr S Thompson, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods

Apologies for absence: Cllr N Gourlay and Cllr J Wharmby.

1/24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2023

The minutes of the last meeting of the Programmes & Resources Committee held on the 1st December 2023, were approved as a correct record.

2/24 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

3/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public had given notice to make representations at the meeting.

4/24 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There was no declarations of interest.

5/24 LANDSCAPE AND NATURE RECOVERY AIM OVERVIEW

Suzanne Fletcher, Head of Landscape & Engagement, Rebekah Newman, Lead Adviser, Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL), and Sarah Bird, Nature Recovery Officer were present for this item to update Members on the Authority's progress in landscape and recovery since April 2023 and what that meant for the future.

Sarah and Rebekah then gave a presentation to Members on the work that had taken place regarding Landscape & Nature Recovery and FiPL

Members thanked the Officers for their presentations and asked if there was clarity from DEFRA regarding FiPL continuing beyond March 2025. Suzanne informed Members

that discussions were still ongoing, but because of its success, it was hopeful that it would continue in some form.

It was noted that a decision on whether or not the Authority would receive renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas would be made in February.

The recommendation as set out in the report, was moved and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

To note progress in delivering to the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28 and Authority Plan landscape and nature recovery aim and targets.

6/24 AMP 8 2025-30 LANDSCAPE SCALE PEAKLAND RESTORATION (MFFP PROGRAMME TEAM)

Chris Dean, the Moors for the Future Partnership Manager, and Matt Scott-Campbell Conservation and Land Management Programme Manager were present for this report, which sought approval from Members to enter into agreements with Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water for them to fund the Moors for the Future to carry out peatland restoration activities through Asset Management Period 8 (AMP8) 2025-30. A link to a video and map of the works area would be sent to Members.

Members welcomed the report and asked that they be provided with 4 or 5 key performance indicators that show the outcomes achieved by the project. Chris reported that he would look at including that in the presentation of the annual business plan which will happen in March 2025, just before the AMP8 project starts work.

The recommendation as set out in the report, was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Programmes and Resources Committee supports the proposed development and establishment of partnering agreements and associated contracts between PDNPA and Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water (Water Company partners) for MFFP to deliver AMP 8 habitat restoration aspirations (capital works) and associated research and communications outcomes.

Specifically:

- 1) That the Authority will engage in new projects funded through the AMP8 programme up to a maximum value of £15 million between 2025-2030, and that acceptance of new contracts/agreements with water company partners under this authority is delegated to the Moors for the Future Partnership Manager (or the equivalent post for the time being managing the task), in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Finance Manager / Chief Finance Officer (or such other person appointed under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972).**

- 2) That the Authority may, subject to compliance with its procurement standing orders, enter into contracts in order to spend funds and deliver the required outcomes of the project.**

7/24 REVIEW OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH POLICY 2024

Theresa Reid, the Head of People Management presented the report which was to approve the new Occupational Safety and Health Policy for 2024 which had been revised to take into account the changes that had occurred following the disestablishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Adviser post at the end of October 2023 as part of the organisation restructure.

Members queried how issues arising and day to day operations would be covered. Theresa stated that staff had received training and were capable of covering for day to day operations, the external consultant would be extra support as needed.

The recommendation as set out in the report, was moved and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Occupational Safety and Health Policy (2024) be approved as Authority policy from 26 January 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 for a short break and reconvened at 11:30 Ms Harling left the meeting during the break.

8/24 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100 (A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items No's 10, 11 and 12 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12 A, paragraph 1 'information relating to any individual' and paragraph 3 'information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)'.

9/24 CRESSBROOK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

10/16 New Cleaning Contract for All Peak District National Park Authority sites

11/16 Proposed Acceptance of DEFRA Grant and Acquisition of Land at Boarsgrove Farm (adjacent to Warslow Moors Estate)

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm

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6. MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP (CD)

BUSINESS STRATEGY TO 2030 AND ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

1. Purpose of the report

This report is to bring before Members a new reporting process for the business of the Moors for the Future Partnership. This will take the form of a Business Strategy to 2030 and an annual Business Plan. Members are asked to approve this process and the Strategy and Plan, and to recommend both to the Partnership's Strategic Advisory Board.

Key Issues

- The head of Moors for the Future Partnership previously brought the Partnership's Operational Plan to Committee at the start of each financial year. This represented mainly contracted work which, through standing orders had already been approved by committee. What the staff team feel is now more useful, and gives better engagement with members, is to look at what is being planned for the future rather than a collection of the work already agreed (the previous annual Operational Plan).
- A Business Strategy guiding the strategic approach of the Partnership to 2030 has been produced and consulted on with the Partnership members. This will be really useful in giving a remit / instruction to the team in developing the Partnership's business.
- An annual Business Plan for 2023/24 has been produced and this will become the annual report brought before committee in late winter. It will look forward, proposing the business development work to be undertaken and highlighting how the delivery of the programme will be funded throughout the forthcoming year. It also gives an opportunity once a year for members to generally scrutinise the whole programme.
- All our funding streams, traditional grants, corporate giving, public giving and our partners from time to time require us to supply clarity on how business works. This is often required to meet their own due diligence in working with us. It is difficult to provide this to meet the timescales of developing a specific business opportunity but having this in advance of these requests shows a robust approach which makes us easier to work with.
- Recommending both of these documents and the process and proposed business development contained, will be a major vote of confidence of the team to our partners. It will go some way in mitigating any risks they may see in working with the team, knowing that team and its business development approach is supported by this committee.

2. Recommendations

- 1. The process - Approval of a new reporting process which replaces the previous operational plan with a long-term Business Strategy to 2030 (to be constantly rolled forward so it always has at least a 5 year future). In addition, an annual Business Plan will be presented to committee for approval in late winter each year. At this time members will also expect a general update on the progress of the Partnership's work and this Business planning process. Any changes and updating to the Business Strategy are delegated to the Moors for the Future Partnership Manager in consultation with the Head of Assets and Enterprise.**
- 2. The Business Strategy – Approval of the Business Strategy and the remit and instruction this gives the Partnership team in developing business. Maintained to at least a five-year horizon.**

3. The Business Plan – Approval of the 2023 – 2024 annual Business Plan working within the Authority’s Standing Orders to develop business within the agreed Business strategy.

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

The MFFP Business Strategy and Annual Plan will develop a pipeline of funded projects, thereby maintaining the 20-year trajectory of nature recovery through peatland restoration and other initiatives across the Partnership’s working area. It will guide the team to the most appropriate related funding and activity to achieve the Partnership’s mission. It will help capitalise on vital opportunities for the future financing of the urgently needed peatland restoration that is still required. It is relevant to the Peak District National Park Management Plan and the delivery of the Authority Plan it covers many aspects which will support the delivery aims of both, especially objective areas of Climate Change, and Landscape & Nature Recovery.

In addition, this approach will emphasise and support the compliance with the Authority’s financial procedures and Standing Orders.

It will add continuity to the Moors for the Future Partnership programme and will retain skilled and valuable staff who are key to achieving nature recovery across this degraded landscape.

Background Information

Since 2003 great steps have been taken to avoid the environmental catastrophe the blanket bog landscape of the Dark Peak and South Pennines was heading towards. Our Partnership has a long way to go to fully realise the goal of our mission but we are on a positive trajectory to achieve this.

The partners and programme team have worked hard to continually raise funds and put new projects together. We have proved to be capable and successful in this role and this business strategy guides how the resource for this important work will be developed and managed.

We still have the most degraded Blanket Bog landscape in Europe in the South Pennines SAC. The urgency to restore blanket bog function across this landscape is a race against climate change. We cannot afford to lose this race. The IPCC have stated that global warming must be limited to 1.5°C by the end of this century to avoid irreversible and catastrophic impacts. Collectively our partners have a significant influence over a large landscape holding opportunities to mitigate these impacts.

At a UK level, peatlands occupy approximately 12% of the UK’s land area and store 5.5bn tonnes of carbon, over half of the UK’s current carbon storage. Peatlands also provide over a quarter of the UK’s drinking water. The UK Natural Capital Peatlands Report estimated that fully restoring the UK’s peatlands could cost between £8bn and £22bn over the next 100 years but predicted savings of £109bn in terms of reduced carbon emissions. The UK Committee on Climate Change suggested in 2019, and again early in 2020, that 50% of upland peat and 25% of lowland peat should be restored by 2050. The net benefit of achieving this objective is estimated to be £45 billion to £51 billion over the next 100 years. This is promoting a new context for financing peatland restoration through the offsetting market (currently voluntary) these are currently in their infancy but are likely to provide a new source of finance in the near future.

11.5 million people live in the Local Authority areas bordering the Partnership’s working area. It should be noted that three adjacent City Regions sit immediately on the borders of the Partnership – Greater Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield. As indicated earlier, the upland landscape needs to be in the best ecological condition possible to withstand the impact of this large population and its associated infrastructure, and to supply these communities with

hardworking natural processes, in particular being resilient to moorland fires, flooding and drought conditions.

Proposals

3. Providing Committee approve this new process and the business planning documents, the team will share these with our partners and will then use the guidance this gives in developing new business and clarifying how we work to any organisation that needs to explore this.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

4. No metrics are given in the Business Strategy as the longer time frame makes speculation over this period difficult, a target area for business development is given in the strategy and is copied here;

Priority focus areas

1. The past three Asset Management Programmes (AMP) over 15 years have been a bedrock of delivery and have provided the essential first piece in the future funding jigsaw. The AMP8 delivery (2025 – 2030) across United Utilities, Severn Trent and Yorkshire Water will be fundamental to capital delivery across many drinking water catchments across our working area. It is essential to work with our utility company partners to maximise this opportunity.
2. In step with the above, the Environment Agency have a challenging requirement to reduce the increasing flooding issues in communities at risk at the foot of the hills across our working area. The Flood Defence Grant in Aid and other funding of the Environment Agency could add value to the AMP 8 programme to optimise delivery for natural flood risk management.
3. Green finance from public and corporate giving is growing. This includes mechanisms such as the Peatland Code and that being designed through the Great North Bog Coalition, in addition to our in-house initiatives on place-based schemes, the BMC Climate Project and 1% for the Planet. Using private and corporate funding to deliver environmental benefits and (where applicable) meet corporate ESG aims. These need staff capacity to be maintained and increased to fully capitalise.
4. Grant applications to NLHF and government schemes such as the present Nature for Climate fund. These need a staff capacity to be maintained and increased to fully capitalise on all relevant grant streams available.
5. The developing business for 2023 / 24 FY is laid out in the annual Business Plan and this is monitored through a mechanism called the Programme Tracker which is scrutinised at each of the Authority's monthly Resource Management Meetings.

Risk Management:

5. Within the Project Team and Programme Team are an array of skills and experience to match large commercial providers. Prince 2 project management and in-house project tool kit provision with Project Managers experienced now in large scale complex delivery. Added to this IOSH and CDM qualified staff and contract and grant management skills. Backed up through the high degree of diligence which the Authorities Standing Orders provide. All this gives a deal of risk reduction and confidence.

Sustainability:

6. From a business sustainability perspective, this proposal fits within the context of the Moors for the Future Partnership Mission and Objectives. Undertaking additional projects for our

partners, building on work which is already being done, is a key part of our business model and has allowed immense improvements to the landscape and conservation of the Dark Peak and beyond. Creating synergy and succession between projects is a key component of the sustainability of the Moors for the Future programme.

Capacity requirements to maintain business sustainability impacts on the Partnership in two forms. These can loosely be described as pre and post-contractual commitment. This report is careful to confirm that the capacity is fully considered and planned for in order to execute the contractual commitment, which will arise for the delivery planned for 2023-24. The first priority of the staff team is to ensure that this is always the case. All projects are planned and then monitored to ensure full cost recovery can be achieved. The staff establishment is increased and decreased to achieve this and resource is built in at project inception for this purpose.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

7. There are no equality issues arising from this report

8. Climate Change

1. How does this decision contribute to the Authority's role in climate change set out in the UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks? The Partnership will use this strategic approach to accelerate delivery leading the way in sustainable land management and on the pathway to being exemplars of sustainability.
2. How does this decision contribute to the Authority meeting its carbon net zero target? This partnership will continue to add to the 560k tonnes of avoided carbon loss already achieved as further work is delivered.
3. Are there any other Climate Change related issues that are relevant to this decision that should be brought to the attention of Members? The future works being proposed will be engaging with the water resources and flood risk management issues, and also considering registration with the Peatland Code. Increasing drinking water quality and restoring water-tables as blanket bogs are restored. A restored water table will contribute to the moors' resilience against wildfire.

9. Background papers (not previously published)

No background papers that have not been previously published.

10. Appendices

Moors for the Future Partnership Business Strategy to 2030
Moors for the Future Business Plan 2023 - 2024

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Chris Dean Partnership Manager Moors for the Future Partnership, 18 April 2024



2024/2031

Business Strategy

April 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Moors for the Future Partnership - Business Strategy to 2031

This strategy will provide a remit to the staff team, giving a broad approach to business development. It aims to give confidence that effort and time invested in developing the programme of projects, which meet this strategic remit, will be supported by the partner organisations and will meet the business requirements of the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA). Whilst specific items of business will require individual approval meeting the standing orders of the Authority, [this strategy provides the initial gateway for targeting new business.](#)

The Partnership, and this Business Strategy, focusses on the medium to long term in order to extract the maximum value from each individual project and funding stream, for the overall benefit of the partners and funders. The ideal is to maintain a rolling programme of funded projects that allow for continuous improvement on each site until we can demonstrate, through evidence, that we have placed it firmly on a trajectory towards resilient, favourable condition. The purpose of this Business Strategy is to create this funding condition, such that there are no gaps in our works or progress to achieve these goals. This allows momentum to be maintained in our capital works and stakeholder relationships, continuity in our monitoring data, and the retention of skilled staff.

This is the Business Strategy, giving the narrative of our Business; it does not deal with the metrics as this needs an annual assessment which is up to date with the financial opportunities. This strategy will set the scene for business planning which will be presented to the Partnership's Strategic Advisory Board and Peak District National Park Authority in Spring on an annual basis.

Background to the Moors for the Future Partnership

Moors for the Future Partnership came together in order to restore the blanket bog landscape of the Dark Peak. 150 years of extreme atmospheric pollution in addition to catastrophic wildfires had, by the start of our work in 2003, left the most degraded upland landscape in Europe. With several square kilometres of completely bare peat, and virtually all of the Dark Peak moorlands suffering from poor ecological quality, no single organisation was able to tackle this issue. The Peak District National Park Authority formed a partnership in order to implement positive action on the ground and commit to the long road leading to a restored moorland landscape. Since then the effects of the upland environment on human life has been brought into a sharp focus. The opportunity to address climate change and realise the critical carbon storage potential, and improve critical drinking water resources and flood risk management, aligned to the needs of nature recovery. These are all significant gains when putting this landscape into excellent ecological condition. (www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk).

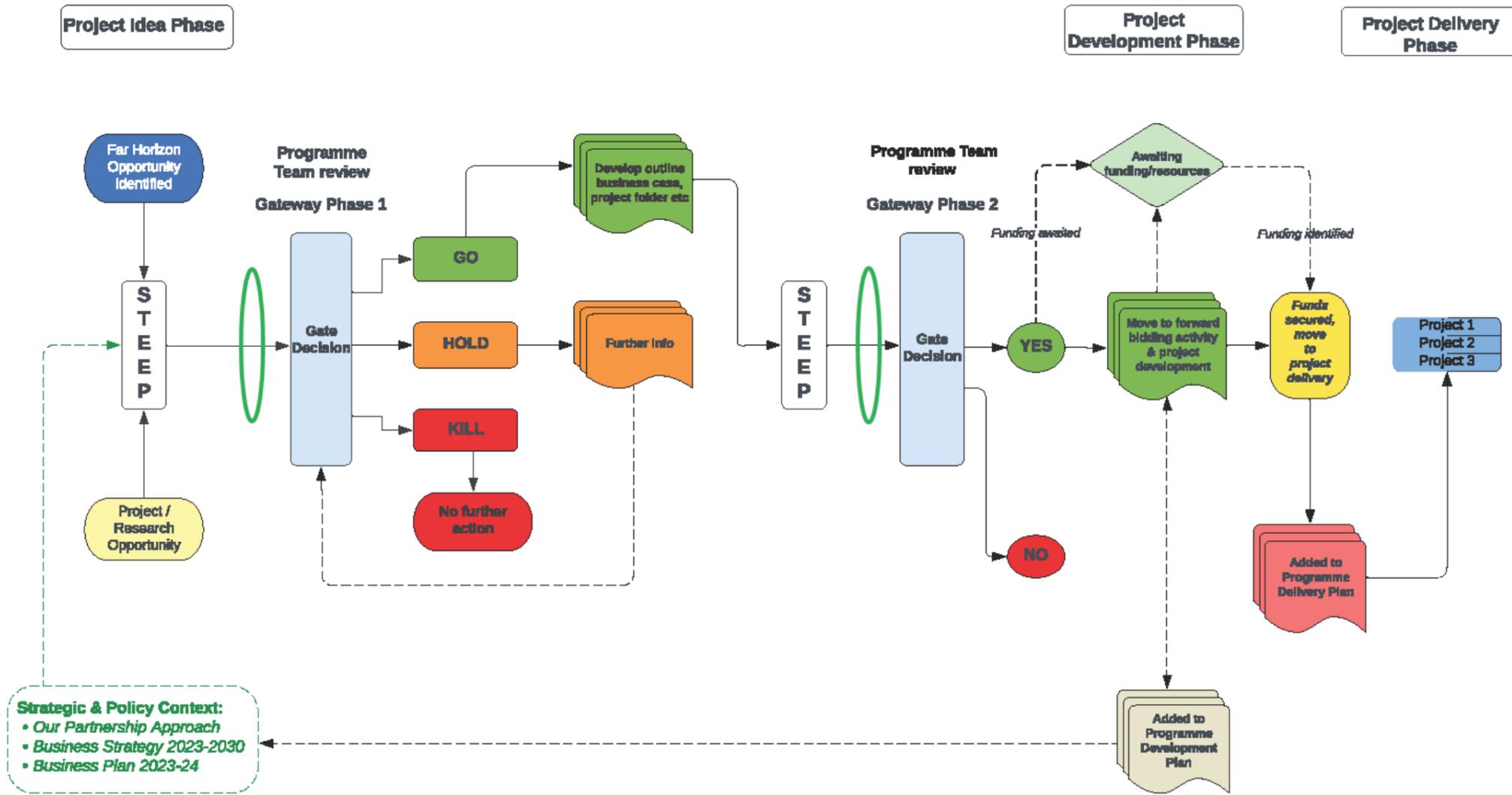
Since 2003 great steps have been taken to avoid the environmental catastrophe the blanket bog landscape of the Dark peak and South Pennines was heading towards. Our partnership has a long way to go to fully realise the goal of our mission but we are on a positive trajectory to achieve this. ([Our Partnership Approach](#)).

The partners and programme team have worked hard to continually raise funds and put new projects together. We have proved to be capable and successful in this role and this business strategy guides how the resource for this important work will be developed and managed.

This Business Strategy sits alongside a number of other key documents in a gateway process through which new business will pass before becoming a delivery project. Throughout the passage of business from idea, to bidding, to delivery, all business must meet the Partnership's vision and also comply with the PDNPA standing orders before being onboarded as a delivery project.

The development and onboarding process through key documents give a business gateway process:

Business Development Gateway Process



High-level Strategic Direction – **Our Mission**

The Partnership’s Mission and Objectives give a firm direction and are laid out in the graphic below.

Our Mission

“By 2050 the upland landscape of the Dark Peak and the South Pennines will be sustainable and resilient. It will be valued for its healthy, functioning peat bogs and ecologically diverse moorland fringe. It will be good for wildlife and as a place for everyone to enjoy, now and for generations to come”

MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

Our Strategic Objectives

RAISING AWARENESS
To inspire everyone to take positive action for the conservation of the moorland landscape

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT
To develop and deliver sustainable land management practice.

SCIENCE
To develop expertise for the sustainable management of moorlands and to demonstrate, through evidence, the effects of the capital works upon the ecosystem and ecosystem services

Our Partnership will also

LEADERSHIP
Be recognised as leaders in this field and influence the direction of conservation policy at a national and international level

COMMUNICATION
Communicate about the successful restoration of the uplands and the positive impact that this is now having on communities

VALUE
Work as an efficient and effective partnership offering values to the Public and Private sectors and all the communities where we operate.

The programme of conservation work, science and communications needs to be developed with the aim of following this Mission.

Further business direction is sourced from:

1. The Partnership's own reports

The partnership produces research reports (such as those produced following the MoorLIFE2020 Project) and planning documents (such as Our Plan for Water in the Upper Catchments of the South Pennines until 2030) particularly where there is a knowledge gap or a specific need or partner request to provide answers and advice.

2. Strategic direction from our partners

All our partners produce strategic and planning documents which provide their desired outcomes. These give a remit and direction to the partnership's activities. The programme of business development will aim to follow these partner requirements, which will be drivers for the development of our programme. Examples of these are:

- Peak District National Park Management Plan
- National Trust High Peak Vision
- Water company Asset Management Plans
- Other strategic documents from our partners
- Nature Recovery Strategies which cover our working area

Our partners also have their own initiatives, such as Severn Trent's Great Big Nature Boost, NT & YWS Landscapes for Water, and Local Authority Nature Recovery Plans which overlap the interests and mission of the Partnership and for which the Partnership can contribute and deliver KPIs.

These strategic documents and priorities will change over this period to 2031 and we will rely on our partners to direct us to the most relevant direction they wish us to follow.

3. The latest evidence and policy direction

National policy and the evidence base, applied to the upland landscape, is continually developing. To apply some focus to this we will concentrate on direction from:

- UK government sources e.g Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan, the England Peatland Action Plan, the 2024 Price Review process which guides the investment of Utility Company partners to 2030, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy Roadmap and new policy as this develops.
- Latest research evidence from the academic community
- IUCN UKPP (International Union for the Conservation of Nature UK Peatland Programme)
- GNB (Great North Bog – a coalition of six peatland partnerships across the North of England covering 5 National Parks, 3 AONBs and an undesignated park)

The above Mission, objectives, evidence and partner policy material are core to every piece of new business and will be considered in every new venture.

Global and UK Context

We still have the most degraded Blanket Bog landscape in Europe in the South Pennines SAC. The urgency to restore blanket bog function across this landscape is a race against climate change. We cannot afford to lose this race. The IPCC have stated that global warming must be limited to 1.5°C by the end of this century to avoid

irreversible and catastrophic impacts. Collectively our partners have a significant influence over a large landscape holding opportunities to mitigate these impacts.

At a UK level, peatlands occupy approximately 12% of the UK's land area and store 5.5bn tonnes of carbon, over half of the UK's current carbon storage. Peatlands also provide over a quarter of the UK's drinking water. The UK Natural Capital Peatlands Report estimated that fully restoring the UK's peatlands could cost between £8bn and £22bn over the next 100 years but provide predicted savings of £109bn in terms of reduced carbon emissions. The UK Committee on Climate Change suggested in 2019, and again early in 2020, that 50% of upland peat and 25% of lowland peat should be restored by 2050. The net benefit of achieving this objective is estimated to be £45 billion to £51 billion over the next 100 years. This is promoting a new context for financing peatland restoration through the offsetting market (currently voluntary). These are currently in their infancy but are likely to provide a new source of finance in the near future.

11.5 million people live in the local authority areas bordering the partnerships working area. It should be noted that three adjacent City Regions sit immediately on the borders of the Partnership – Greater Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield. As indicated earlier, the upland landscape needs to be in the best ecological condition possible to withstand the impact of this large population and its associated infrastructure, and to supply these communities with hardworking natural processes, in particular being resilient to moorland fires, flooding and drought conditions.

HOW WE WORK

The Scope of Moors for the Future Partnership – What we do and where we do it

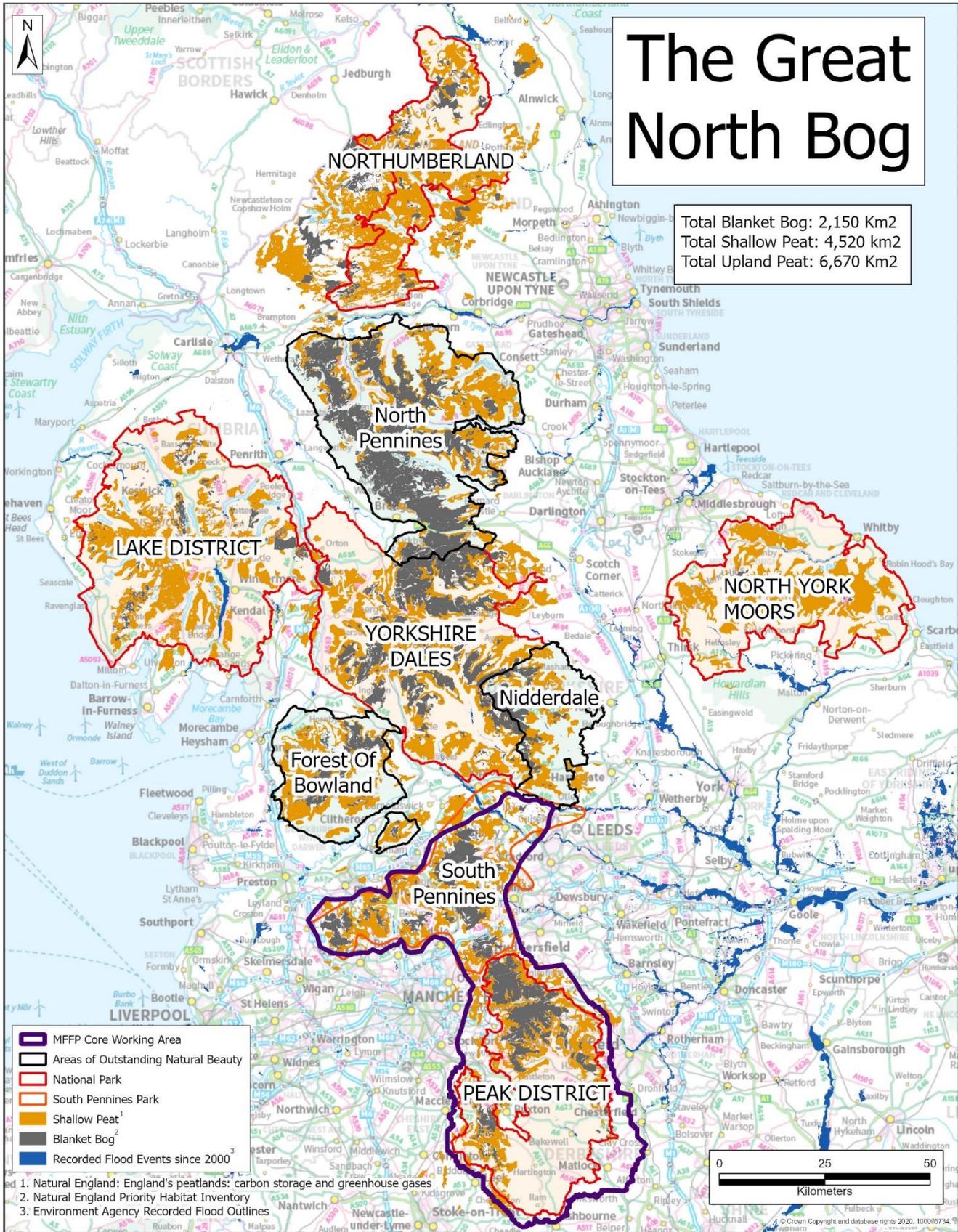
Topical Scope – The Mission and objectives of the Partnership give a clear direction for the type of work the Partnership's staff team will engage with. From time to time this guidance will be reviewed as the strategies of partners and additions to the South Pennines Park and National Park Management Plans provide a new steer. The topical scope of the work will also reflect national policy development which will also be taken into consideration.

Geographical scope – The Partnership's core area of operations is across the Dark Peak and South Pennines, in particular the South Pennine Moorlands Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. This is the working area for delivering practical conservation, science and public engagement projects on the ground. This represents 750 square kilometres of the most degraded upland peat landscape in Europe. This area crosses a significant number of organisational boundaries and landownership boundaries. Partnership delivery is the only sensible way of a strategic landscape approach.

The Partnership operates at a wider geographical area, promoting its science, communications and advocacy, and the opportunity for financial contributions. The Partnership was one of the leaders in the creation of the Great North Bog, a coalition of six partnerships which work together across the North of England to better conserve and restore the 7,000 square Kilometres of upland peat across the North of England.

The Great North Bog

Total Blanket Bog: 2,150 Km²
 Total Shallow Peat: 4,520 Km²
 Total Upland Peat: 6,670 Km²

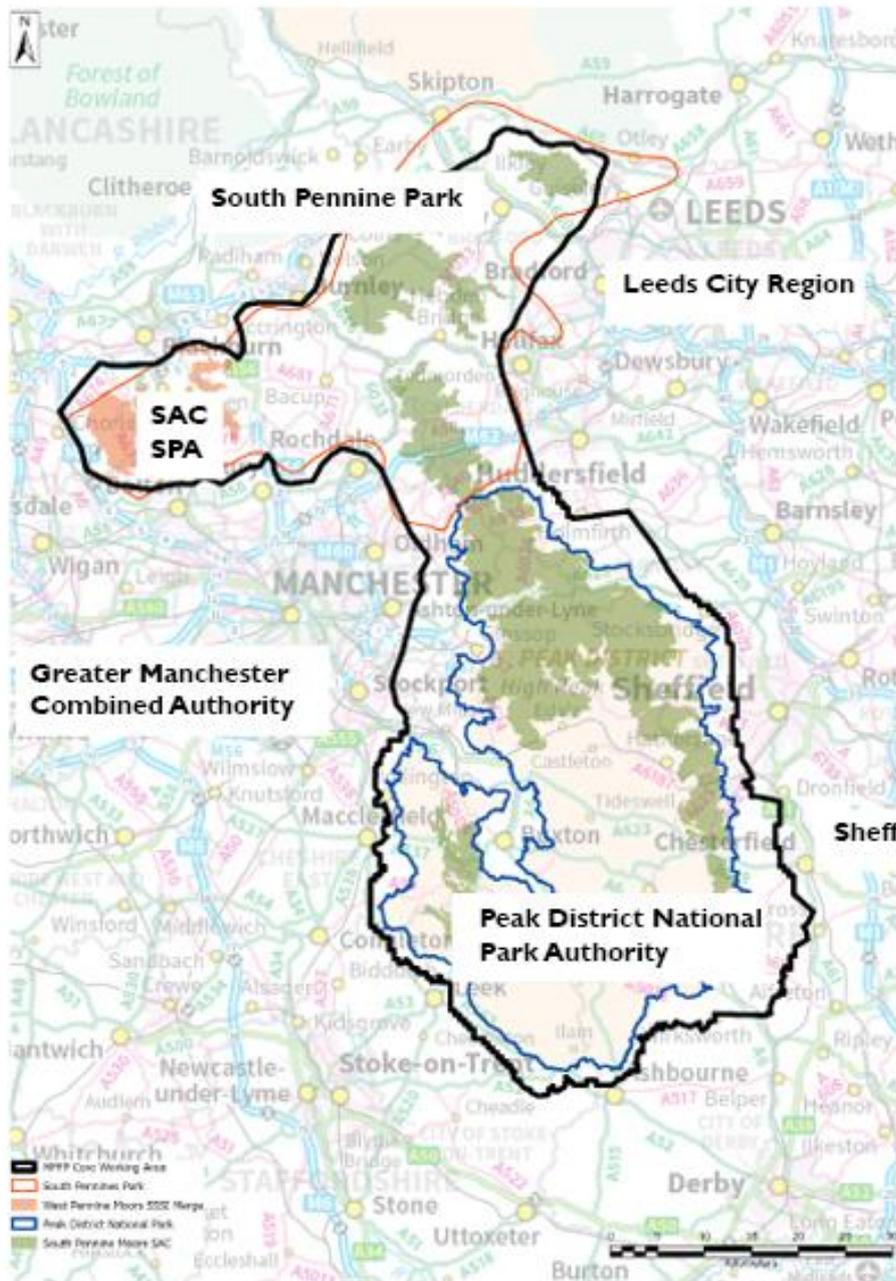


This geographic “home” has integrity as it:

- Contains all the blanket bog landscape most affected by historic atmospheric pollution and therefore needing a similar remedial approach.
- Is all of a similar character due to its close (positive and negative) relationship with a large population, industry and infrastructure – a unique, large contiguous area of wild moorland surrounded by the Northern Powerhouse.
- Represents a range of positive and negative factors (landscape fires, water resources and quality, wildlife movement, recreation, to name but a few) which have no respect for organisational boundaries and are better managed across the whole contiguous moorland landscape.
- Recognises that the needs of nature recovery, natural flood risk management, engagement and behavioural change, scientific monitoring and carbon security require the same actions across the whole of this landscape, giving economies of scale and efficient working when delivered by a partnership approach across the whole Dark Peak and South Pennines.
- Is the only function which covers the whole of the South Pennine Moorlands SAC and SPA in its entirety.
- Represents all of the southern end of the Pennines which is one of Europe’s uplands most at risk in the face of climate change.

Moors for the Future Partnership Working Area

- Size of working area is 750km²



- 11.5 million people live in the areas abutting our working area.
- Since 2002 we have avoided the loss of 560 tonnes of carbon.
- Since 2002 we have avoided environmental catastrophe by revegetating 35 sq km of the most degraded upland peat in Europe.
- Raised and invested £50m into the moorland landscape.
- 144 communities at risk of flooding in our working area.

GOVERNANCE – How we do business

Moors for the Future Partnership is a not-for-profit partnership which is part of the Peak District National Park Authority. As such we have a public sector governance model but work with and through delivery contracts and are accountable to multiple partners. We develop business, guided by our mission and objectives to fund, develop, project manage and deliver projects that maximise synergies and bring benefits at scale.

The governance of the Partnership is split between the strategic decision making, which is made as a partnership by the Strategic Advisory Board, and business decision making which is taken by the National Park Authority as the Partnership's legal entity.

The Partnership is guided by its Strategic Advisory Board and its key aim is the delivery of the Partnership's vision. We follow all procedures and policies of PDNPA Standing Orders. This public sector operating model has been questioned on a number of occasions and alternative models have been explored. None of the alternatives were found to offer the Partnership the same business resilience.

The Partnership's Strategic Advisory Board has its own Terms of Reference with a Chair and Deputy Chair appointed by the National Park Authority. Members of the Strategic Advisory Board represent regulatory advice and major land and stake-holding interests.

Individual Memoranda of Agreements are put in place with each partner so it is clear what mutual benefits are shared, and to clarify relationships, support and expectations. They also make clear what funding is agreed and any additional, partner specific activity, for example the collation of data and evidence to support a partner's ESG reporting.

Strategic Decision Making

The strategic direction of the Partnership's activities is advised by the Moors for the Future Strategic Advisory Board. This strategic advice is sought every quarter and concentrates on the development of new initiatives and strategic problem solving, seeking a steer and support from partners for taking solutions forward. Opportunities and issues don't neatly arrive to time with the meeting cycle and often these have to be dealt with outside the meeting cycle.

Business Decision Making

The Strategic Advisory Board is not a legal entity of its own; this is provided for by the Peak District National Park Authority. As such business decisions are taken in the light of the Standing Orders and financial and legal guidance of the Authority. The Moors for the Future programme team agrees and develops an item of new business such as a new grant bid or the delivery of a project with a partner. This is put as a business case to the PDNPA who would accept or decline the responsibility of holding a contracted fund, which the Partnership's Programme and Project team deliver.

Financial supporting features of our governance model

Cash flow is provided and managed through a robust process within the Peak District National Park Authority. This cash flow facility is a major factor in the success of Moors for the Future. Almost without exception all the projects entered into require up-front funding which is then reimbursed on the presentation of invoices. The large capacity cash flow which the Authority provides is critical to the continuing success of the Partnership. The other major supporting factor is derived from the general robustness of the Authority's Standing Orders and processes. This gives partners and grant bodies a high degree of confidence which helps to secure their support as they see the Moors for the Future team, backed up by the Peak District National Park Authority structures, as a safe pair of

hands for their resources. Business is also significantly enhanced by the national and regional advocacy a highly respected National Park Authority is able to generate for the Partnership.

Financial limiting features of our governance model

Due to the public sector operating model of the Partnership, some forms of funding are difficult to attain. This is often due to the blanket assumption that partnerships legally part of public sector entities have access to a revenue base of public funding. The Partnership receives no funding from the Authority's grant-in-aid from Defra. It is entirely cost-neutral to the Authority, operating on a full cost recovery basis. The disadvantage of this model in accessing funding is not unique to this partnership and needs addressing at a national level. Building up working capital from a profit margin is also restricted in a public sector model. As such this presents a challenge in generating funds to invest in business development – it is difficult to “speculate to accumulate” within this structure in the way that a private business would whilst we are at the same time expecting Moors for the Future to operate as a cost-neutral business. Furthermore, this results in difficulty managing the shifting resource and buffering against unforeseen circumstances.

The general view over many investigations, over a long period, is that the supporting features of the present model outweigh the limiting features, but we should still improve the model where we see advantages to do so.

OUR FOCUS WORKING TOWARDS 2031 – Priorities, Market Drivers and Customer Base

All partners have been provided with the opportunity to review and identify the value of being involved in the Moors for the Future Partnership. This has demonstrated that, whilst there are elements of partnership working that constantly need refreshing, the rationale for and commitment to working through a shared agenda is very much supported. This section expands on our Mission and Objectives, the key business opportunities for delivering partners requirements on Nature recovery for people and place are as follows:

Priority focus areas

1. The past three Asset Management Programmes (AMP) over 15 years have been a bedrock of delivery and have provided the essential first piece in the future funding jigsaw. The AMP 8 delivery (2025 – 2030) across United Utilities, Severn Trent and Yorkshire Water will be fundamental to capital delivery across many drinking water catchments across our working area. It is essential to work with our utility company partners to maximise this opportunity.
2. In step with the above, the Environment Agency has a challenging requirement to reduce the increasing flooding issues in communities at risk at the foot of the hills across our working area. The Flood Defence Grant in Aid and other funding of the Environment Agency could add value to the AMP 8 programme to optimise delivery for natural flood risk management.
3. Green finance from public and corporate giving is growing. Mechanisms such as the Peatland Code, Biodiversity Net Gain and that being designed through the Great North Bog Coalition, in addition to our in-house initiatives on place-based schemes, the BMC Climate Project and 1% for the Planet. Using private and corporate funding to deliver environmental benefits and (where applicable) meet corporate ESG aims needs a staff capacity to be maintained and increased to fully capitalise.
4. Grant applications to NLHF and government schemes such as the present Nature for Climate fund. These need a staff capacity to be maintained and increased to fully capitalise on all relevant grant streams available.

Market drivers and customer base adding value to the priority focus areas

The environmental KPIs of policy delivery across corporate and public life generally, present opportunities which we should regard as our customer base. The requirements of the 11.5 million people living in the Local Authority areas

surrounding our working area and the politics this drives is significant. There is estimated to be a market for the next 20 years in fulfilling the restoration vision of policy organisations interested in this landscape. This has given Moors for the Future a unique selling point, recovering our blanket bog landscape from an environmental catastrophe is an obvious priority for many organisations who may resource this work:

- **Nature recovery and conservation management:** in collaboration with large landowning bodies such as National Trust and water companies with leadership from Natural England. SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) recovery programmes, the Moors for the Future staff team being a major delivery agent for this work. There is at least another 2 decades of work needed to ensure favourable condition is met and maintained.
- **The water environment:** demonstrating and providing evidence for flood risk management benefits in the upper catchments. Serving the very demanding requirements of future water resources and water quality. Environment Agency, Severn Trent, Yorkshire Water and United Utilities are very concerned to influence this and the management of reservoir catchments in order to supply high quality raw water into the drinking water treatment works. The Peak District and South Pennine blanket bog landscape collect and release water into reservoirs that is destined for use by over 19.5 million customers of the 3 water companies. From moors in good condition, with a diverse moss flora, this release is of slow, filtered water, reducing the need for water treatment and reducing the risk of flooding. There is also a growing imperative to tackle the problem of storm flow into waste water drainage infrastructure.
- **Wider Landscape Conservation and Management:** the Peak District National Park Authority has many deliverables in the National Park Management Plan for which the Moors for the Future Partnership working across the Dark Peak provides a solution. In addition, the South Pennines Park has a developing remit across the South Pennines for which the Moors for the Future Partnership provides opportunities.
- **Science and Evidence:** monitoring provides the evidence required to enable funders to be confident of the return on their investment. There is a further proven market for the interpretation and application of science in this field and for the really important role of evidence to advocate a change in policy and improving the understanding for our vast numbers of visitors. The surrounding academic institutions are keen to continue working with us possibly also creating a new research campus at the Moorland Centre.
- **Carbon protection:** the blanket bog areas on the high moorland plateau contain the oldest peat deposits in the UK, the loss of which is a significant contributor to the UK's carbon release. In addition, active blanket bog has the capacity to sequester much carbon, turning a source of carbon into a carbon sink.
- **Economic:** as well as money generated in association with tourism, the moors are economically important to owners and occupiers. Sheep farming, grouse shooting and forestry all contribute significantly to the wellbeing of the region's rural and urban communities. The communities living within and around the moorland landscape have had a close and mutually beneficial relationship with these moorlands for generations. It is important to sustain these communities and support their positive input into the moorland landscape into the future. The partnership would be keen to explore ways of helping with this.
- **Engagement and encouraging positive recreation** from the 11.5m surrounding population and over 28 million people living within an hour's journey from the area. With increasing landscape fires, all caused by people carelessly or deliberately, and a huge increase in the public desire to protect our environment and support nature there is a need to secure resources to support this area.

This all leads to a present buoyant market with a real need for a flexible project and contract-managing team with an ability to respond quickly to requests for a service delivery or resource opportunity. This ethos of agility and

continuous improvement, combined with the benefits of scale and identification of synergies between projects, has enabled the Partnership to respond to its funders' needs and provide value for money. For this to continue against the present backdrop of fragmented and short-term funding and goals, it is important to properly resource the Programme team and to provide for a "buffer" of funding, to enable speculative and preparatory activities such as bid writing and business development.

FUNDING

Funding principles and mechanisms

The partnership team follow a simple set of rules and mechanisms in developing business.

- That we are led by the Mission of the Partnership and the evidenced need to take action in specific areas. We do not simply bid for funds due to those funds being available.
- That we meet the standing orders and due diligence requirements of the PDNPA and this is seen by all partners as a welcome measure of high financial rigour and risk mitigation for the partnership's resources.
- That all projects are only entered into on a full cost recovery basis.
- That we recognise there are difficult to fund areas which are nevertheless critical to the partnership's success, often in the areas of communication, science and behavioural change. We work in partnership to do the things which are hard to do and so in principle we need to place effort into the difficult to fund areas. "Difficult to fund" should never be a reason for not being a priority.
- That we recognise there are critical costs to business development and costs to running the programme which cannot be met from project funding. A revenue income needs to be generated using a range of income generation methods to cover these items. We are developing wider commercialisation and charitable giving to support the Partnership's Mission.
- That looking for match funding and responding quickly are often necessary to secure funds to deliver the Partnership's Mission.
- Direct partner contributions to core funds (revenue) were in the past a major funding feature and should still be sought after as this is the most difficult area to raise funds for.

FUNDING TARGETS TO 2031

It has been necessary since 2002 to have an ambitious approach towards seeking funding in order to match the scale of the degradation issue across the Dark Peak and South Pennines. This resulted in the very necessary raising of £50m over the first 20 years. The increasing risk of climate change and the increasing expectation placed on the environment require a similar ambition to 2031 for intervention across our working area using the priority focus areas highlighted previously.

Revenue – The programme needs to fund business development and a number of activities to support delivering the programme which are not funded from capital projects. We have set the target for this to £500,000 a year. This is a very ambitious target but the present limit of revenue availability is seriously limiting the Programme team's ability to support a bigger programme and increase business development for partners.

Capital – This is the major portion of the Partnership's funding as this delivers projects required by our partners in order to maintain a trajectory of improving condition. This has run at on average at £2.5m a year over the past 20 years. To maintain momentum and to keep the Partnership relevant and significant this needs to be at a minimum of £3m a year to 2031. With an increase in business development activity across green finance, biodiversity net gain and corporate environmental and social goals it could be much more than this. It certainly should be to maintain the

improving trajectory across the most degraded and most accessible blanket bog landscape across Europe: the Dark Peak and South Pennines.

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MONITORING

As legal entity and financial facilitator, the PDNPA will receive an up-to-date copy of the Programme Tracker, a means of tracking the often-complex financial progress in delivering the programme of works. This will be presented to the Resource Management Meeting each month and will be updated to the SAB each quarter.

The Strategic Advisory Board will also receive the following information at its quarterly meetings:

- Executive Report – covering current strategic developments, major exception reporting on the programme and communications
- Financial Update – The Programme Tracker mentioned above
- Programme Development Plan – which will promote a discussion and steer on the direction of business development

BUSINESS RISK ANALYSIS

The Partnership uses risk analysis techniques to identify and assess factors that may jeopardize the success of projects. The same techniques also help to define preventive measures to reduce the probability of these factors from occurring and identify countermeasures to successfully deal with these constraints as and when they develop.

Using a simple SWOT analysis to;

- Identify Risks (Internal & External),
- Identify Uncertainty (Quantify the range of risk),
- Estimate Impact,

We then use STEEP Analysis, (Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, and Practicable) to;

- Analyse Results (what steps can be taken to mitigate or eliminate risk).
- Implement Solutions

Examples of where we use the techniques described above are as follows;

- Business development pipeline management
- Project start-up
- Capital works delivery
- Contracted services and supply (outgoing funds)
- Funding sources (incoming funds)
- Operational impacts
- Key staff impacts
- Contingency and public liability insurance

Staffing

Work is coordinated through a core programme team and delivered by a project team of staff, casuals and volunteers – to an extent, this can flex in size according to delivery needs, but the retention of trained, experienced and motivated staff is critical to our resilience in maintaining pace and our agility in responding to new opportunities. All staff are employed by the Peak District National Park Authority.

The core programme team manages the staff that deliver the Partnership's outcomes, and oversees and directs the delivery of projects currently underway. It is responsible for designing, organising and coordinating these interrelated projects and necessary business development work.

Core Team role focus and Organization Chart

The whole team working to the Partnership's objectives includes a programme team and a project team with ongoing employment linked to available funding supported by volunteers and casuals. As the team is entirely dependent on project funding this needs to be planned as far as possible into the future. The staff skills and experience are one of the most important delivery and risk mitigation assets of the partnership, great care needs to be taken to protect job satisfaction and retention.

Programme team consists of:

Partnership Manager

Programme Manager – Communications

Programme Manager – Conservation and Land Management

Programme Manager – Programme Office and Partnership Finance

Programme Manager – Science

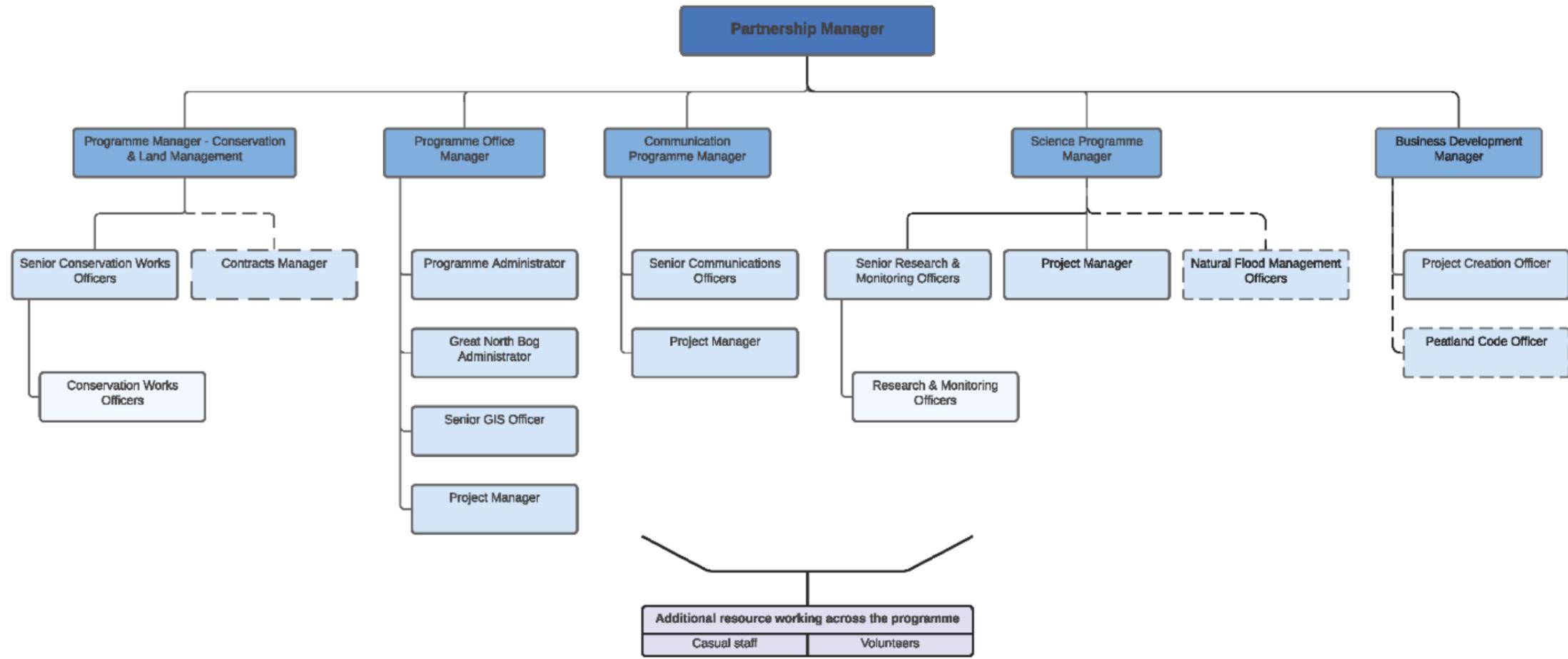
Business Development Manager

With additional support from Programme Administration Officers and GIS Officers.

Key aspects of the core programme team's work includes:

- Executive leadership across the Partnership, working with partners and the Peak District National Park Authority to deliver against MFFP's vision and key aims.
- Providing expert knowledge of respective specialist areas to design and support projects, influence policy, advise partners, and seek new opportunities.
- Maintaining programme schedules, ensuring project managers have the support required to effectively deliver a wide range of types and sizes of project .
- Managing and motivating project teams to maintain productivity, develop skills, and improve performance.
- Business development – seeking new projects, scoping and writing funding applications, and initiating new projects in line with partnership outcomes.
- Monitoring and mitigating programme-level risks, such as contractor capacity, conflicts of interest, and resourcing clashes, assessing impacts of new projects.
- Reporting to individual partners.
- Advocacy – representing the partnership at external events, conferences, and meetings in addition to producing responses for consultations, best practice guidance, and policy documents.
- Supporting partners in external bids delivering the Partnership's outcomes.

Moors for the Future Partnership
April 2024



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2024-25

Business Plan

April 2024

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INTRODUCTION

This Business Plan covers the period April 2024 to March 2025. After three years of significant volatility across the partnership's funding, there is now greater clarity in the funding landscape although this is tempered by a degree of uncertainty on how Defra's Peatland Restoration Grant (Nature for Climate) funding will be replaced. What is clear, is that the Private Sector (PS) will have a much greater role in funding future landscape scale projects over the period covered by this Business Plan.

Nature based Solutions (NbS) and Natural Capital (NC) markets will continue to be catalyst vehicles used to stimulate PS interest in financing future projects in return for NbS credits / tokens.

There is also growing evidence to suggest that the PS is beginning to recognise the value in Environmental & Social Governance (ESG) as part of their Sustainability Strategy. Being seen to be part of the peatland restoration story has tangible positive effect on the ability to attract and retain talent and may also influence share value.

2024-25 DELIVERY FORECAST

Global and UK Context

The Blanket Bogs of the South Pennine Moors remain some of the most degraded in Europe. The urgency to restore blanket bog function across this landscape is a race against climate change. We cannot afford to lose this with the increasing threat of wildfires and degrading drinking water quality, to pick just two important examples amongst many. The IPCC have stated that global warming must be limited to 1.5°C by the end of this century to avoid irreversible and catastrophic impacts.

At a UK level, peatlands occupy approximately 12% of the UK's land area and store 5.5bn tonnes of carbon, over half of the UK's current carbon storage. Peatlands also provide over a quarter of the UK's drinking water. The UK Natural Capital Peatlands report estimated that fully restoring the UK's peatlands could cost between £8bn and £22bn over the next 100 years but predicted savings of £109bn in terms of reduced carbon emissions.

The Partnership is now working at scale, managing up to forty projects at a time, including multi-million pound schemes. The core working area is the Dark Peak and the South Pennines Park, with a focus on the South Pennines Special area of Conservation (SAC).

Work includes supporting the delivery of the Peak District National Park Management Plan, delivering major government initiatives such as the Nature for Climate fund with Natural England and the Environment Programme and Flood Defence Grant in Aid with the Environment Agency, and delivering AMP7 & 8 work with the three water companies operating within this area.

2024 -25 CaLM Delivery Plan

Anticipated capital spending in 24/25 financial year: £2,800,000 – 3,000,000

2023/24 was the largest annual capital spend undertaken by MFFP in our 20 years of peatland restoration. This was as a result of planning which saw multiple funding routes and projects coming together and culminating in a high achieving year. This was the sixth successive year since 2018 that MFFP has intentionally grown its conservation programme capacity with a view to increasing the

pace and scale of restoration. This also allowed us to continue to stimulate growth and capacity in the contractor community in readiness to meet our anticipated future needs.

In 2024/25 the programme will deliver up to £3m of restoration. This will be intentionally held at a lower level than in 23/24. This amount of restoration still represents a very high degree of delivery but is lower than the record spending in 2024 in order to maintain sufficient Conservation Officer capacity to undertake vital survey and planning work in tandem with our capital delivery. The planning work is essential to develop our forward restoration plans to begin delivery on AMP8 (2025-30) works starting in 2025. Following a planned £3m capital delivery in 24/25, the AMP8 period is anticipated to be delivering circa £4m+ of peatland restoration every year until 2030, with the potential for also being able to respond in an agile way to further funding opportunities from partners as capacity within MFFP and the sector allows. This will be continually reviewed in MFFPs business planning.

Funding for capital works in 24/5 continues to come from a range of sources including: water company partners' AMP7 commitments (STW / YW), Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (with contributions from a range of partners providing Match funds), Environment Agency's Accelerated Flood Funding (Natural Flood Management), Green Financing Pilot, Bradford Metropolitan District Council/Rebel Restoration (Ilkley), Agri-Environment (Countryside Stewardship). Many of the projects currently in delivery will draw to a planned close by the end of the 24/5 financial year ensuring MFFP has capacity and plans in place for the start of the AMP8 delivery period (2025-30)

Capital delivery will be across 11+ projects working across circa 30+ different sites in the Dark Peak and South Pennines Moors.

2024-25 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Business development processes continue to mature. We have developed an efficient and effective system for capturing leads and developing them into a pipeline of opportunities (see Business strategy 2024 – 31).

We currently have an underspend in our business development funding and our development pipeline potentially justifies further recruitment to the team, this is being investigated.

We have split our business development activities into three categories.

1. Traditional DEFRA family, grant funded project opportunities
2. Blended project funding (Public, Private and Third sector)
3. "Unrestricted" core vision funding (Philanthropic, Charity, CSR).

Partnership & Grant funded projects - Total - £1,406,050

- AMP 7 – Moor Water projects for STW and YW – **£406,000**
- Moor for Climate (Defra Nature for Climate). Restoration Grant Bidding - **£1,000,050.**

Blended Funding – Total - £1,453,000

- Eastern Moors – Severn Trent Great Big Nature Boost 2024/5 –**£550,000**
- Nature for Climate match funding from private **£350,000**
- Coombs Moss – Privately owned land, STW, Nestlé and EA funded – all stakeholders sharing the Ecosystem services benefits – Carbon, water neutrality, NFM, Biodiversity - **£253,000**
- Rebel Restoration – Sphagnum lab, Ilkley, Drawn to the Moors - **£300,000**.

Core Vision income– Total - £193,600

Donations from funders, to support the MFFP vision rather than allocated specific projects.

- Golden Bottle Trust - £50,000
- BMC / ACT- £70,000 -
- Private donation - £25,000
- Private donation - £40,000
- Intelligent Solutions - £8,600

2024-25 SCIENCE DELIVERY PLAN

Compliance monitoring will continue to provide supporting evidence for the works undertaken under the Moor Water and Moor Climate Action projects.

We will secure funding to continue the Wildfire Log and our yearly dipwell and vegetation monitoring campaigns. A corporate donor has already generously expressed interest in funding two of these.

We will also carry out, or continue, our innovative trials on:

- Bamford Catchment (non-Asulox bracken control)
- Combs Moss (bunds, NFM) – including co-operative trials led by the University of Derby
- Close Moss (bunds in molinia-dominated sward) – including co-operative trials led by the Universities of Manchester and Durham
- Ilkley Moor (sphagnum in shallow peat)
- Snake Summit (dense sphagnum planting configurations, NFM benefits and demo site) – in collaboration with Nottingham Trent University

We thank the funders who have made these trials possible. We will continue to build ties with universities and corporations, press the case for the development of the Moorland Centre as a research resource, and engage with partners over the Partnership's science priorities for AMP8.

2024-25 COMMUNICATIONS DELIVERY PLAN

In 2024–25, under the Moor Climate Action, Moor Water (Severn Trent) and Great Big Nature Boost projects, the Communications team plan to:

- Deliver an ambitious programme of public engagement visits with the Bogtastic van

- Deliver volunteer sphagnum planting opportunities. We will continue to build our volunteer pool to create further opportunities going forward
- Deliver talks and guided walks communicating with groups
- Hold youth engagement events introducing young people to the importance of moorland and site visits to our science sites for university students
- Host a conference on the subject of natural capital
- Hold land manager events on subjects that connect with their work and stakeholder visits for our project funders
- Create videos covering different aspects of our work, including as part of an online Be Fire Aware campaign
- Install an interpretation board and fixed-point photography posts
- Publish a book on 'Green Sketching' to help connect the public to the moorland landscape
- Deliver regular social media content, press releases and e-newsletters

7. **WELCOMING PLACE AIM OVERVIEW (SLF)**

1. **Purpose of the report**

To inform Members about the Authority's progress in responding to the Welcoming Place aim since April 2023 and what this means for the future.

2. **Key Issues**

- The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) 2018 sets out the framework and vision for what the Government wants to do to improve the environment within a generation. Updated by the [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#) with plans to deliver ten goals. Goal 10 is to enhance beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment. The Government wants everyone to enjoy our landscapes, but also recognises that to restore nature, we need to enjoy its beauty responsibly.
- The [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) was published on the 31 January 2024. It seeks to support Protected Landscapes (PLs) in meeting their huge potential for nature, climate, people and place and to deliver the EIP 2023 goals. PLs are recognised as having a distinctive sense of place and representing the country's' shared heritage and national identity. These special qualities must be protected for everyone to enjoy. The EIP committed to everyone in England living within 15 minutes' walk of a green or blue space; reducing other barriers that prevent people from accessing green and blue spaces, such as physical challenges, lack of confidence and lack of information. PLs are expected to set the standard for meeting this commitment, leading efforts to increase responsible access and engagement with nature.
- The [Diverse Audience Plan \(DAP\)](#) is aligned with the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and Authority Plan. Actions include working with more diverse audiences, often smaller charities/community groups who tend to have limited experience with delivering funded projects. Authority support is required and there is an element of risk for the Authority as a delivery partner. Observations show a good representation of Global Majority communities visiting the NP, nonetheless support required for a move to active participation including diversifying volunteers, focus to also consider social economic data to drive activity.
- Whilst the economic benefits to the national park from tourism are acknowledged there is a growing need to better understand the impacts that visitor numbers and patterns may be having on the area's communities, its fragile natural environment and cultural heritage assets. Authority Members started to explore this issue at the April Member Forum and further discussions with officers will take place at the May Forum. Any emerging proposals will need to be discussed with partners.
- The Authority works with its constituent authorities who are responsible for rights of way within the national park. The Authority's role, as its limited resources allow, is to enhance access on priority routes e.g. those promoted, connected to visitor hubs and access for all. Constituent authorities' resources are also limited and this coupled with increasing severe weather events and visitor usage has led to deterioration in rights of way condition.
- Since the April 2023 Programmes and Resources meeting the Authority has undertaken many activities, both on our own and in partnership, that assist in meeting our welcoming place ambitions. These are outlined from paragraph 8 below the majority of which will continue to be delivered and developed through 2024-25 together with additional actions detailed in the Authority Plan 2023-28.

3. Recommendation

1. To note progress in delivering to the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28 and Authority Plan welcoming place aim and targets.

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

4. The activities described in this report contribute to a number of our policies and legal obligations:
5. The [Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28](#) Aim Three: [Welcoming Place](#) links closely to: [special qualities](#) 3, 6 and 7 and by developing a connection with the place visitors will benefit from all 7 [special qualities](#) which in turn will lead to support and understanding of the natural environment. Aim Three_actions_ will also contribute to Aim One [Climate Change](#), Aim Two [Landscape and Nature Recovery](#), and Aim Four [Thriving Communities](#) including many of the objectives with their targets and headline delivery of the NPMP particularly for Aim Three.
6. The Authority Plan 2023–28 Enabling delivery Aim: The Authority is inspiring, pioneering and enabling in delivering the National Park vision; Objective B (Access): To achieve timescales and follow processes for the statutory functions under Countryside and Rights of Way Act and Town and Country Planning Act.

Background Information

7. One of the four 20 year aims for the NPMP is focussed on developing the national park as a place where ‘all are welcomed and inspired to care for and connect to its special qualities.’ The five-year objectives that underpin this aim, and prioritise delivery over the plan period, are Objectives 7, 8 and 9 please see [Welcoming Place](#)

Proposals

8. As reported to this Committee in April 2023 the Authority is already undertaking many activities, both on our own and in partnership, that assist in delivering our welcoming place ambitions. The summary below updates Members on the activities we have focussed our resources on since April 2023 and look to continue and develop:
 - Map priority routes (including White Peak Loop) 2023-24 – priority routes within the national park have been identified and resources are now being sought to address issues. Plans for the White peak loop are ongoing.
 - Promote existing and new routes – a project to improve accessibility has been delivered at Castleton details of which can be seen at [Accessible Castleton](#).
 - A template/toolkit for area action plans is being developed through the development of plan for the Dovedale area. It will incorporate and develop from work identified in the Active Travel England project funded by the Department of Transport (£100,000) which will look at active travel away from private vehicles.
 - The identification of key areas/recreation hubs to work with during 2023-24 has been delayed due to changing to Dovedale for the area action plan. Learnings will then inform the identification of key areas to work with.
 - The Authority has continued to support the Environmental Quality Mark (EQM) Community Interest Company to deliver the Peak District EQM. A further 10 Peak District businesses have achieved the award (7 within the national park).
 - #PeakDistrictProud has lost traction and the visitor environment has also changed

since the inception of the scheme in 2019/20 and some partners are querying whether it is still the right approach. The need to review both the baseline evidence of responsible visiting, any impacts of visitors on nature and the scheme during 2024-25 has been identified.

- No new business or community groups have been supported to share #PeakDistrictProud messages during 2023-24. Future activity is likely to be dependent on the outcomes of the 'review' of #PeakDistrictProud and the outcomes of the strategic tourism discussions.
- A social listening pilot commenced in 2023 and concludes in July 2024. Pilot findings will inform workshops looking at revising #PeakDistrictProud, collaboration with tourism business and any new local toolkit. Opportunities for communities and visitor businesses to support the national park through advocacy, volunteering and financial support will also be provided.
- Over 52,000 hours of Volunteering delivered across the Authority: Volunteer Rangers contributing 17, 724hrs; Peak Park Conservation Volunteers (PPCV) delivering 18,900hrs, working with 306 groups including United Utilities, Staffordshire County Council; tree planting schemes (11,000 trees); engagement with diverse audience groups e.g. Rotherham Opportunity College, Fit for Work. New leaders trained and a new Ranger Trainee to join through the Training Academy in 2024/25 will support this thriving activity.
- Other Authority grant support includes: Community grants (reported in the Thriving Communities update report); Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) grants (already summarised in the landscape and nature recovery aim update report).
- The Authority has supported the Youth Hostel Association to develop the next steps of the Access Unlimited coalition, now includes partners National Landscapes. Defra funding in region of 4.5 million secured for project delivery 24/25.
- Ambassador Centres are a positive model for working co-operatively and creating networks to share skills and knowledge across the national park. Many young people now have a deeper connection to the landscape they are visiting, alongside the opportunities offered at the different outdoor activity centres. Two new centres have joined the scheme making a total of 9 centres, reaching an estimated 12,500 young people in 2023-24. These centres continue to participate in the Peak District Educators Group through which, two skills share sessions have taken place and connections made with FiPL funded farm educational access projects.
- Six new Ambassador schools have been recruited making a total of 19 supported schools, reaching 5,930 young people, of which 1,460 took part in Authority led activities. Targeted through DAP action plans: 10 schools are within the most deprived decile, 11 have over 30% free school meals and 5 are within the national park. Peak District Foundation funding has provided capacity to recruit and train volunteers, develop online resources and maintain a meaningful connection.
- The school visit programme 2023/24 was fully booked, engaging 8632 young people and exceeding the income target. This evidences the sound reputation, as do the young people's words "*This is seriously the best day ever!*" Schools have continued to be targeted in line with DAP, data has been analysed to identify future trends and interventions. Please see Appendix 1 Schools case study.
- The Junior Rangers programme continues to provide an ongoing connection to the

national park for many young people.

- The Youth co-creation programme funded by AMEX through National Parks Partnership has delivered two youth co-creation workshops with local high schools, working with over 40 young people from Lady Manners and Buxton Community School. Resources around wellbeing in the outdoors and green careers have been developed. The wellbeing workshop produced “Nature Boost” a school resource available on the Authority’s website and on paper. Together with regular PPCV Green Leaders skills days, this programme is part of our youth volunteering journey, please see Appendix 2 Young People’s Volunteering Pathway.
- The creation of progressive pathway for youth volunteering giving a platform to Youth Voice has been researched including consultation with other National Parks and Peak District community youth groups. This work is shaping PDNP Youth Voice. Through the Junior Rangers and Green Leaders new volunteer opportunities for ages 12-25 are being created. It is hoped that the new Trainees as part of the Trainee Academy can help drive this forward in 2024/25.
- The second delivery phase of the National Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Championing National Parks for Everyone was submitted in July 2023 in partnership with Peak District Mosaic, YDNP and NYMNP. This application was successful and the delivery phase has now commenced with recruitment for the Project Manager and Project Officer posts planned for April/May 2024.
- Examples of community group support include: Dal Kular Black Writer in Residence, please see [Peak District Residencing – Black Nature in Residence](#);
- The Miles Without Stiles webpages have had 1.2 million views. Last year, there were 234,000 views, 9% of all Authority web traffic. A second handbook print run has been needed with all proceeds going into the Access Fund.
- A new changing places toilet facility has been built at Millers Dale car park.
- Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Prevent: Sensory Trails developed linked to Miles without Stiles; webpage signposting to health professionals and community groups; networking through range of organisations and strong relationships made with local social prescribing teams, Nature Prescriptions focus group update at Appendix 3.
- HWB Restore: New projects High Peak Health walks, Nature Natters and Forget me Nots walks.
- HWB Excel: Promotion and support of Nature Prescription work to two other National Parks; 30 health professionals attended Nature Prescription training; Authority and Derbyshire Dales District Council volunteers trained in Mindfulness and Nature Connection; first HWB Network meeting held.
- The Authority Plan 2023-28 enabling delivery aim sets out actions that will assist in the delivery of the Authority’s essential business. Objective B (Access): To achieve timescales and follow processes for the statutory functions under Countryside and Rights of Way Act and Town and Country Planning Act includes the following essential business actions:
 - Supporting the statutory functions of the Local Access Forum so that it continues to offer a good overview of access and accessibility issues within the national park. A reduction in the number of meetings each year from 4 to 3 has been agreed with partners for a more efficient approach.
 - Identify, enhance and maintain access to Access Land and ensure the public

has the greatest possible access to rights of way. An app has been designed and is used by rangers to record the state of all access points to open access land (Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act). Please see Appendix 4.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

9. Activities in the early years of the NPMP and the Authority Plan 2023-28 have funding and resources identified to deliver them. Resources for future year activities will need to be identified during the delivery period. Increasingly the Authority seeks external funding to help deliver desired actions however, not all funders cover corporate overheads or project management costs. So, any net cost to the Authority will need to be judged against overall project benefits on a case by case basis.

Risk Management:

10. The main risk of the Authority being unable to deliver to the welcoming place aim is the resource challenge of both partners and the Authority. However, this risk is mitigated by focussing on the three priorities that the objectives outline. There is also a potential risk of working more with diverse audience small charities and community groups, many of whom have limited experience with delivering funded projects of scale.

Sustainability:

11. No issues to raise.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

12. The delivery of the Welcoming Place aim through the DAP work speaks directly to the ambition of ensuring equity of access (physical and intellectual) to the national park, areas of most unequal access and gaps in provision. The DAP sets out a clear plan to address these inequalities and ways to evaluate and report this work.

13. Climate Change

Climate change and its impacts feature in all engagement programmes. A connection to the place is encouraged as research shows this leads to positive pro-environmental behaviours. Engagement programmes highlight examples of good practice and encourage personal responsibility to take positive action. This work focuses on reaching out and engaging with communities that do not traditionally work with the Authority; to deepen the knowledge and understanding of those that do in order to encourage connection to the place and responsible pro-environmental behaviours, including sustainable transport use.

14. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

15. Appendices

Appendix 1 - School Visits Case Study
Appendix 2 - Young People's Volunteering Pathway
Appendix 3 - Nature Prescriptions 2024 Update
Appendix 4 - Access Point Monitoring Summary

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Suzanne Fletcher, Head of Landscape and Engagement, 18 April 2024.

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CASE STUDY

'Learning & Discovery' School Visits



Last year, our education visits provided welcoming experiences for almost 9000 young people. From the youngest children at Primary school to A-level, from den building to wildflower identification, our visits offer chance for both young people and their accompanying adults to connect with nature and the special properties of the national park. For many, it is their first experience of the Peak District and a gateway to enjoying the outdoors.

Who was involved in delivery?

Our small team of Young People & Community Engagement Rangers delivered sessions, supported by volunteers. Young people aged between 4 and 18 visited with their schools, from a wide geographical area: from local village schools and nearby cities (Sheffield & Manchester), to locations as far afield as Birmingham, Boston and the Wirral. We have targeted schools in line with our Diverse Audience Plan, and many are from communities under-represented in our visitor demographics.

What was involved?

Our rangers led visits for schools on a wide variety of topics, in locations around the national park. Our landscapes provide an ideal outdoor classroom, giving context and inspiration to students' in-school learning. A range of programmes are offered ([advertised on our website](#)); the majority are designed to support pupils' curricular learning in geography and science topics, as well as investigative fieldwork opportunities to aid students in coursework and exams. We also offer non-curricular experiences focused on exploring the landscape and connecting with nature. Celebration of the Peak District's special qualities is embedded in all visits.

Who were the beneficiaries?

Participants were school children, aged 5 -18. Around 75% of our schools come from urban areas, and many are from levels of high urban deprivation, with high levels of Pupil Premium children. It is these groups who may be least likely to visit. Participants are typically from a wide range of income levels and ethnic backgrounds. As well as mainstream primary and secondary schools, we have also worked with special needs schools, and with groups of Young carers to provide respite days. Teachers are able to draw on our rangers' subject knowledge, and their classes' experiences on the day, to add value to their teaching. Parent helpers are often some of the

most enthusiastic beneficiaries. Many express a wish to return with their children.

What were the outputs?

In 2023-24, we delivered 220 visits to 8632 young people. 25% of these visits were secondary visits. The remainder were primary, largely focused on key stage 2 (ages 7-11). The most popular booked programmes were GCSE Hydrology fieldwork, Primary River Studies, hillwalking days, map skills and A-level Ecology fieldwork. Other popular sessions included A-level fieldwork examining the effects of climate change on peat, and 'Rocks and Soils' days. We also delivered bespoke sessions, including on the cultural heritage of local areas, Forest schools and nature connection walks. A new session, 'Discover the Peak District', focuses specifically on connecting with nature in the National Park. These visits took place at a range of sites around the National Park. Experiences were delivered from our 3 main education centres at Longdendale, Longshaw and Macclesfield Forest, as well as Crowden, Castleton, The Goyt Valley, Upper Burbage and Hayfield.

What are the outcomes of the project?

Young people received high quality outdoor learning experiences that helped them gain knowledge and experience of the natural world. They boosted their understanding of science and geography, while connecting with nature and learning what makes the National Park so special. Many young people are amazed at the close proximity of the national park to urban areas, and have never before thought about visiting. Meeting our education team helped to provide a welcome to the national park, and our visits aim to empower them with the inspiration, knowledge and skills to return to the Peak District again.

Perhaps it's best to let the young people speak for themselves:

"It's so peaceful. I can't believe we're so close to Manchester"

"This is seriously the best day ever!"

"At school we just push pencils around, but this is living!"

Comments from Teachers: *"It is so important for our children to have these experiences"*

"Thank you for being such wonderful hosts, making us feel so welcome"

"Fantastic impact. Some of our students have never been out of their borough, let alone to a national park".

What has been learnt from the project?

The main learning point is the continued benefits of direct, hands-on engagement with school groups. Amidst a picture of increasing demand from schools to visit the national park (demand now exceeding pre-COVID levels), working directly with teachers and young people enables us to ensure that our care messages for the landscape's special qualities are at the centre of each experience.

We are also learning about developments in what schools want - Ecology programmes and nature connection/green wellbeing have shown increased interest. As we learn more about increased demands, we are also seeking to learn more about barriers to visiting - transport costs are a key issue - and how we can remove these.



CASE STUDY



Young People's Volunteering Pathway

A project to involve young people in caring for the National Park starting with Junior Rangers following a journey ultimately to a Youth Voice group to enable a young people's perspective in National Park decision making.

Who is involved in delivery?

Coordinated by the Communities and Wellbeing Ranger within the volunteering and Communities Team, supported by Engagement Rangers and other NP officers.

What is involved?

There are currently 5 active Junior Ranger groups in the National Park which meet monthly and take part in activities based upon the special qualities of the National Park.

Green Leaders meet monthly to carry out conservation tasks and meet someone with a green career who tells them of how they got into the role with hints and tips on how they might also enter a green career.

We are working towards the creation of a Youth Voice Group made up of young people aged 18-27 who will be able to offer their perspective to officers and members.

Who are the beneficiaries?

Our Junior Rangers are aged 11-17 and are based at Edale, Longendale, Buxton, Miller's Dale and the South West Peak. Each group has around 10 members.

Green Leaders is aimed at young people aged 18-27. They have been recruited from nearby Universities, our PPCV individuals or are at the start of their working career.

Through their involvement young people will feel included and valued in looking after the National Park and begin a journey of involvement in enjoying, participating and helping to protect the National Park for future generations. NP officers and members who are on average much older will

also benefit from hearing the opinions and concerns of the younger generation.

What are the outputs?

Supported by Ranger Leaders Junior Rangers have worked on a number of small scale conservation projects sometimes in partnership with other organisations such as Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and our PPCV, such as tree planting, Willow tit nest box building projects. Some Junior Rangers have used their hours as work experience for college courses. The Engagement team is hosting two Junior Rangers on work experience in July.

Green leaders have done stone carving, Otter holt construction, Tree planting, Dew pond restoration and Rhododendron clearance.

What will be the outcomes of the project

We are looking to potentially offer an outreach project in a nearby urban community to foster closer ties with those that might not get the opportunity to visit their nearest National Park. In the short term we need to make the Junior Ranger groups more accessible to a wider audience. We will also work with nearby Universities and Colleges to provide experience for those looking to start a green career via our Green Leaders group.

What has been learnt from the project so far?

We have initially focused on standardising the activities of the Junior Ranger groups with a 2 year program of activities, updating of protocols and risk assessments. Our Green Leaders events have been well supported by staff but need work to provide consistency in numbers attending (we are looking at a potential model used by the Yorkshire Dales National Park to formalise membership with a participating skills and training portfolio).

We have started recruiting for a Youth Voice group and have a good number of potential participants including those that volunteer for us, those that work in the PD for partner organisations. Work will be done to recruit from diverse audiences in the surrounding towns and cities.



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What is a Nature Prescription?

A growing body of evidence indicates that individuals with a greater connection to nature, experience improved mental wellbeing, greater vitality and happiness, and are more satisfied with life. Research also shows that increasing your connection with nature can positively impact a range of conditions, including stress, anxiety and depression.

An RSPB Nature Prescription is a free to use, non-medical approach based on accessible, self-led activities that people can do from home, on their own or with others; and that aim to create lasting connections with nature that inspire a desire to nurture and protect it. Nature Prescriptions can be done in a person's own time, are generally free and do not require travel.

An RSPB Nature Prescription can be offered by a trained healthcare professional and includes a leaflet and calendar of activities. From listening to the sounds of nature from your window to looking for patterns in a frozen puddle, the activities aim to highlight a wide range of ways to realise the health benefits that being in nature can deliver.

It is important to highlight that a Nature Prescription consists of a guided conversation, supported by the calendar and leaflet. It would have considerably reduced value and impact as a self-prescription or as a simple download. An evaluation of Nature Prescriptions was conducted in a pilot study in Edinburgh and a report is available [here](#).

The RSPB are developing the Nature Prescription offer throughout England and highlights from this work are covered in this blog: [RSPB Nature Prescriptions one year on](#)

Nature Prescriptions Pilot in the High Peak

Project leads from the RSPB and the Peak District National Park Authority, with support from local GP Tom Miller, [The Bureau](#) in Glossop and the [High Peak CVS](#) worked to pilot the first ever Nature Prescription in England.

- In late 2022, we co-created with the staff from the Bureau and the High Peak CVS, the Nature Prescription Calendar and Leaflet for the High Peak. RSPB printed these as high quality materials.
- The calendar includes a variety of suggested ways to connect to nature that can be completed in local parks and green spaces. There are also suggestions that can be completed at home for those that might struggle to access local green spaces. Each month also has a slightly more challenging, aspirational activity to make individuals aware of the opportunities that are available in the Peak District National Park, such as the Miles Without Stiles routes. [Miles without stiles](#)
- In November 2022, we provided a training session for 12 members of the social prescribing teams to outline why connecting to nature is important to our health and wellbeing, to explain how a Nature Prescription works and to provide them with the key messages around the value of connecting with nature.
- The project lead from the [Grapevine Wellbeing Centre in Buxton](#) agreed to trial the Nature Prescription as a part of their service, to see how the prescription might work in a group setting.
- On 3rd January 2023, we officially launched the first pilot of RSPB Nature Prescriptions in England, which led to a lot of media interest, both national and globally.
- In July 2023 we provided an additional training session for new social prescribing link workers and an option for a refresher session for existing link workers. This training included the Derbyshire Dales CVS Social prescribing team, who launched their Nature Prescription in August 2023 (more details below). 15 individuals trained in using the Nature Prescription.
- Following interest from Older Adult services from the Community Mental Health Team, in late 2023, we provided training for the 9 members of their team (Dementia Support Workers and the Occupational Therapists). They have shared the idea of Nature Prescriptions within wider team meetings with other CMHTs throughout Derbyshire, and this has sparked wider interest.
- The Christmas 2023 Edition of the BMJ included an article on Dr Tom Miller and his support for the pilot [Role model: Tom Miller | The BMJ](#)

Nature Prescriptions Pilot in the Derbyshire Dales

Although the High Peak pilot was delivered with no financial ask from the RSPB and the PDNPA, it would not be sustainable for the Nature Prescriptions to expand within Derbyshire without any funding. After hearing about the pilot in the High Peak, Derbyshire Dales CVS Social Prescribing Team [Social Prescribing \(ddcv.org.uk\)](http://ddcv.org.uk) were keen to have a Nature Prescription for their clients and successfully secured funding from Derbyshire Mind's Mental Health and Wellbeing Activity Grant. This enabled us to:

- co-create a Derbyshire Dales Nature Prescription.
- print high quality materials.
- provide training for the link workers to be able to confidently use the Nature Prescription.
- support the staff in creating an additional online resource to sit alongside the materials padlet [Nature Prescription \(padlet.com\)](https://padlet.com).
- provide ongoing support to promote and deliver the Nature Prescription.

Evaluation of the Pilot

There is a wealth of evidence that connection to nature has a positive impact of many aspects of health and wellbeing. Rather than measuring impact on an individual client level, which can be complicated and time consuming, we are collecting the following:

- Number of trained prescribers – 30 (both High Peak and Derbyshire Dales)
- Numbers of prescriptions given out – 70 in High Peak (this number includes those who accessed the Nature Prescription through the Grapevine)
- Individual case studies to record the positive impacts from the pilots.

We will provide more information on this in the presentation on 31st January.

We are also going to be running a facilitated workshop in February with the project leads and both the High Peak and the Derbyshire Dales social prescribing teams to reflect on the two pilots. The aims of the workshop are:

- to recognise the successes and highlights of the project to date.
- to identify any barriers to take up and explore potential solutions.
- to reflect on whether and how the materials need adapting or changing.
- to explore ways to embed Nature Prescriptions as a tool to use across Derbyshire.

Next Steps – supporting existing pilots

We will continue to support the existing format of the Nature Prescription in the two pilot areas, through provision of materials and additional training for new members of staff within the social prescribing teams. In addition, we are planning:

- to work with Townend Community Garden to set up a Nature Prescription group session.
- to develop a digital document to provide easy access to links in the prescription.
- to set up Nature Natters walks in the Derbyshire Dales – short supported walks with a focus on connecting with nature to compliment the Nature Prescription.

Next Steps – beyond the pilots

We are exploring whether there is interest and funding to develop a Derbyshire Wide Nature Prescription that could be part of the toolkit of a range of health and social care professionals working within Derbyshire to support health and wellbeing.

In other areas in England, the RSPB project lead has delivered projects that have focused on creating Nature Prescription for more targeted audiences, such as stroke survivors and their carers and people living in mental health rehab units. This learning could be used in Derbyshire to create Nature Prescriptions for specific audiences where there is a recognised need.

Thanks for reading. For more information, please contact the project leads:

Sarah Walker, Nature and Wellbeing Manager, RSPB, Sarah.Walker1@rspb.org.uk

Jo Hanney, Community and Wellbeing Ranger, PDNPA, jo.hanney@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Appendix 4 - Access Point Monitoring Summary

In the year 2023/24 the Ranger Team in conjunction with the IT Team have designed and are using an app that allows full time rangers and volunteers to record the state of all the access points to open access land (Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act).

As the responsible Access Authority, the Peak District National Park Authority has enabled access to CROW land through the provision of access points and any furniture that the Authority has put in we have to maintain.

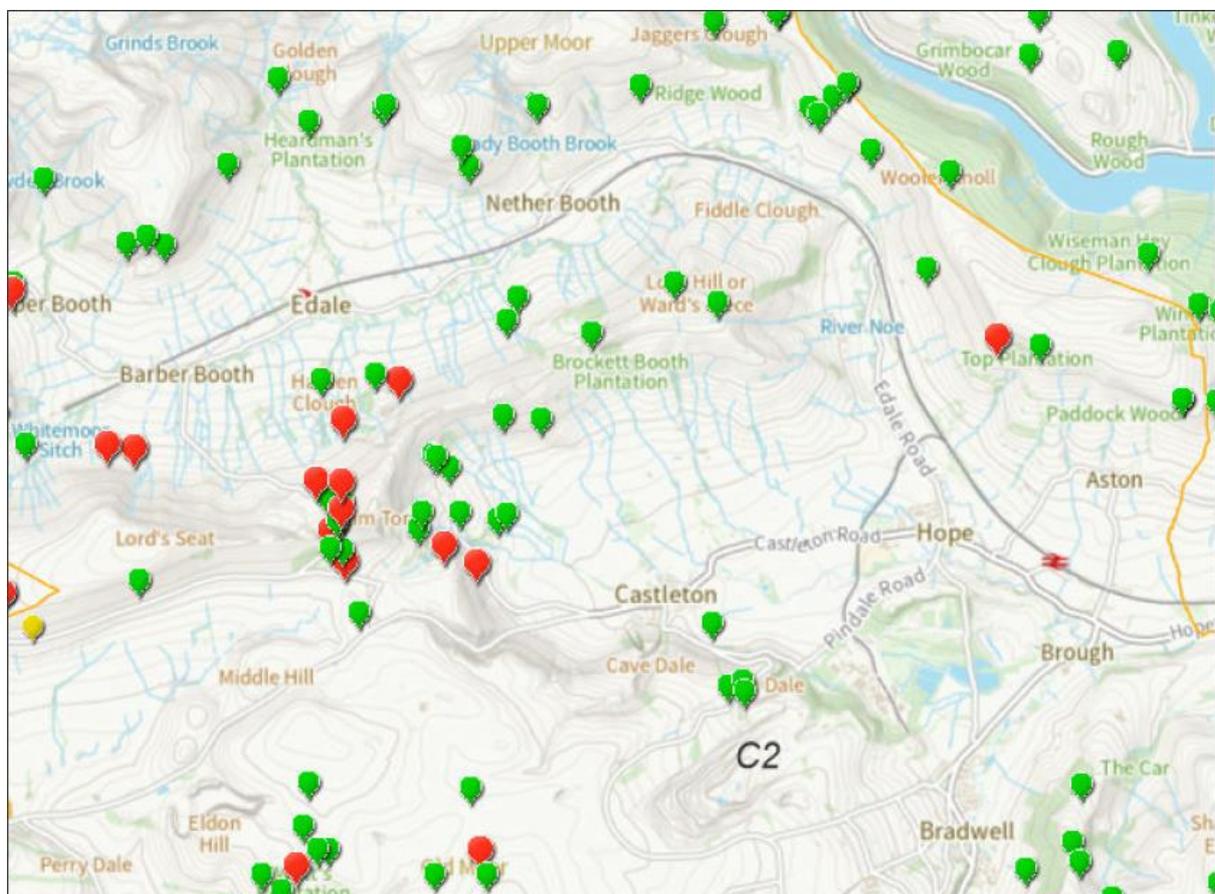
The app enables us to record the state of the access point, recording accurate location, relevant signage, the longevity of the furniture and a photo can be taken and added to the online record.

All of the data is then kept on our ARC GIS system, enabling access point data to be monitored from a mobile phone or in the office on the computer

This facility enables us to plan workloads to update the access furniture but we also record all routes onto open access land on rights of way and concession routes.

This facility enables us to maximise and manage access to open access (CROW) land within the national park.

The example map below outlines access points, with green signifying good quality, amber requiring survey and red requiring repair (although this may be the responsibility of a third party if not installed by the Authority).



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8. THRIVING COMMUNITIES THEME UPDATE

1. Purpose of the report

To inform Members about the Authority's progress since July 2023 with respect to the Aims and Objectives of the National Park Management Plan in relation to Thriving Communities, and what this means for the future.

Key Issues

- The need to ensure sufficient resources to complete our Local Plan review and wider community work;
- The need to consider removal of permitted development rights to control changes to short term holiday lets;
- Prioritising our efforts with respect to sustainable travel

2. Recommendations(s)

- 1. To note progress in delivering to the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28 and Authority Plan Thriving Communities aim.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. In pursuing the statutory purposes defined for National Parks in the Environment Act 1995, National Park Authorities have a related duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities in the area.
4. The key tool available to the Authority is the adoption of core policies in its Local Plan which can drive appropriate and sometimes exceptional routes for development based on the local needs and circumstances of the area (accessibility, affordability of housing stock, availability of local employment, and aging demographic profile).
5. Beyond its planning function the Authority must work closely with partner organisations through the National Park Management Plan to bring about a more sustainable living and working environment for local people and businesses.

Background Information

6. Members agreed at the 22 July 2022 Authority meeting to align the programmes for Programmes and Resources to the National Park Management Plan 2023-28 aims (minute reference 65/22). The NPMP objectives relevant to this Aim are as follows:
7. **OBJECTIVE 10: TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BY IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND CONNECTION TO SERVICES;**
8. **OBJECTIVE 11: TO PROMOTE A FLOURISHING ECONOMY IN ACCORD WITH NATURE RECOVERY AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

Proposals

9. The summary below updates Members on the activities we have focussed our resources on since July 2023 and look to continue and develop.

10. **Supporting Sustainable Communities by Improving Opportunities for Affordable Housing and Connection to Services**

11. **Improvements to the Planning Service**

Great progress has been made in recruitment to the Authority's statutory planning function and which has directly led to improvements in performance on the Development Management function. Regular performance reports will be taken to the Authority's Planning Committee to discuss the progress and any further issues arising in terms of the impact of this core service to our communities. Beyond normal planning performance in March 2024 the Planning Service resumed its pre-application advice service. This came on the back of a successful Forum with over 20 local agents where we discussed bringing back the pre-app service, improving our communications, and getting involved in future design review. These additional actions add real value to the way we engage with communities and local businesses

12. **Sustainable Travel**

13. Our Sustainable Travel Officer started work in November and has begun to develop the evidence base (e.g. visitor data) and meet with partners. Key decisions will need to be taken on the priorities for the work as we move forward. We aim to reconvene the bodies who previously attended our Transport Symposium and will discuss the potential for enhanced public transport, EV charging infrastructure as what we can do to support our thinking on recreation hubs and gateways.

14. In March the Authority received £100k additional funding from Active travel England (within the remit of DfT) to support the development of a Peak District National Park Cycling and Walking Investment Plan. This will involve:

- high-level network planning and priorities to build on the Authority's previous Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy;
- data and evidence collection to predict future use and provide opportunities to encourage modal shift; and
- auditing and development of high-quality walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure.

15. Our work in conjunction with Active Travel England and the other 9 English National Parks is important to identify what is needed in rural areas. It will also help us to be involved in future funding opportunities for infrastructure development.

16. **Fibre Broadband Roll Out**

17. Project Gigabit is the government's flagship £5 billion programme to enable hard-to-reach communities to access lightning-fast gigabit-capable broadband. In February, Building Digital UK (BDUK) signed a contract with "**Full Fibre**" who have successfully won the contract for the Peak District area. This contract covers some sections of the Peak District to receive Gigabit capable infrastructure. The main areas are Derbyshire Dales and High Peak but it also does have some build in other areas of the Peak District. Full Fibre have 6 months of surveying and planning what is currently contracted and this will go on until September 2024. They will be working closely with Derbyshire County Council to deliver the roll out alongside the Digital Derbyshire initiative. The rural gigabit voucher scheme is also set to re-open at some point over summer alongside the County's own "top up" scheme. This allows small communities and properties to extend lines to more remote locations enhancing the reach of broadband..

18. **Local Plan Review**

19. Our Policy and Communities Team have also made great progress in clarifying current issues for planning policy and developing a range of options to revise, and update our approach. This project will progress several of the objectives and headline delivery areas for the National Park Management Plan. This will ensure the long-term protection for the National Park's special qualities is balanced with appropriate and sustainable development in the right places whilst driving enhancements to our built and natural environment and going further to encourage nature recovery and carbon reductions. Officers aim to bring our draft consultation document into Issues and Options to the full Authority in July ready for consultation in the Autumn. Specific issues include responding to population decline, second homes and giving more certainty to affordable housing delivery.

20. This work is crucial in order to understand the kind of homes and businesses needed, where they may be built and what design requirements are needed to drive enhancements to our special environment while considering the ability to deliver through our partners and by individuals and local businesses.

21. **Influencing Affordable Housing Delivery**

22. Since July 2023 great progress has been made in bringing together the National Park Authority with Derbyshire Dales District Council with a joint commitment to understand and address the issues around affordable housing for local communities. A joint workshop was held at the National Park office in September 2023. From this came a commitment to establish a **joint working group** of members and officers to maintain dialogue on this important issue. The first meeting of this group took place in April 2024.

23. Moreover, a joint letter was sent to **Homes England** seeking understanding of the challenges faced in the Peak District regarding affordable housing delivery. Out of this a further meeting was held at the offices of Derbyshire Dales District Council in Matlock in March 2024 with key officials from Homes England. This highlighted the need for a higher unit rate of subsidy support in order to deliver high quality units in the National Park. This received a positive response from Homes England and has triggered work on understanding the anticipated pipeline of developments. This alignment of work and the shared understanding and vision for delivery is hoped to form a key element of the joint working group moving forward.

24. There is also a stronger commitment by the District Council to preparing a Housing Strategy which will form a key piece of evidence in reviewing our own planning policies.

25. **Second Homes**

26. At the national level the family of National Parks have been calling for changes to the use class system in order to influence the change of use of residential properties to short term holiday lets. This is now due to take place in summer 2024, but will come with an automatic permitted development allowance, unless an article 4 direction is applied to reinstate local planning controls. This may be an action the Authority will need to pursue in particular hot spots where evidence is compelling that the proportion of second homes is undermining local community sustainability.

27. **Community Grants and Neighbourhood Planning**

28. The current focus on the Local Plan Review has impacted upon our capacity to undertake other forms of community development work (surveys, training, village/neighbourhood planning and grants). Despite this the team has supported several local projects with our

community small grants. Engagement with the following projects is currently taking place with:

- Bakewell International day of Dance
 - Butterton Drystone Walling
 - Litton Tree Survey
 - Cressbrook Memorial Plot restoration
 - Grindleford Hot Water Boiler replacement
 - Hartington History Book
 - Youlgrave Car Park planting
29. Two **neighbourhood plans** have also been assisted to adoption These were cross boundary plans at Whaley Bridge and Brampton.
30. Officers facilitated the latest **Annual Parishes Day** in October 2023 and discussions are ongoing regarding the potential for **Planning Training** for Parish Councils. This will be subject to officer capacity but could offer real benefits for raising awareness of core processes and policies and improve communications and relationships.
31. **Promoting a Flourishing Economy in Accord with Nature Recovery and Climate Change Mitigation**
32. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**
33. Great work is continuing by our District Council partners through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. A pipeline of community and business grants are being awarded and many of these are within the National Park as well as nearby towns and business areas on the fringes which also supports the access to local jobs and services. The UKSPF is supporting many existing business to purchase new equipment and move to cleaner technologies which is reducing costs and allowing greater business efficiency which can allow expansion and more jobs. Great examples of projects directly benefitting businesses in the National Park and driving the NPMP objectives include:
- Solar technology at a campsite business in Monyash;
 - The refurbishment of the Ashford Arms pub
 - Solar panels at a Welding firm based at Calver Crossroads
 - New specialist bikes for a bike hire company in Hope
 - More efficient pizza ovens at a business in Bamford
 - Improved web booking systems for a company in Edale
 - Infrared calibration equipment for a manufacturing firm at Stretfield Mill, Bradwell
 - Restorative works to the community reading room in Peak Forest
 - Support to a new tourism laundry service in Grangemill.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

34. Resource capacity in our Policy and Communities team is an emerging concern. We are set to lose our Community Policy Planner at a key stage in the Local Plan review process and will struggle to maintain our capacity on wider community development support. We are currently exploring consultant resources as well as recruitment into this post.

Risk Management:

35. Risks facing our Planning Service have reduced as capacity has increased. The Local Plan is well placed to progress and strong partner arrangements are in place to further several of our NPMP objectives. A potential gap in resources within our Policy Team, alongside changes to Local Plan regulations could impact on the overall timetable for our review. This needs to be monitored closely with the Member Local Plan Steering Group.

Sustainability:

36. The enhanced partnership approaches, strengthened resources to Development Management and policy review are all positive steps in moving to a more sustainable approach to Thriving Communities. Concern remains over the ability to influence sustainable travel and the impact this has on access to jobs and services, but we hope to make positive steps through our new Sustainable Travel officer.

Equality:

37. All our initiatives in the NPMP aim to bring about more opportunity for housing and access to leisure, jobs and services. The Local Plan will be assessed for sustainability and equality as part of the review process.

Climate Change

38. Several objectives under this Aim contribute to climate change mitigation. Local Plan policies will drive much of this. The SPF programme is actively encouraging greener business by grant aiding renewables efficient machinery. The sustainable travel initiatives aim to encourage active travel and modal shifts in order to reduce the impact of private car use and by enabling further electrification of the transport infrastructure.

39. **Background papers (not previously published)**

None

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Brian Taylor, Head of Planning, 18th April 2024

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