

Consultation Xth June – Xth July 2017

Help shape the Peak District National Park Management Plan Update

What this consultation document is about

Looking after the Peak District National Park is a very important job. There are 555 square miles of stunning landscapes to conserve; there are habitats and species of international importance and great cultural heritage to protect. There are over 12 million visits to the National Park each year and 38,000 people call it their home. It is essential to have a management plan for Britain's first National Park that is fit for purpose and for the future.

The existing 2012-2017 management plan is due for an update. Things have changed since 2012. Our next management plan needs to reflect these changes and provide a clear way forward to achieve our vision.

The management plan is more than just the work of the Peak District National Park Authority; it is a plan for us all. So our updated plan needs to continue to reflect the views of partners, residents, visitors and all other stakeholders. This consultation is your opportunity to have your say.

This document sets out the big issues we will seek to tackle in the next five years, and on which we want views. The management plan will have a delivery plan as part of it, so it will direct on the ground delivery in your National Park. A set of background papers support this consultation, which are available from the website.

Please take this opportunity to shape the next Peak District National Park Management Plan, including the special qualities of the National Park. This document is available to view on the Peak District National Park Authority website and at the Peak District National Park Authority offices.

You can comment by completing either the online survey or electronic response form (both available on our website) or by emailing / writing to us at:

National Park Management Plan Response
Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Road
Bakewell
DE45 1AE

tel: 01629 816200 email: NPMP@peakdistrict.gov.uk www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

All responses must be with us by 5pm on **xxx xth** July 2017

What happens next?

We will bring together your responses and publish a report of the consultation. We will use this with partners to continue to develop the management plan. The next step will be to develop a set of realistic actions for each area of impact, based on the intentions set out in this consultation document. The actions will form the delivery plan for the management plan, and will help to achieve each area of impact. We will undertake another public consultation when we have a draft management plan.

Data Protection

We will only use details provided in response to the consultation for purposes associated with the Peak District National Park Management Plan. You may request to see personal information held by the Peak District National Park Authority at any time.

Section 1: The Peak District National Park

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 1995 Environment Act requires the Peak District National Park Authority to produce a management plan that outlines the vision for the management of the National Park. It must reflect National Park purposes and be updated at least every five years. It is not the intention of the plan to duplicate or outline what others are already doing. The intent is to add extra value to the good work already in hand. Moreover, we need to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Peak District National Park's special qualities.

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

The management plan is a framework that aims to encourage everyone to work together to achieve National Park purposes, to conserve and enhance the special qualities for the benefit of all. It is not a plan for an individual organisation or group but a plan for the place. It is, therefore, a partnership plan. It is the single most important policy document for the Peak District National Park. It tells everyone what the main issues and priorities are. It then sets out how we are going to tackle those issues over the next five years.

Vision Framework

The current vision framework will remain the same. Based on feedback from partners, we believe it continues to accurately express what we want to achieve.

Peak District National Park Vision Framework

The Peak District: where beauty, vitality and discovery meet at the heart of the nation

A Diverse Working and Cherished Landscape

A resilient Peak District where the unique beauty of its working landscapes, its wildlife and environment, its tranquillity, cultural heritage and the communities within it, continue to be understood and valued nationally for their diversity and richness.

Thriving and Vibrant Communities

A lived in, sustainable, thriving and innovative Peak District that engages both local and neighbouring communities, and promotes a high quality of life by conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park.

A Welcoming and Inspiring place

An inspiring Peak District where all are welcome to discover, enjoy, understand and value the special qualities of the National Park; a place where people can develop a sense of adventure and belonging, and play a part in its sustainable future.

An Enterprising and Sustainable Economy

An enterprising and sustainable Peak District economy which capitalises on and enhances its special qualities and promotes a strong sense of local identity, reflecting the aspirations of local business, organisations and communities.

How we got to this point in updating our management plan, including the special qualities

Managing a National Park is always challenging because there are many people who care about them; and they often have differing and sometimes conflicting interests. However, it is perhaps now more complicated than ever, as we understand better the environmental, economic and social factors that affect it.

For this update, we brought together a number of working groups and a vast amount of information to explore the changes that have taken place since 2012. These included surveys from our residents and visitors, information from our partners and expert opinion, from which we have developed a series of topic papers. (You can find the topic papers as a separate download on the website. They are for information and do not form a part of this consultation).

The topics link to the themes within the vision framework. These include cultural heritage, biodiversity and geodiversity, our communities, access and recreation, sustainable transport, business and the rural economy, education and outreach, sustainable tourism and farming and land management. We analysed the topics and the issues identified by the working groups and recognised that many issues cut across each topic. In particular, we believe that climate change will have a significant impact on the Peak District National Park, as could leaving the European Union.

In addition, we have looked again at the Peak District National Park's special qualities. The Environment Act requires us to promote their understanding and enjoyment. Special qualities define what is distinctive and significant about the area compared with other parts of the country. Understanding these qualities helps us to plan effectively and manage the National Park in order to protect them. In the current management plan, they appear as a simple list of twenty without explanation. We have thought carefully about these qualities and we now present them under eight new headings, complete with a detailed commentary. We are consulting you on these detailed commentaries, which you can find in section 3.

It is clear that we need to simplify the presentation of our management plan. We need those with an interest in the Peak District National Park to see clearly how they can help to achieve the vision. They must feel empowered to take the actions that will maintain the distinctive sense of place. We must prioritise the more significant and urgent challenges for the next five years. Alongside the eight special qualities, we have identified eight areas that we think the next management plan should focus on. These areas are where we can make the greatest impact. **We introduce the special qualities and the areas of impact in sections 3 and 4 for you to consider.**

How you can shape the next National Park Management Plan

We need to know if our refreshed presentation of the '**Special Qualities**' properly summarises what makes the Peak District National Park special - **go to section 3**

We need to know if the eight '**Areas of Impact**' are the best areas of focus for the new management plan - **go to section 4**

Please tell us what you think by using the online survey or response form on our website to send us your answers

Section 3: The Special Qualities of the Peak District National Park

Introduction

As the first UK National Park, the Peak District National Park was established in 1951 to ensure the protection of over 555 square miles of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage for all to enjoy. The landscape is of international importance and has the highest status of protection in relation to landscape, scenic beauty and internationally important habitats and historic features.

The variations in geology, landform, soils and biodiversity combined with farming practice, land use and settlement patterns make the landscape what it is today. This interaction between people and nature has created a powerful sense of place that resonates across the varied landscapes and is central to the designation of the Peak District National Park. For hundreds of years, this varied landscape and its special qualities have inspired writers, poets and artists, including Jane Austen. It continues to inspire millions today.

People experience and value these landscapes in many different ways. Over time these values have and will continue to change, as will the landscape itself. Our aim is not to preserve a past landscape. It is to conserve and enhance the special qualities. By this we mean maintaining a distinctive sense of place for future generations to enjoy. To do this requires partnership working between many different organisations and individuals to ensure the protection of these fragile landscapes.

What are the special qualities?

Special qualities define what is distinctive and significant about the Peak District National Park compared with other parts of the country. Understanding these qualities helps us to plan effectively and manage the Peak District National Park in order to protect them. The special qualities are in no particular order. They should be read as an integrated set, rather than in isolation. A summary of the eight draft special qualities are below.

Special quality 1: Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology

These views range from the Dark Peak's Millstone Grit horseshoe, to the South West Peak's intimate mosaic landscape and the rolling limestone plateau of the White Peak.

Special quality 2: Internationally important and locally distinctive habitats and species

Dramatic topography, steep slopes and climatic conditions support a variety of habitats and associated species.

Special quality 3: Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions

Tranquil experiences range from exploring open moors with their sense of wild remoteness to experiencing traditional village life.

Special quality 4: Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions

Settlements and the people that live in them are integral to the landscape, representing past and present communities, traditions and climates.

Special quality 5: Landscapes that tell a story of people and industry since prehistoric times

The story of people from the Neolithic Stone Age tribes all the way through to today's land managers is told through the landscapes.

Special quality 6: An inspiring space for escape, adventure, exploring and quiet reflection

This is an unrivalled setting for escaping everyday pressures, finding adventures and recharging drained batteries.

Special quality 7: Historic features offering visible and buried reminders of past lives

This mix of historic features provides a place where people can celebrate and trace their cultural heritage.

Special quality 8: Vital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary

Many benefits extend beyond the Peak District National Park boundary to positively impact on people who may never visit and may be unaware of its existence.

Your opportunity to help us

We are consulting on the descriptions set out in Appendix 1.

We would like your views on each special quality. These special qualities reflect feedback from stakeholders and a thorough assessment of existing research and evidence. They draw from the detailed content of a number of specialist strategies, principally our Landscape Strategy, which details the different types of landscape that make up the Peak District National Park.

Following this consultation, we will finalise the eight special qualities. Once they are agreed, the next step will be to build our evidence base for each special quality and begin to detail

their present condition. This will continue to inform a large part of the work of the Peak District National Park Authority and its partners.

Please tell us what you think by using the online survey or response form on our website to send us your answers

Questions 1 to 4 in the survey are about the special qualities

Section 4: The Areas of Impact of the Peak District National Park Management Plan

Introduction

Over the last year, we have worked together to develop a series of topic papers. For each topic, these papers set out background information, the issues to address and wishes for the future. Many of the same issues arise under each topic. Considering this, we have identified eight crosscutting areas where we can make the greatest impact. Our challenge is to protect and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park. We will need to do this in a cost effective way. We think that by focusing our work on these specific 'Areas of Impact', we can achieve more by working in a more coordinated way.

What are the areas of impact?

The eight areas of impact are those themes where our actions can make the greatest difference. They will become the focus of the next National Park Management Plan, with deliverable actions for each area of impact. The areas of impact are in no particular order. They should be read as an integrated set, rather than in isolation. In summary, the eight areas of impact are as follows.

Area of impact 1: A National Park for everyone

This aims to widen participation by helping to remove physical and mental barriers, supporting access for all and promoting the health and wellbeing benefits that this can provide.

Area of impact 2: Securing the most for the Peak District National Park

This is about securing the political and financial support that is necessary to conserve and enhance the Peak District National Park's special qualities. By working collectively and pooling resources, we can be effective in influencing and responding to policy and funding decisions. This is especially important, following our exit from the European Union.

Area of impact 3: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

This is a key purpose of the Peak District National Park. It is about making the most of opportunities for everyone to enjoy the special qualities by promoting a sense of harmony and responsibility.

Area of impact 4: Preparing for a future climate

This means that we will lead the way in helping our communities, businesses and visitors to reduce the impact of climate change on the environment, and in adapting to future conditions.

Area of impact 5: Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

This means increasing our knowledge and understanding of the benefits provided by the Peak District National Park. Then we can use this knowledge to inform our work, so the benefits remain for future generations.

Area of impact 6: Ensuring a future for farming and land management

This aims to support the sustainability of our farming community. It seeks to ensure that farmers and land managers conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park and the benefits they provide.

Area of impact 7: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

This is about a holistic approach to landscape conservation. This means working on a larger geographical scale and bringing all specialists together to have the biggest impact.

Area of impact 8: Supporting sustainable communities

This is about ensuring our communities are sustainable now and in the future. It is about balancing community needs while conserving the Peak District National Park.

Your opportunity to help us

We are consulting on the information set out in Appendix 2.

We would like your views on each area of impact. Following this consultation, we will take account of comments on the eight areas of impact, and revise them accordingly. We will work with partners and stakeholders to develop a realistic delivery plan that helps to achieve the areas of impact. We will further develop our existing evidence base to develop the actual management plan text. We will consult on the management plan text and delivery plan later this year or early next year.

For each area of impact, we start with an overview of what the topic means and why it is important. We then show the relationship with other areas of impact. This leads into a series of boxes that set out specific intentions for each area of impact and why these are our intentions.

Please tell us what you think by using the online survey or response form on our website to send us your answers

Questions 5 onwards in the survey are about each area of impact

Appendix 1: Special Qualities

Special quality 1:

Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology

The Peak District National Park is a mosaic of landscapes valued for their individual character, sense of place and beautiful views. Stand on a wind-swept crag high on Froggatt Edge and see the whole valley dropping away below. Sit among Hard Rake's flower-rich grassland and be immersed in a timeless pastoral landscape. Walk steep paths through woodlands in the Upper Dane Valley and feel a sense of peace and seclusion from the rest of the world.

The contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology of the Peak District National Park allow visitors to stumble upon spectacular new vistas where landscapes suddenly open up and change. Like those travelling along Crowdecote's hairpin bends, who get an unexpected view across the 'dragon's back' of Chrome Hill. These contrasts are most noticeable when moving between the three National Character Areas, the Dark, White and South West Peak. These areas are geologically and biologically diverse with a history dating back to the Carboniferous period.

The Dark Peak's characteristic Millstone Grit horseshoe, with its blanket bog covered moorland, scattered rock outcrops and deep ravines provides panoramic views across the rest of the Peak District National Park and out across the neighbouring cities.

The South West Peak is a more intimate mosaic of moorland blocks fringed with rush pastures, hedges, rivers and farmland. Its extensive views show a ridge-and-valley landscape with unusual aspects, such as the Winking Man rock formation.

In contrast, the White Peak's rolling limestone plateau has deeply dissected rivers, wooded valleys and rich pastures providing a quieter type of secluded and intimate beauty.

Special quality 2:

Internationally important and locally distinctive habitats and species

Biodiversity is the cornerstone of ecosystem services and the mix of species and habitats found in the Peak District National Park is fundamental to what makes the area special.

The dramatic topography, steep slopes, climate and generally poor growing conditions largely prohibit intensive farming, creating a variety of habitats and associated species. Many of these are locally, nationally and globally rare, some with international protection. The area's biodiversity is distinct from the surrounding lowlands and urban conurbations, yet such close proximity with large populations allows millions of visitors to experience it first-hand.

At the crossroads of north and south, east and west, some species are at the edge of their ranges, making for a unique species composition. It is the only location where both Southern and Northern marsh orchids grow and hybridise and the moorlands are the only English home for Britain's sole arctic animal, the mountain hare. The unique character of the different landscapes is reflected in the habitats and species they support.

Visitors journeying up into the Dark Peak will see iconic expanses of blanket bog, moorland and heathland, interspersed with flushes and springs, fringed by upland oak woodlands and wax cap grasslands, and bisected by the streams and rivers that feed the surrounding reservoirs. Some may glimpse the rare upland birds supported by this dramatic landscape, including ring ouzel and golden plover, or feel the powerful presence of birds of prey such as hen harrier, merlin and peregrine falcon.

A trip to the White Peak's limestone areas reveals a very different landscape, home to precious and vulnerable ash woodlands, with a wealth of ponds and clear-flowing streams, important patches of limestone heath, lead rakes and species-rich grasslands. A walker might stop to watch skylarks soaring in the sky, filling the air with their instantly recognisable song. The more observant might pinpoint a wood warbler's song to reveal its perch.

For anyone exploring the South West Peak, its diverse, mosaic landscape includes blanket bogs, acid grasslands, steep sided cloughs and enclosed farmlands which create a unique sense of place. A trained ear might catch the 'go back, go back' cry of a red grouse or hear the burbling song of a curlew in flight. A seasoned birder might spot an elusive camouflage-striped snipe or identify the short-eared owl that swoops over the moors, causing panic among the smaller birds.

Special quality 3:

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

The Peak District National Park retains its distinctly tranquil and undeveloped character, despite being one of the most popular, accessible and well-known areas in England with over 12 million visits a year. From walking, climbing or running on the open moors with their sense of wild remoteness to experiencing traditional village life, the Peak District National Park creates a powerful sense of timelessness and separation. This is in stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of the surrounding cities.

Tranquillity can be experienced in many ways and means different things to different people. It is one of the common links between the different areas of the Peak District National Park, which each have their own unique characteristics.

The Dark Peak is famous for its desolate and exposed tracts of moorland that stretch great distances. Standing on the summit of Black Hill as the sun sets provides a rare opportunity to find solace amongst an open landscape away from the distractions of modern living.

In contrast, the White Peak offers tranquillity in a more enclosed landscape. Peace can be found when sitting amongst the sounds of bubbling water, rustling leaves and melodic bird song in the confines of Lathkill Dale.

The South West Peak provides many opportunities to find tranquillity. From the atmospheric confines of Lud's Church and the sense of enclosure created by scattered trees across a pastoral landscape, to Shuttlingsloe's expansive views across the Cheshire plains.

For many visitors, the Peak District National Park represents an accessible backdoor wilderness, where they can walk in peace and escape the pressures of modern life. Its dark sky sites allow people to leave the bright lights of nearby urban neighbourhoods and be inspired by our place in the universe in the same way our ancestors were.

Special quality 4:

Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions

Settlements are integral to the Peak District National Park's landscape. They represent the story of the people, the climate and the traditions that shaped it. They range from loose, linear settlements of farmsteads and paddocks to nineteenth century planned villages of terraced houses for mill workers. Individual buildings are just as diverse, from grand houses and religious buildings to labourers' cottages, field barns and stone crosses. These settlements have a rich history, with many listed in the Domesday Book.

Traditional buildings in the area have their own distinct character. Think of the Peak District National Park and stone is likely to be part of the picture: from moorland edges, to limestone dales and the Southwest Peak. The network of field walls, the buildings and the commonality of material give a superb visual unity. The nature of local stone such as limestone and gritstone distinguishes our buildings from the vernacular architecture of other regions and links back to the landscape.

Local needs, industry and strong traditions have influenced building styles. Parts of the Peak District National Park have been farmed for thousands of years and many farmsteads have medieval origins, dating back to former royal and private forests. Other industries have also shaped the character of communities, such as in Bamford, where the late 1800s cotton mill owner built houses, a church, a rectory and a school for workers. Many survive today alongside the mill which has been converted into flats. Some landowning families have also given communities their iconic character, such as the Chatsworth Estate and Edensor.

Custom and tradition resonate throughout the communities, many of which still hold local events such as Tissington's well-dressings, Edale's fell races, Castleton's Garland Day and Winster's Pancake Run. Such customs link together the generations, past and present, and many Peak District National Park communities have specific stories or products associated with them. Eyam is famous as the community who isolated themselves in the seventeenth century to stop the Bubonic Plague spreading beyond their boundary. Local culture attributes Bakewell pudding to an inexperienced cook's attempt at a jam tart. Stoney Middleton is known for an eighteenth century legend where a spurned lover was saved from a suicide attempt at a local cliff, now known as Lovers' Leap, by her voluminous skirts. Castleton has long been associated with its caverns, one of which was home to Britain's last troglodytes, the ropemakers who lived inside the cave until the early twentieth century. The sense of community often links back to the landscape, which many present-day community groups are involved in protecting.

Special quality 5:

Landscapes that tell a story of people and industry since prehistoric times

The Peak District National Park landscapes that we enjoy today have largely been shaped across the centuries by human activities. The landscape tells a story of local people and their industries across time, from the Neolithic Stone Age tribes to the Anglo Saxon Pecsætan¹ tribe, who settled here around 600 AD and gave the area its name, all the way through to today's land managers.

Woodland clearance, pastoral activity and cultivation by people as far back as the Neolithic and Early Bronze Ages began the process of creating today's iconic landscapes of sweeping open moorland, grassy dales and hidden valleys. The story of agricultural development over the centuries can be seen through the rich tapestry of existing historic farm buildings, fields, dry stone walls, hedgerows and pasture. The remnant flower-rich meadows we see today are a fragment of a once-common habitat, reflecting the historical interdependency between farming and nature.

The ash-dominated landscapes of the White Peak are of international importance and were managed from medieval times through to the industrial revolution as either coppice or high forest woodlands to produce tool handles, firewood, charcoal, planks and furniture. Walking through these woodlands today, this past management is evident in the understory and canopy structure of the woods, which support populations of wildflowers, invertebrates, bats and birds.

Other land management activities such as forestry, heather management, mining and mineral extraction have left their own imprints on the land, telling a tale of human occupation and endeavour through lead rakes, millstones, plantations, reservoirs, mines and quarries. Such features often reflected the values and priorities of communities through the ages as they shaped the land to make better lives for themselves. Many are now unique habitats that support a range of highly specialised flora and fauna, whilst providing economic and recreational opportunities.

People have also left their mark on the landscape in the form of trade and transport routes, many of which are still in use today. Most of the Peak District National Park's main roads have existed since the eighteenth century whilst many historic green lanes are now used by cyclists, horse riders and walkers. Today's multi-user trails trace the routes of Victorian railways, once vital for transporting Peak District produce from farms and mills to cities.

Of recent significance is the landscape-scale restoration of Dark Peak blanket bog, damaged by previous coal-fired industry. This shows modern people responding to the contemporary issues of climate change, flood risk and habitat degradation by restoring rare upland habitat to aid carbon sequestration and reduce erosion.

Altogether, these interactions between people and place across time have created the stunning and unique landscapes of the Peak District National Park. Safeguarding the integrity of this interaction and encouraging the continuation of more traditional and sustainable farming is vital to its protection, maintenance and evolution.

¹ Pecsætan means peak-dweller, from which the name Peak District came.

Special quality 6:

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

The Peak District National Park is bordered on all sides by major conurbations, bringing it within reach of millions and providing a rural oasis in stark contrast to its urban neighbours. Although today many visitors take access for granted, prior to 1949 the majority of its moorland and hills had no public access. People were passionate about accessing Kinder Scout for exploration and adventure, so it became the stage for the Kinder Mass Trespass in 1932. This and other similar protests reflected the mood for greater public access to the uplands, leading to the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. National parks were then established as places of escape and enjoyment, with the Peak District National Park being the first in 1951.

Today it provides a vital space that nurtures our physical and mental wellbeing. People looking for outside adventure have an abundance of options. From paragliding over breathtaking landscapes, climbing world famous crags and boulders and potholing through subterranean limestone labyrinths, to horse-riding or mountain-biking along ancient bridleways and fly fishing in some of the country's best locations. As well as being fun, these experiences allow people to learn new skills and become experts at their sports, all within an amazing landscape.

For those looking for escape and quiet reflection, a third of the Peak District National Park is open access land with over 1,300 miles of rights of way and a network of accessible routes or 'miles without stiles'. Former railway tracks provide for leisurely walks and family bike rides on scenic traffic-free trails, whilst country cafes and traditional public houses provide the settings for reflecting on the day's experiences.

The Peak District National Park provides an unrivalled setting for escape from the pressures of everyday life, space to recharge drained batteries and motivation to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle.

Special quality 7:

Historic features offering visible and buried reminders of past lives

The Peak District National Park has a complex cultural landscape on which the story of human settlement has been written and rewritten for thousands of years. Some of this story is told by prominent historical features that are easily seen. Visitors to the eleventh century Peveril Castle will experience a tangible link with the past as they explore the extensive ruins overlooking the picturesque Castleton village. Those heading for the many historic parks and gardens such as Lyme Park, Haddon Hall or Chatsworth can step into the more recent past.

Yet many archaeological sites only reveal themselves to the trained eye. Those who look carefully enough may see evidence of the Iron Age fortress on Mam Tor, but this fortress itself hides a previous Bronze Age settlement. Many experience the atmospheric charm of Arbor Low's stone circle with its fifty limestone slabs, but only some will notice Hob Hurst's House, the Bronze Age burial mound on Beeley Moor. People driving along the arrow-straight road between Ashbourne and Buxton may not realise they are following a route once

well-trodden by Roman legionaries. Similarly, those walking the Long Causeway may be unaware that they are treading in the steps of medieval ancestors.

Other popular visitor spots conceal evidence of nineteenth century industry, which resonates across the landscape. Lathkill Dale was once a hive of industry and the remnants of Mandale Mine Engine House remains amongst a tangled mass of vegetation. Ancient weirs and entrances to underground drains can be spied around the river's edge, hinting at the scale of industrial activity that once took place in this now secluded and peaceful place.

This mix of visible and buried history creates a landscape where people can celebrate and visibly trace their cultural heritage. There are still many untold stories of our ancestors to be uncovered across the Peak District National Park, adding to its appeal and importance.

Special quality 8:

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

Many of the Peak District National Park's benefits are felt by those within it, whether visitors or residents, as the other seven special qualities show. Yet other benefits go beyond this, transcending the boundary to positively impact on the lives of people who may never visit the area and may be unaware of its existence.

Protecting entire landscapes on a large scale through national park designation can allow ecosystem services such as flood prevention, clean water provision and food production to function more naturally. Size enhances the benefits that can be provided by an area, enabling them to flow beyond its boundaries.

Being surrounded by urban areas makes the Peak District National Park's protected space of even greater significance as a breathing lung and green oasis for the millions of people who live in close proximity, providing a range of vital services. Those living in the surrounding areas may drink water that originated in its hills and was filtered by its habitats and breathe the clean air produced by its vegetation. They may also live somewhere that is less likely to flood due to the upstream habitats that store and slow the flow of water.

The positive impacts also flow even further afield. Climate change is predicted to affect the everyday lives of billions of people, but by absorbing and storing millions of tonnes of carbon, the Peak District National Park's habitats can help to mitigate against this. As part of a global network of protected landscapes, it is crucial to protecting the vital ecosystem benefits that sustain life into the future. By contributing to visions of sustainable biodiversity and social and economic wellbeing at local, regional, national and international levels, the Peak District National Park provides benefits to the planet that extend well beyond its boundary.

Appendix 2: Areas of Impact

Area of Impact 1:

A National Park for everyone

What does this mean and why does it matter?

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

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

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

Connections to other areas of impact:

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

Landscape conservation on a big scale

Supporting sustainable communities

What we want to do:

Overcome physical barriers to access

We want to improve access for all to visit the Peak District National Park and enjoy its special qualities.

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

dovetail. Access into and around places must be easy for all.

Why?

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

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

Overcome perceived barriers to access

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

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

Why?

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

Area of Impact 2:

Securing the most for the Peak District National Park

What does this mean and why does it matter?

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

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

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

By doing this, we can find alternative ways to conserve the Peak District National Park's special qualities. We can make better use of people's talents, find better ways to access funds and use them efficiently.

Connections to other areas of impact:

A National Park for everyone

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

Preparing for a future climate

Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

Ensuring a future for farming and land management

Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

Supporting sustainable communities

What we want to do:

Collectively influence to provide a supportive policy, decision making and funding framework

We want support and funding for conservation of the Peak District National Park.

We need supportive policy and legislation, as well as sufficient funding. The Peak District National Park delivers a wide range of benefits. We want people to acknowledge this value and so to want to invest in conserving and enhancing the benefits the National Park provides.

We want the resources and means to conserve the special qualities. To do this, we need to have a collective voice, as this is more influential than individual voices.

Why?

Decisions made nationally and locally can create a benefit and a negative impact on the landscapes and the communities of the Peak District National Park. There are unintended

consequences, such as the loss of irreplaceable natural and cultural features or loss of services to communities who enjoy the Peak District National Park. It takes concerted work to maintain the natural benefits society gains from the Peak District National Park. Bringing people together has a greater impact than many individual contributions.

Engage in new ways of working

We want to embed smart and effective ways of working in the Peak District National Park.

We want to access funding for joint working in rural areas. As Britain's first National Park, we have always been pioneering and want to continue to be a test bed for new ways of working.

To achieve this, we will need to join or create new partnerships as well as developing our existing partnerships. We need to be smarter in how we work together to take advantage of all opportunities.

Why?

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

Area of Impact 3:

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park provides a valuable space for escape, excitement, adventure and relaxation. It is a place to enjoy. We can create experiences that move, teach and inspire people. They can learn more about the value of its landscape, wildlife and ways of life. They can discover what the National Park gives to us. The National Park is the setting for our shared cultural heritage, a cornerstone of our lives and values. We want to help people to recognise and understand this when they enjoy the special qualities. This applies equally to the people who live and work here as to visitors.

Enjoyment with understanding is fundamental to the existence of the Peak District National Park. Its special qualities are at risk from a range of impacts, including over use. With enjoyment, there comes responsibility. It is important that everyone recognises the part they can play in helping to protect the Peak District National Park. Duty for its care is a shared one.

Connections to other areas of impact:

A National Park for everyone

Ensuring a future for farming and land management

Supporting sustainable communities

What we want to do:

Balance opportunities for enjoyment with conserving a fragile environment

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

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

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

Why?

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

Ensure shared responsibility

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

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

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

Why?

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

Area of Impact 4: **Preparing for a future climate**

What does this mean and why does it matter?

Climate change is the greatest long-term threat to our upland landscapes and their wildlife. Climate change will modify the Peak District National Park's special qualities and alter the opportunities for the public to enjoy them. Moreover, it will alter the benefits the Peak District National Park provides. At this time, it is uncertain what the effects will be.

Responsible and inventive management can ease the effects of climate change. We need to build resilience into the environment and allow nature to adapt. This will aid communities within the Peak District National Park, as well as those that feel a knock-on impact - regionally, nationally and even globally. The challenge is twofold. We must balance the need to actively manage our contribution to climate change, with the desire to conserve and enhance the cherished special qualities.

Connections to other areas of impact:

A National Park for everyone

Securing the most for the Peak District National Park

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

Ensuring a future for farming and land management

Landscape conservation on a big scale

Supporting sustainable communities

What we want to do:

Reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities

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

Traditional conservation management has tried to keep the National Park the same as it was in the past, but our climate is changing. We now need to look to the future and decide what we must do differently in light of what we know about the effects of future climate changes. We cannot keep things the same. We need to build our evidence base to help make these decisions.

Why?

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

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

Prepare for extreme weather events

We want to help businesses and communities in the Peak District National Park to plan for the impacts of extreme weather events.

This will mean managing land with care, to reduce excessive water run-off into rivers and drains; and to reduce rural diffuse pollution. There will be a need for care to reduce the incidence of wild fires. It will mean we need effective river catchment plans to promote the return of natural systems that help reduce flood risk. We will need shelter and shade for people and livestock, from both harsh storms but also the effects of sun and drought. This will mean flood-proofing existing property and steering development away from areas of flood risk.

Why?

Extreme weather events, such as floods, storms and prolonged drought are likely to increase in frequency and intensity. These events will have significant impacts on people's health and wellbeing and on transport, other public services and business. Extreme weather events may affect agricultural land and buildings, for example, by reducing soil health and increasing building repair costs. Increased surface run-off may increase soil erosion and deplete the land of nutrients. As a result, watercourses can hold back less water. This increases the likelihood of downstream flooding. There is also an excess of nutrients in the water, giving a dense growth of plant life. This, in turn, decreases the ability of streams to hold oxygen and threatens both fish stocks and drinking water supplies. Fire hazards may increase as peat soils dry out and woodlands suffer from summer drought.

Encourage renewable energy at an appropriate scale

We want to encourage renewable energy at an appropriate scale so that it conserves the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

Why?

Greenhouse gases contribute to climate change. When mixed with rainfall, they have a direct influence on the land, by changing its soils. This will change some of the habitats that are special to the Peak District National Park.

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

Balance changes in land management practices

We want to balance changes in land management practices due to climate change with conserving the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

Restoring degraded habitats, such as blanket bogs and wet heaths, reduces greenhouse gases and can increase the capture of carbon. In addition, changing the management of woodlands, grasslands and agricultural land can increase carbon storage.

Why?

There are a number of potential implications for farmers and land managers. These include a need for more and better winter livestock housing; higher insurance costs against rain and storm damage; an increase in pests and diseases; and greater difficulty in completing routine operations (as there are shorter operational windows to undertake works without causing damage). Potential adaptation through changes in livestock breeds, an increase in winter housing for livestock, or a longer term move towards more arable farms could significantly alter the current landscape and impact on the special qualities of the National Park, such as field patterns, dry stone walls and landscape character. Therefore, we need to help land managers in a way that doesn't compromise what is special about the Peak District National Park. Where possible, we need to enhance the special qualities and climate change resilience through habitat creation and management.

Area of Impact 5:

Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park has a direct effect on the quality of life of those living within and outside its boundary. Its natural processes enrich our air, water and soil. This provides a wide range of benefits, some of which have only recently been recognised. Putting a value

on these benefits is only just happening. At present, the nation is consuming these natural benefits without considering how sustainable this use is.

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

Many businesses draw value from the Peak District National Park. Some are within its borders but others are in the surrounding towns and cities. They take advantage of their relationship with its special qualities. We need to encourage businesses to embrace the landscape, and its enhancement, as part of their business model. This will help to ensure the sustainability of these benefits.

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

Connections to other areas of impact:

Securing the most for the National Park

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

Preparing for a future climate

Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

Ensuring a future for farming and land management

Landscape conservation on a big scale

Supporting sustainable communities

What we want to do:

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

We want people to value the benefits of the Peak District National Park.

We want more people to know where the resources that sustain their lives come from and appreciate the value of those resources.

Why?

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

Delivering these benefits comes at a cost.

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

We want to support a dynamic network of businesses committed to enhancing the natural processes on which so many livelihoods rely.

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

Why?

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

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

Area of Impact 6:

Ensuring a future for farming and land management

What does this mean and why does it matter?

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

Some support payments do not focus enough on enhancing the special qualities or on providing long-term benefits. There is great uncertainty about the future level and type of funding support after our exit from the European Union. However, there is an opportunity to influence new schemes to benefit natural and cultural heritage and farmers.

Farming that produces more at the expense of the environment is not sustainable. It will leave the landscape less resilient to the uncertain effects of climate change. People need to support sustainable farming and land management that protects what is distinctive about the

landscape. This includes recognising that the land can provide benefits beyond food and timber. We want to work alongside people who manage the land to ensure that decisions are made that protect and enhance our distinctive landscapes.

Connections to other areas of impact:

A National Park for everyone

Securing the most for the Peak District National Park

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

Preparing for a future climate

Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

Landscape conservation on a big scale

Supporting sustainable communities

What we want to do:

Support farm diversification

We want to encourage farm diversification that conserves and enhances the special qualities of the Peak District National Park and supports businesses.

We want diversification schemes that allow the farm as a whole to remain viable and environmentally sustainable. This will help to maintain viable farm businesses and ensure the good management of the land. As a result, the Peak District National Park's special qualities will be secure.

Why?

Many farmers started their career with the intention of just farming; now many are finding diversification is essential. This requires additional knowledge, skills and time. In addition, starting a new venture brings new risks. The markets for tourism, creative industries, workshops, professional services and direct sales are well served. Therefore, we need some innovative support to secure viable farms.

Ensure succession for farming

We want to attract and nurture the Peak District National Park's next generation of farmers and land managers.

We need farming to be an attractive occupation. There must be a flexible mix of tenancies on offer. For those farmers who wish to retire, we need to remove the obstacles. We want to enable farmers to find someone to take on their farm and to find a home for retirement. We want to support the next generation of farmers and land managers. This will help ensure that they conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park and the benefits it provides.

Why?

There is currently an imbalance in the ages of agricultural workers. In 2013, a third of all agricultural workers in the UK were over 65 years old and only 3% under 35 years old. Agricultural workers' homes are often tied to the land. Access to suitable retirement homes in the local area would allow farmers to retire without having to relocate outside the area. At present, a lack of sites and high property values mean there are not many such homes in the National Park. If farmers in older generations are unable to retire, new generations of farmers will be unable to take over.

Many farms are struggling, with some farm households surviving only because of support payments and off-farm income. The viability of farms varies quite a lot, both within and between the farm types of dairy and livestock (beef and sheep). Some could survive without Government payments but many rely on them. Many holdings are part time. As a result, the sector has at times struggled to attract and retain younger people. Currently, there is an upsurge in numbers of students at agricultural colleges and participating in on-farm training. It is important there are a range of farm businesses available for these young people to start and grow their farm business as well as joining family farm businesses. Then older farmers and land managers can pass on their local knowledge and skills.

Secure future land management support schemes

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

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

Why?

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

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

Area of Impact 7:

Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park's contrasting landscapes are one of its special qualities. They each require their own method of land management. The Government calls for bigger, better and more joined up landscape management. The most effective way to protect the National Park's special qualities is to focus on the wider landscape and its management, as well as looking at individual sites or issues. This means working in a wide enough geographical area and in a strategic way so the change is bigger. It means bringing together organisations and specialists to work together for the landscape as a whole. We need specialists like ecologists, cultural heritage experts, tourism bodies, outreach workers and businesses, to work as teams. To do this, we need to build on, and expand, our existing ways of working and partnerships.

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

Connections to other areas of impact:

Securing the most for the National Park

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

Preparing for a future climate

Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

Ensuring a future for farming and land management

What we want to do:

Establish monitoring at a landscape scale

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

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

Why?

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

Establish a White Peak partnership

We want a wide-ranging partnership in the White Peak area of the Peak District National Park with a clear vision and actions.

Why?

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

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

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

Maintain existing landscape scale delivery

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

Why?

The Dark Peak is the most southerly upland in England, so the issues are unique. There has been much work in the Dark Peak to restore the quality of its moorlands. They provide a dramatic landscape and a globally rare habitat. The aim is to improve the inherent landscape value, so that people might find them visually attractive places to enjoy open-air recreation. The natural and cultural heritage is enhanced for public benefit. These moors play an important role in capturing carbon as well as maintaining and controlling a pure water supply.

Historic over grazing altered species composition and caused erosion. More recently, atmospheric pollutants have and continue to change the species composition, as have wild fires. Recent environmental schemes are addressing these issues. Nevertheless, there are

still problems to solve. How are we to manage the moors to ensure the biodiversity is not lost through under grazing. In addition, there is the continuing absence of birds of prey and nesting birds.

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

Area of Impact 8:

Supporting sustainable communities

What does this mean and why does it matter?

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

A sustainable community relies on social, economic and environmental factors. Peak District National Park residents have an amazing natural and cultural heritage. People, nature and wildlife are all closely connected.

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

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

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

Connections to other areas of impact:

A National Park for everyone

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding
Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides
Preparing for a future climate
Ensuring a future for farming and land management

What we want to do:

Improve access to services

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

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

Why?

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

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

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

supporting and delivering both traditional and innovative local services.

Support the provision of locally needed housing

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

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

Why?

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

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

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

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

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