

National Park Management Plan outcomes: Natural Beauty; Climate Change and Natural Resources

The Authority's contribution: Corporate Outcome A: The landscapes of the National Park are valued for their beauty, character and natural resources and managed to adapt to the effects of climate change by ...

Action 1: *Ensuring landscapes are characterised, conserved and enhanced in accordance with their enduring and dynamic qualities (Priority level 1)*

At the end of 2008/09 we will have completed a landscape strategy and action plan that will set targets for the conservation and enhancement of the character of the National Park.

During 2007/08 we

- Produced a landscape character assessment to inform land use policies and practices for the National Park and also to inform local landscape characterisation
- Considered all planning applications within policy to protect and enhance the landscape including completing 34 section 106 agreements. 6 enforcement actions were taken related to landscape

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Produce a Strategy & Action Plan based on the new landscape character assessment and develop an appropriate way of monitoring the Authority's role
- Increase the percentage of the National Park secured within conservation agreements to 70% through the work of the Peak District Land Management Advisory Service

Action 2: *Promoting the importance of the landscapes as assets for the economy, the environment and local and other communities (Priority level 2)*

At the end of 2007/08 the percentage of the National Park where farmers and business owners have changed their practices (as a result of advice from, or action on the part of the Authority) was 82.4%. Our target for 2008/09 is 85%.

During 2007/08 we ...

- Worked with farmers and business owners through a range of national and local agri-environment schemes
- Advised the East Midlands Development Agency on research into the economic value of national parks

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Continue to work with farmers and business owners to secure participation in environmentally beneficial schemes
- Continue to influence the way in which national schemes are targeted on the values of the National Park

Conservation of the Natural Environment

Action 3: Promoting the need to protect the natural resources (such as water, soil and air quality) of the National Park (Priority level 1)

During 2008/09 we will produce an Action Plan on Climate Change for the National Park, with indicators to monitor achievement of actions.

During 2007/08 we ...

- Completed 46 agri-environment scheme applications and 12 Environmental Enhancement Scheme agreements and monitored 60 others
- Completed 13 conservation plans and responded to 83 consultations and proposals for national agri-environment schemes
- Agreed a monitoring arrangement for National Park natural environment indicators with agencies such as the Environment Agency

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Deliver agri-environment schemes, regulatory measures and project work (such as Sustainable Development Fund and Environmental Quality Mark)
- Recommend good practice on reducing carbon footprint to at least 2 external organisations
- Develop a National Park Action Plan to address climate change and begin its implementation by focussing on information to visitors, measuring carbon flux on moorlands, preparing a risk assessment for climate change and engaging with constituent local authorities

National Park Management Plan outcome: Biodiversity

The Authority's contribution: Corporate Outcome E: Increasing the quality, distinctiveness and resilience of the biodiversity of priority habitats and species consistent with climate change by...

Action 1: Influencing partners and land managers to achieve favourable (or at least recovering) Site of Special Scientific Interest condition of land in the Peak District (Priority level 1)

At the end of 2007/08 almost 75% of land designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest not owned by the Authority was in favourable or recovering condition. During 2008/09 we aim to increase this to 80%.

During 2007/08 we

- Agreed, with partners, a core funding package to continue the Moors for the Future project and made a bid for extra funding from the European Union Life project
- Worked with Natural England and other

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Develop a business plan for Moors for the Future longer term using the themes of awareness, conservation and research expertise
- Continue to work with Natural England and

Conservation of the Natural Environment

partners to provide conservation guidance and advice

partners in the Peak District Land Management Advisory Service to provide conservation advice and guidance

Action 2: Achieving favourable (or at least recovering) Site of Special Scientific Interest condition of all National Park Authority owned land (Priority level 3)

91% of the Authority's Site of Special Scientific Interest Land (SSSI) is now in favourable or recovering condition. Our target for 2008/09 is 95% in line with the government target.

During 2007/08 we ...

- Increased the proportion of our Site of Special Scientific Interest land in favourable or recovering condition
- Demonstrated the improvements in our land in terms of conservation of wildlife and enjoyment for visitors to other land managers

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Undertake further remedial work on the Site of Special Scientific Interest land on our estates such as fencing of moor on the Warslow Estate and the introduction of Highland cattle to graze purple moor grass

Action 3: Ensuring the achievement of all Biodiversity Action Plan targets (Priority level 1)

At the end of 2007/08 45% of targets in the Biodiversity Action Plan were considered to be on schedule. By the end of 2008/09 our monitoring will enable us to determine the percentage of land for each habitat that is under a conservation agreement.

During 2007/08 we ...

- Secured over £400,00 in external funding (together with others in the local Biodiversity Action Plan partnership) to achieve the restoration of 17 ponds, creation of 8 new ponds, 100 hectares of grassland management and 21 hectares of lead rake management
- Restored over 5 square kilometres of moorland (working through the Moors for the Future project)

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Continue to co-ordinate the work of conserving, restoring and enhancing Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species

National Park Management Plan outcome: Economy

The Authority's contribution: Corporate Outcome J: Sustainable prosperity is achieved through a diverse economy, capitalising on the special and distinctive environment of the National Park by ...

Action 1: *Nurturing business development that supports and contributes to the environmental economy (Priority level 2)*

There are now 77 businesses holding an Environmental Quality Award (22 new awards were made in 2007/08) and 2 Business and the Environment supporting Small Scale Tourism exchange visits were made. In 2008/09 we will measure the total number of businesses participating in Authority-led or supported schemes, with a target of 1,500.

During 2007/08 we

- Supported 12 new business start-ups, 13 projects with direct environmental enhancement and 19 new/ improved facilities/ attractions
- Created 36.7 jobs and safeguarded another 13.9

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Facilitate new, and improvements to, business products/ services by leading or supporting applications to develop successor environmental economy schemes, through regional and European funding

Action 2: *Working with partners, Government agencies and funding bodies to improve the economic performance of local firms and to influence appropriate economic investment in the area (Priority level 2)*

In 2008/09 the Authority will seek to ensure that all new and relevant economic development documents reflect the outcomes of the National Park Management Plan. Additionally, we will seek to support at least 3 priority rural initiatives in securing economic development funding.

During 2007/08 we ...

- Supported a partnership bid for a Leader programme for the Rural Action Zone area which was approved by East Midlands Development Agency and Advantage West Midlands and will provide £1.9 million funding over 6 years
- Worked with the rural development agencies and other stakeholders to try to secure funding for successor rural development schemes
- Approved our Procurement Strategy and started implementing the action plan

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Continue to work with key partnerships to secure funding for agreed priority initiatives, through regional and European funding
- Influence key national, regional and local rural development strategies covering National Park communities

Conservation of the Natural Environment

Action 3: Supporting land managers to manage the landscape sustainably whilst creating economic benefits for the wider community (Priority level 1)

At the end of 2007/08 9,997 hectares of land were in Entry Level schemes and 108,537 hectares were in Higher Level schemes. Our target for 2008/09 is to achieve 12,000 hectares for Entry Level schemes and maintain the achievement for Higher Level schemes.

During 2007/08 we ...

- Brokered 46 environmental grant applications to national schemes
- Advised 52 farmers about habitat management for birds
- Recorded a very serious decline of 50% in lapwing numbers since 2001 but took action of 30 farms to at least halt the decline
- Carried out habitat improvement through 11 hectares of rush management and 22 scrapes

In 2008/09 we will ...

- Broker agri-environment, Environmental Quality Mark and economic schemes to maintain the amount of land in Higher Level schemes. Increases will be offset by reductions as some classic Higher Level agreements end

Financial Summary - Conservation of the Natural Environment				
£,000	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Direct revenue expenditure	2,263	1,902	1,296	
Depreciation	17	20	24	
Employee costs	1,339	1,399	1,462	
Recharged support costs	315	320	330	
Total Gross Expenditure	3,934	3,641	3,112	
Income: Sales Fees and Charges	(321)	(330)	(329)	
Income: Other external funding	(2,011)	(1,800)	(1,156)	
Net Expenditure	1,602	1,511	1,627	