APPENDIX 1

PEAK DISTRICT
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2009 - 2019

Peak District National Park

Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

Peak District National Park
Landscape Strategy and Action Plan
2009 - 2019

1. Introduction and Overview

July 2009
Final Report

Document Structure

The landscapes of the Peak District National Park have been mapped, with eight landscape character areas representing broad areas of landscape which share a common identity, e.g. the White Peak. Within each area a number of landscape character types have been defined based upon the pattern of natural and cultural characteristics, e.g. Open Moors or Riverside Meadows. The following documents comprise the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan:

1. Introduction and Overview: A section that sets out the context and rationale behind the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan and links to the European Landscape Convention.

2-9. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines: A report for each of the eight landscape character areas which have been identified in the Peak District. Each report contains information from the Landscape Character Assessment, which describes the landscapes identified in the area, together with the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines[1].

2. White Peak
3. Dark Peak
4. Dark Peak Western Fringe
5. Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe
6. Derbyshire Peak Fringe
7. Derwent Valley
8. Eastern Moors
9. South West Peak

10. Landscape Action Plan: A plan which sets out how the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines will be delivered across the National Park as a whole over the next 10 years.

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[1] The Landscape Character Assessment has previously been published separately in March 2008.

Introduction

The Peak District National Park is Britain's first National Park. Taken as a whole, it is a treasured landscape that has been shaped and continues to evolve through the interaction of natural and cultural forces. It is a landscape of exceptional natural beauty that provides opportunities for outdoor recreation to millions of people.

At a local scale, the Peak District National Park consists of many individual landscapes, each valued for their particular characteristics. These landscapes contrast with surrounding industrial and urban landscapes, enriching the lives of everyone who visits, lives and works in them. They also provide many other essential services to support life and economic activity, including fresh water supply, carbon storage, farming and tourism.

The overall management of the National Park is guided by the National Park Management Plan. This Strategy and Action Plan forms one of several strategies which set out in more detail how the National Park Management Plan will be delivered. The Strategy and Action Plan will only be successful through strong partnership working in the Peak District, building on existing links between stakeholders.

This Landscape Strategy and Action Plan demonstrates how the obligations of the European Landscape Convention will be fulfilled within the Peak District National Park. The Strategy and Action Plan is effective from 2009 to 2019, when a review will take place. The Action Plan will be valid for this period but also establishes timescales for all of the actions defined.

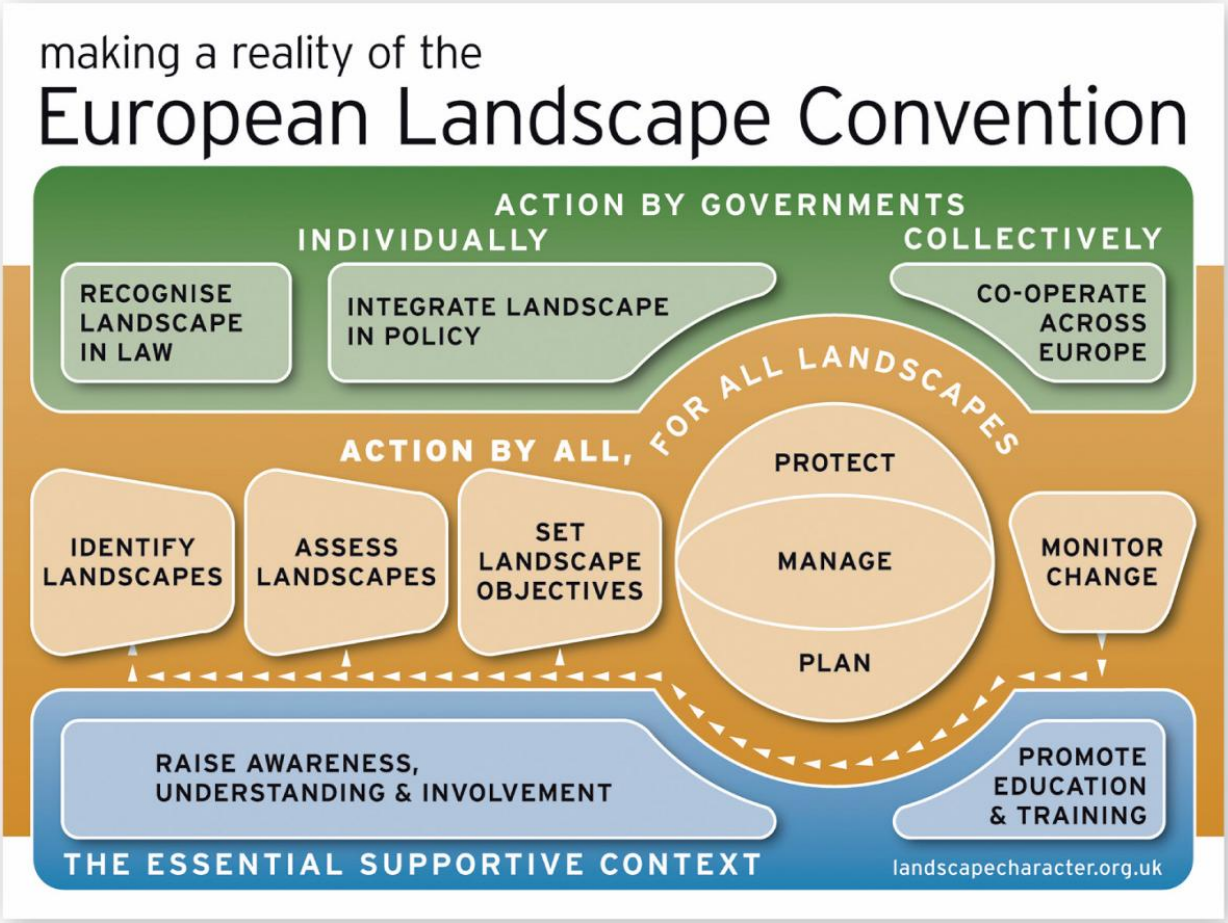
European Landscape Convention

The *European Landscape Convention* (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. The Convention establishes the need to recognise landscape in law; to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. It also encourages the integration of landscape into all relevant areas of policy, including cultural, economic and social policies.

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as:

> *"an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors"*

The diagram below illustrates the practical steps needed to implement the European Landscape Convention:



Implementing the European Landscape Convention

Defra has charged Natural England with leading the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in England, working in partnership with English Heritage. An implementation framework has been published in 2007 and revised in 2009. The framework seeks to further strengthen the protection, management and planning of landscape in England by providing a structure for the Action Plans of partners and stakeholders. European Landscape Convention Action Plans have been produced by Natural England and English Heritage, providing a national steer.

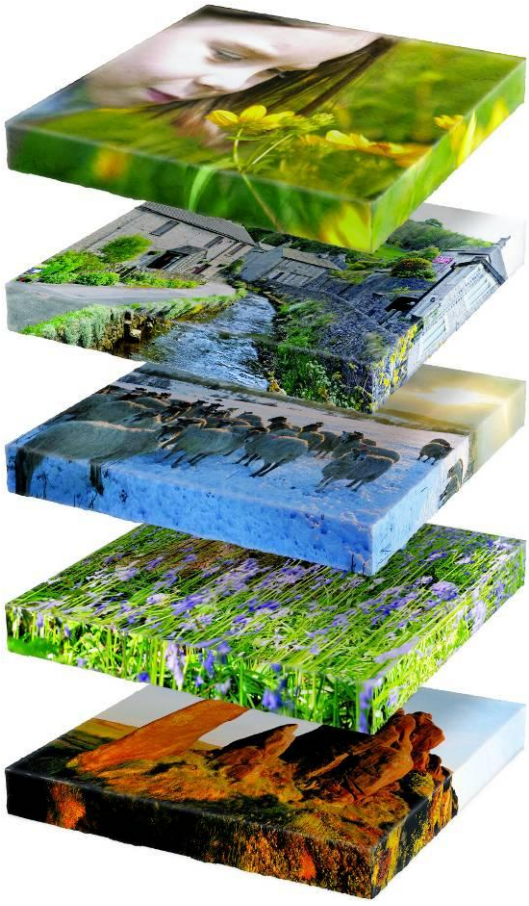
Implementing the ELC in the Peak District National Park

The Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will form a key contribution to the implementation of the ELC in the Peak District National Park. The Landscape Strategy builds on the Landscape Character Assessment completed in 2008, and provides information regarding landscape change, a vision for the future and landscape guidelines for the distinctive landscapes of the Peak District. The Landscape Action Plan will reaffirm the importance of landscape, co-ordinate existing work and guide future work to protect, manage and plan the landscapes of the Peak District, as embodied within the purposes of the National Park Management Plan.

What is Landscape?

Landscape is more than just 'the view'. It is about the relationship between people, place and nature. It is the ever-changing backdrop to our daily lives. It can mean a small patch of urban wasteland as much as a mountain range, and an urban park as much as a lowland plain.

Landscape results from the way that different components of our environment – both natural and cultural – interact together and are perceived by us. People value landscape for many different reasons. It is therefore important to understand what the landscape is like today, how it came to be like that and how it may change in the future.



Experience: Landscape is more than the sum of physical features that make up our environment. How we perceive the landscape can have an important influence on how we use or value its character and resources.

History: The landscapes of the Peak District have been shaped by human activity throughout history. It is therefore important to understand past patterns, the extent to which they have survived and how different stages in history have contributed to the character of today's landscape.

Land Use: Land use includes all of the various uses that people make of the landscape, such as settlement, farming and field enclosure, energy production and forestry. The character of the English landscape is particularly influenced by the present-day pattern of these features, as well as their historical legacy.

Wildlife: The variety of plants and animals in the English landscape has been shaped over thousands of years by a complex set of social, historical and economic factors, all operating against the physical backdrop of the landscape itself. The types and abundance of wildlife and the habitats of which they form a part can play a significant role in shaping the character - and in some cases the function - of each particular landscape.

Natural Form: Natural form includes geology, landform, river and drainage systems, soils and vegetation cover. The shape of the land, or landform, is often the main influence on the character of the landscape, especially in upland areas. Rivers and drainage systems also have an important part to play in shaping the landscape, whilst geology, soils and vegetation cover can determine the 'usefulness' of the land for agriculture, settlement and other functions.

Landscape Change

In the 1970 book 'New Lives New Landscapes' Nan Fairbrother[2] explained:

> *"Landscape…is not a static background which we inhabit, but the interaction of a society and the habitat it lives in, and if either man or the habitat changes then so inevitably must the resulting landscape.*
>
> ***Landscape = habitat + man***
>
> *…the natural environment changed by a creature who is himself constantly changing. It is thus the result of an equation which can never be stable, and if it has seemed so in the past it is because the pace of landscape change has been slow compared with our brief human generations."*

Maintaining a past landscape is not possible. Landscapes are not fixed, and are subject to constant and unpreventable forces of change which apply pressures and have different impacts upon the landscape, so that it changes in response to both human practices and changing natural processes. The aim is not to preserve a landscape created from past processes, but to ensure that valued and key characteristics which create a sense of place are maintained and enhanced into the future. There is a need to protect the cherished landscapes of the Peak District whilst accommodating necessary changes arising from social, economic and environmental necessity.

The European Landscape Convention identifies three principles of landscape action:

- **Landscape protection**: action to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by their natural or cultural value
- **Landscape management**: action to ensure sustainable development and ongoing upkeep of a landscape, guiding changes arising from social, economic and environmental necessity
- **Landscape planning**: means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes

In a National Park, designated for the national importance of the landscape, there must be a strong emphasis on landscape protection. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan reflects this priority. However, many landscapes will require a mixture of protection, management and planning. In such cases some aspects of the landscape are so valued that they must be protected, others must be allowed to evolve in a sustainable manner, whilst there may be opportunities to introduce new elements in the landscape. The landscape guidelines have been structured to clearly identify priorities for landscape protection, management and planning.

[2] Fairbrother, N., New Lives, New Landscapes, Pelican Books, London, 1970. p12.

Future Landscapes in the Peak District

There are many possible future directions for landscapes and there are particular challenges in the Peak District National Park. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan has taken account of the need to maintain functional ecosystems that provide services to support life and the economy. The need to protect the tranquillity and dark skies that are so valued in the Peak District has also been recognised.

As well as protecting valued characteristics of the Peak District, the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan proposes changes to some landscapes to enhance them and ensure that they are more resilient to climate change. Such changes include the rewetting of moorland to protect blanket bog and maximise carbon storage. Actions to reconnect rivers to more natural flood plains are also proposed to mitigate the impacts of the anticipated increase in flooding and storm events. There are also proposals for the re-wilding of some landscapes which will provide landscapes for recreation, whilst creating opportunities to expand valuable semi-natural habitats such as limestone heath. Such proposals, whilst likely to make a significant contribution to the valued characteristics of the National Park, are likely to be relatively modest in scale given the existing high landscape quality and the strong contribution that cultural heritage features make to the landscape across much of the National Park.

This is a 10-year plan, which identifies opportunities for new directions for some landscapes and is realistic about what can be achieved within this timescale. There are many alternative directions in which landscapes might change, and it is essential that changes are made with meaningful dialogue with people who live in, work in and visit the valued landscapes of the Peak District. Partnership working and the development of local landscape visions with stakeholders is the essence of this approach to landscape planning.

Policy Context

National and Regional Policy Context

Statutory Purposes of the National Park[3]

The Environment Act 1995 defined the purposes of National Parks as:

- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities

In addition to the above purposes, National Parks have a duty to:

- seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park with regard to the statutory purposes

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan contributes to the first purpose of National Parks by providing a context and direction for actions to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage within the Peak District National Park. In the context of a National Park there is a direct relationship between the terms of the Environment Act and those in the European Landscape Convention. The term 'protect' in the European Landscape Convention is equivalent to 'conserve' in the Environment Act. The terms 'manage' and 'plan' describe actions to 'enhance' the landscape through guiding necessary change and strong forward-looking action.

The Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy contribute to the second purpose by providing tools for enhancing awareness, enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the National Park. The Landscape Action Plan includes specific actions related to landscape education and to communicating the special qualities of the landscape.

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides a framework for considering future landscape change in the different landscapes of the Peak District. The documents recognise the need to accommodate necessary landscape change to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities, whilst conserving and enhancing the landscape.

Natural England Landscape Policies

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan respond to Natural England's Framework for Delivery of the ELC[4], and their emerging landscape policies[5]. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan considers all of the landscapes that are characterised by the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), aiming

[3] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/nationalparks/

[4] www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/tcm232117_tcm6-8169.pdf

[5] www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Landscape Policy- final_tcm6-9279.pdf

to provide a robust context for managing landscape change in a sustainable manner which will reinforce character and local identity. The Peak District National Park Authority has created one of the first ELC Action Plans produced in England, leading the way in the sustainable use and management of landscapes. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan places an understanding of landscape, including its associated natural and cultural heritage and landscape dynamics, at the core of sustainable resource management and planning. They establish a landscape perspective for integrated land use planning and land, water and resource management.

East Midlands Regional Plan[6], March 2009

The National Park spans four government regions but, for the purposes of planning policy, the whole of the National Park is covered by the East Midlands Regional Plan. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan complies with the policies in this Plan:

- Policy 8 (Spatial priorities in and around the Peak sub-area)

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan complies with this policy by working to reinforce the statutory designation, helping secure conservation and enhancement efforts. It also enables more focused understanding and management of cultural and natural heritage resources.

- Policy 26 (Protecting and enhancing the region's natural and cultural heritage)

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan promotes sustainable development and appropriate management, and provides an approach to the enhancement of natural and cultural heritage.

- Policy 30 (Priorities for managing and increasing woodland cover)

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will be able to identify areas for woodland creation and feed this information into the review of the current regional target for increasing woodland cover.

- Policy 31 (Priorities for the management and enhancement of the region's landscape)

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will provide a means of understanding, protecting and enhancing National Park landscapes in a sustainable manner and to a high standard. It also provides a strong context for future policies and projects.

A Regional Landscape Character Assessment is currently being produced for the East Midlands Region. This regional assessment will be a key reference for regional spatial planning. It has built on the results of the 2007 Peak District Landscape Character Assessment.

[6] www.gos.gov.uk/497296/docs/229865/East_Midlands_Regional_Plan2.pdf

Local Policy Context

Peak District National Park Management Plan (2006-2011)[7]

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides an important tool to deliver the vision of the published National Park Management Plan 2006-2011:

- a conserved and enhanced Peak District where the natural beauty and quality of its landscapes, its biodiversity, tranquillity, cultural heritage and the settlements within it continue to be valued for their diversity and richness.
- a welcoming Peak District where people from all parts of our diverse society have the opportunity to visit, appreciate, understand and enjoy the National Park's special qualities.
- a living, modern and innovative Peak District that contributes positively to vibrant communities for both residents and people in neighbouring urban areas, and demonstrates a high quality of life whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park.
- a viable and thriving Peak District economy that capitalises on its special qualities and promotes a strong sense of identity.

The Landscape Character Assessment establishes a spatial context for considering issues, policies and actions from the Management Plan. An understanding of the diversity of landscapes across the Peak District, will make it easier to interpret and implement the Management Plan.

The current National Park Management Plan establishes a specific landscape outcome:

- a clear characterisation of the whole of the landscape and it is conserved and enhanced in accordance with that characterisation.

The Landscape Character Assessment[8] (2008) provides a clear characterisation of the landscape. It has identified, mapped and described landscape character types and areas, capturing the variation of the landscapes of the Peak District. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides the means to ensure that the whole landscape is conserved and enhanced in accordance with that characterisation. The Landscape Character Assessment also provides a framework to support spatial planning and other outcomes of the Management Plan, including those related to planning policy, cultural heritage, and biodiversity. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan is part of a suite of strategies for the Peak District National Park. The text below highlights links with key policies, plans and strategies.

[7] www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/npmp.pdf

[8] www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/index/pubs/lca.htm

Local Development Framework[9]

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act established far-reaching changes for the English planning system, the most significant being the replacement of the Development Plan with a Local Development Framework, which requires an evidence-based and spatial approach to planning for sustainable development. The Peak District National Park Authority is currently preparing a Local Development Framework. The Local Development Framework must reflect the valued characteristics of the Peak District. The Landscape Character Assessment provides a valuable spatial context for planning and a description of the character of the landscape. The Landscape Strategy provides information on landscape change and guidelines that can inform policy development. However, the Local Plan and emerging Local Development Framework provide the definitive policy position with regard to planning matters in the Peak District National Park.

Cultural Heritage Strategy[10]

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan integrates cultural heritage management into a wider landscape context. They promote sustainable planning and management of all landscape characteristics, and an understanding of interactions which may affect cultural heritage elements, therefore supporting the existing Cultural Heritage Strategy.

Biodiversity Action Plan[11]

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan aids in identifying actions to restore and (re-)create landscapes. They provide understanding of condition, driving forces and interactions which may affect biodiversity. The Strategy and Action Plan helps to reinforce social, cultural and economic benefits of actions to enhance biodiversity resources. They also provide a basis for monitoring biodiversity and other landscape elements.

Peak District Design Guide (Supplementary Planning Document)[12]

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides a point of reference for design, complementing the existing National Park Design Guide. The landscape guidelines do not provide detailed design guidance, but inform understanding of the landscape context of a proposed development and the implications of any landscape schemes associated with development.

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[9] www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/index/looking-after/plansandpolicies/ldf.htm

[10] www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/chstrategy.pdf

[11] www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/bap.pdf

[12] www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/designguide.pdf

Conservation Area Appraisals

A Conservation Area is defined as an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are 109 Conservation Areas in the Peak District National Park. Conservation Area Appraisals are currently being completed to identify the special qualities that make a place worthy of designation as a Conservation Area, and to look at ways in which the character of a place can be conserved or enhanced through future changes.

Village Plans

Many communities in the Peak District have researched and written Village Plans. Writing a Village Plan can be an excellent way for residents to think about what they value in the landscape, and how they can work together with outside agencies to look after it, understand it better and make sure that visitors are well informed. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan contains information about the character and priorities for different landscapes, providing a strategic context for local studies.

Climate Change Action Plan[13]

There is now an overwhelming body of scientific evidence highlighting the serious and urgent nature of climate change. It is recognised that the impacts of climate change will result in changes to the landscapes of the Peak District, with particular impacts affecting some landscapes more than others. A Climate Change Action Plan has been produced that considers the response to climate change across the Peak District National Park. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan can be used to enhance the spatial understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes, existing and new. It will aid in monitoring which landscapes and associated elements are being affected by climate change and thus help to ensure an appropriately focused response.

Renewable energy is important in helping to combat the effects of climate change. There are many opportunities within the National Park to develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs. These include the current technology of solar power, ground source heat pumps, anaerobic digesters, wind and water power and others. This list is not comprehensive and new technologies are being developed. Some of these renewable energy technologies have a landscape scale impact; these particularly include water power, wind power and wood fuel projects. The Strategy identifies the landscape character types which could potentially accommodate water and wood fuel schemes, either by utilising existing landscape features, such as rivers and woodland, and helping to maintain them, or by creating new features where appropriate.

[13] www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/climatechangeactionplandraft.pdf

Recreation Strategy

The Recreation Strategy is currently being prepared and the landscape implications of the proposed actions will need to be considered. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will help to provide a spatial dimension for understanding how landscape character contributes to opportunities for, and is affected by, actions associated with recreation.

Minerals Strategic Action Plan

The Minerals Strategic Action Plan expresses how some of the actions identified in the National Park Management Plan with respect to minerals will be achieved. In addition, it states how the Authority's statutory duties regarding minerals will be carried out. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides general actions and specific guidelines to reduce the landscape impacts of minerals operations.

Sustainable Transport Action Plan

The Sustainable Transport Action Plan is currently being prepared. It will take forward and build on the actions of the National Park Management Plan to improve traffic, travel and accessibility for residents and visitors to the National Park. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides general actions and specific guidelines to reduce the landscape impacts of transport and its associated infrastructure on the National Park.

Land management and grant schemes

Agri-environment schemes

Landscape Character Assessment has a key role to play in targeting agri-environment payments to farmers, because a main objective of the scheme is to maintain and enhance landscape quality and character. Agri-environment schemes are not part of the policy context, and instead represent a delivery mechanism to achieve the objectives of the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will enhance the evidence base and understanding regarding local landscape character and landscape change for agri-environment scheme targeting.

The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan provides a robust evidence base and context for identifying all environmental assets on a farm. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will enable better analysis of the presence and condition of assets and how these are changing. They will also provide detailed advice on appropriate management strategies for maintaining or enhancing assets at a landscape scale in a manner that will support or enhance landscape character.

English Woodland Grant Scheme

The English Woodland Grant Scheme consists of six grants for the creation and stewardship of woodlands, and is operated by the Forestry Commission. Understanding how woodland contributes to landscape character will inform work associated with the different grant schemes. It helps to inform landscape design plans, ecological assessments, and historical and cultural assessments. Similarly, it can inform work for the Woodland Regeneration Grant and the Woodland Improvement Grant, both of which aim to manage changes in existing woodlands, and the Woodland Creation Grant, which seeks to enhance the landscape through woodland creation. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan can also inform the production of Woodland Management Plans under the Woodland Management Grant by helping to provide context and directions for future woodland management.

Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation has been an essential process in the preparation of the Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan. A series of consultation events were carried out with a range of stakeholders, aimed at enhancing understanding of how the Peak District landscapes are changing and how they may change into the future from many different perspectives. The purpose was to capture an understanding of the landscape from people who live in, work in and shape it and to ensure that the resulting publication was realistic, useful and applicable to the work of the stakeholders. The different consultation events are summarised below.

Your Vision: Your Peak District National Park

Seven community consultation events were held during autumn 2008 to inform the production of the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan and the Peak District National Park Local Development Framework. Events were held in Kettleshulme, Hathersage, Hayfield, Warslow, Bakewell, Bradfield and Holme, with participants invited from local community organisations, such as parish councils, civic societies and local forums as well as members of the National Park Authority.

The aims of the events were:

- to inform local community champions and local stakeholders about the Local Development Framework (LDF) and Landscape Strategy
- to engage local community champions and local stakeholders in defining the key issues relevant to their local area affecting Peak District landscape and planning policies
- to identify landscape quality objectives that should appear in the Landscape Strategy and in LDF policies

The events used Ketso mind maps to capture information about: Energy and Natural Resources; Farming and Land Use; History and Heritage; Jobs and Business; Recreation and Tourism; Sense of Community; Traffic and Transport; and Wildlife and Nature.

Officer Workshop: Issues of change

On 1 December 2008 a workshop was held at Aldern House, Bakewell. Participants were members of the National Park staff. The purpose of the workshop was to gain understanding of how officers perceived landscape change through their work. Participants considered landscape change through a range of driving forces recognised as attributable for landscape change. These were: Conservation; Climate change implications; Demography, housing and employment; Tourism and recreation; Resource and land use; Transport and infrastructure; and Energy. Data was collected spatially using large format maps and tables enabling officers to record information for each landscape character area or specific locations.

Officer Workshop: Landscape visions and the ELC

On 12 February 2009 a workshop was held at Aldern House, Bakewell. Participants were National Park staff and members. The purpose of the workshop was to consider landscape futures. Participants were asked to consider innovative future visions based on their understanding of landscapes and the issues of change acting upon them. Participants were also asked to consider which current policies, plans and programmes could be linked to the European Landscape Convention (ELC) Action Plan and any new policies, plans and programmes which could help to strengthen activity associated with the ELC Action Plan.

Results were collated for the different landscape character areas using large format maps and tables.

Communities of Interest Workshop

On 13th February 2009 a workshop was held at Losehill Hall, Castleton. Participants were regional stakeholders with an interest in the Peak District and how it may be shaped in the future. The purpose of the workshop was to gain understanding from the stakeholders regarding landscape change and landscape futures from their work perspectives. Participants were asked to discuss and describe issues of landscape change for each landscape character area. They were then asked to consider innovative future visions based on their understanding. Participants also considered which current policies, plans and programmes could be linked to the ELC Action Plan and new policies, plans and programmes which could help to strengthen activity associated with the ELC Action Plan.

Findings from all of the above events are detailed in individual reports produced for each workshop. Data is also recorded in a series of overviews where information from all of the workshops is collated and combined for each landscape character area.

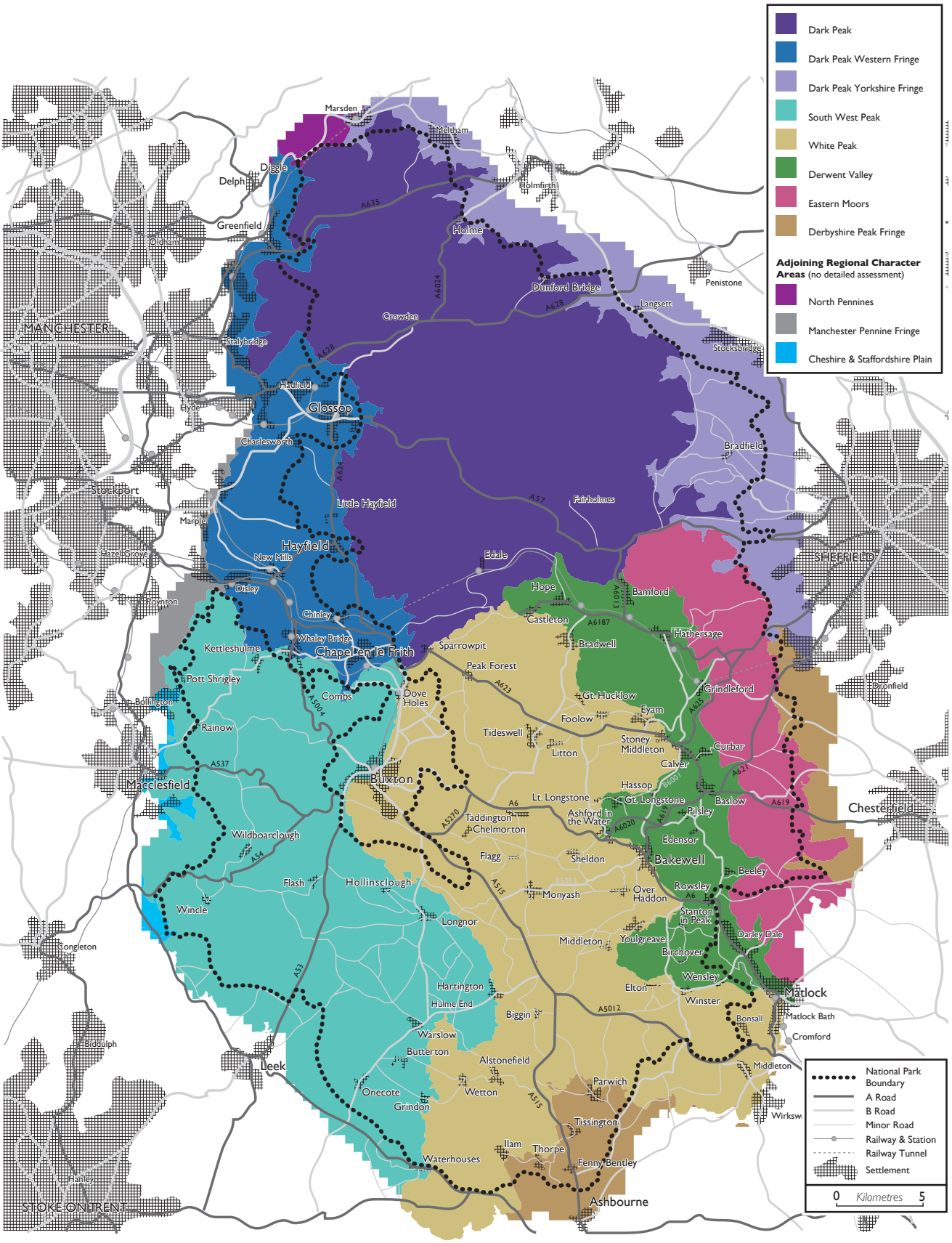
How to Use the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

When considering a possible landscape change, it is important to consider the valued characteristics of the landscape and how they will be affected by the change. The Landscape Strategy and Action Plan helps to raise an understanding of the character and dynamics of the different landscapes of the Peak District National Park. There are many local variations in landscape and it is essential that site-based decisions take account of local circumstances.

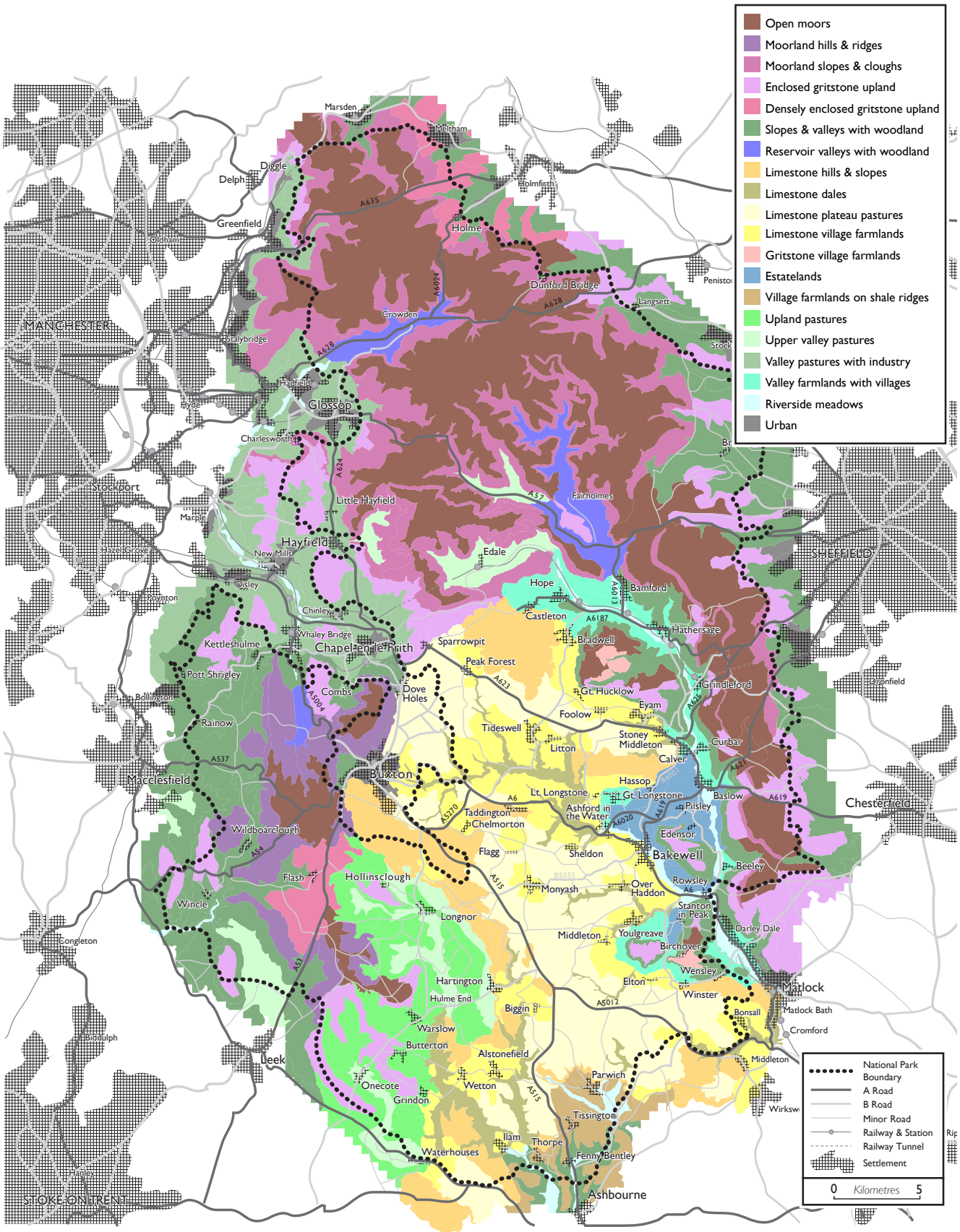
Decisions about landscape changes should, wherever possible, be made through discussion and partnership amongst people who live in, work in and visit an area. The steps below describe how to use information from the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan to inform decisions about landscape change.

I. Use the Landscape Character Assessment map overleaf or the web link, to locate which landscape character area is relevant to the proposal for landscape change
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/lcamap
II. Refer to the chapter of the Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy to gain an understanding of how the landscape has developed
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/lca
III. Using the Landscape Strategy, consider which of the landscape guidelines are relevant to the proposal for landscape change
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/landscapestrategy
IV. Assess the effect that the proposal will have on the landscape and, if appropriate, modify the proposal to ensure a positive contribution to landscape character and sense of place

Map of Landscape Character Areas



Map of Landscape Character Types



Peak District National Park
Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

2. White Peak

July 2009
Final Report

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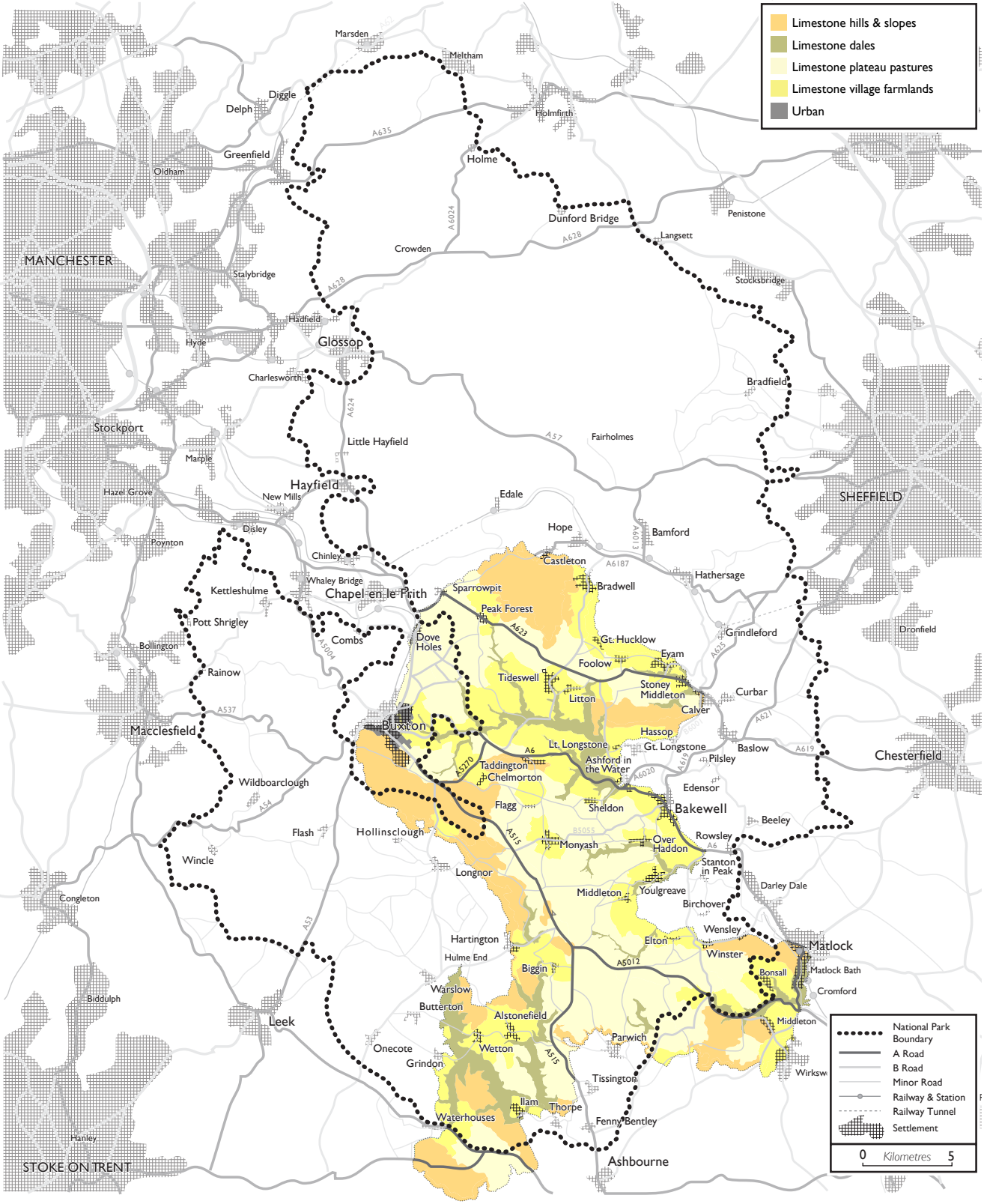

Overall strategy

The underlying limestone geology has a dominant and unifying effect on the character of the White Peak. This unity is emphasised by the recurrent visual themes of the high open plateau, stone walls, pastoral farmland and villages built of local stone, to create a strong regional character. The condition of the landscape is variable, with a generally well maintained and intact historic settlement and field pattern. There is, however, evidence of a substantial historic loss of semi-natural habitats; a loss or deterioration of some features such as lead mining remains, dewponds and traditional plantation woodlands; and dereliction in some of the wilder parts of the region. The limestone villages and dales are an important focus for many visitors to the National Park, and strengthening their character will ensure this focus can continue into the future.

The overall strategy for the White Peak should therefore be to:

> ***Protect and manage the distinctive and valued historic character of the settled, agricultural landscapes, whilst seeking opportunities to enhance the wild character and diversity of remoter areas.***

This can be achieved by ensuring that:

- there is a sustainable land management system to uphold the existing settled, agricultural landscapes
- there is a network of vibrant communities sustaining traditional buildings and settlements
- there are innovative and proactive schemes to restore and create distinctive White Peak habitats on suitable sites

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the White Peak.

Limestone Village Farmlands

This is a historic landscape and the most settled agricultural landscape of the White Peak, characterised by repeating patterns of narrow strip fields usually resulting from the enclosure of Medieval open fields. These field systems surround associated limestone villages with traditional stone-built buildings. The priority should be to protect the historic pattern of enclosure, the nucleated settlement pattern and the integrity and setting of traditional buildings, whilst restoring the biodiversity of the pastoral farmland within a sustainable farming system.

Limestone Plateau Pastures

This is a more recent, planned agricultural landscape with a regular pattern of historic, small to medium sized, rectangular fields, usually resulting from the enclosure of Medieval wastes and commons, and discrete groups/blocks of trees. The priority should be to protect the historic pattern of enclosure and the wooded character, whilst restoring the biodiversity of the pastoral farmland and expanding boundary trees where appropriate, within a sustainable farming system.

Limestone Hills and Slopes

This is a higher, more remote landscape with frequent, and in places extensive, patches of rough ground. The priority is to protect and restore the diversity of the more remote landscapes and, where possible, to create a mosaic of extensive areas of unenclosed limestone grassland, heath, scrub and woodland.

Limestone Dales

This is an intimate, secluded and largely semi-natural landscape, where views are often tightly controlled by landform and tree cover. The priority in this landscape is to protect and manage the mosaic of internationally important grassland, scrub, woodland, rock and river habitats, and the cultural heritage features, while seeking opportunities to enhance diversity and opportunities for people to enjoy the landscape.

Issues of change

Conservation

The White Peak is a pastoral landscape dominated by historic patterns of settlement and enclosure with relics of its post- industrial heritage. Semi-natural landscapes are largely confined to the areas with steeper slopes or poorer soils, most notably in the Limestone Dales, whilst large parts of the plateau have been agriculturally improved with only relic areas of limestone heathland surviving. These components are all essential for the character of the landscape. Important cultural heritage and historic landscapes, including field patterns, industrial heritage and mineral remains, are in poor condition or threatened by the reworking of mineral resources and agricultural improvement. Field barns are now often redundant and are at risk from abandonment and material robbing. Animal welfare standards mean that they are no longer appropriate for housing stock. Scrub is an important transitional landscape between the open grasslands and enclosed woodlands in the dales, but changes in agriculture have altered the balance, increasing the quantity of scrub.

Climate change implications

With drier summers predicted, the water flow in limestone rivers and streams may become more seasonal. It is likely that increased temperatures will lead to change in the composition of woodlands, limestone grasslands, and limestone heath. It may also result in agricultural changes such as increased suitability for arable crops or, with wetter winters, increased demand for winter housing for livestock. All these issues pose a threat to the character and visual diversity of the landscape.

Demography, housing and employment

The number and size of existing settlements have created a demand for new housing and commercial development in the White Peak. There is very limited potential for opportunistic or large scale sites which could provide for this. Further development could affect the character of the historic settlement pattern and its associated field boundaries. The White Peak is, in parts, well settled with villages, and it is a popular area, often for people who commute outside the area and people who work from home. The impact of this is that house prices are relatively high and affordable housing is in short supply. Some parts of the area, such as Litton and Tideswell, are popular locations for second homes and this further affects demand and pricing. In recent years, there has been an increase in planning applications to convert existing traditional buildings into housing. If this trend continues it could affect the character of the landscape, particularly the more sparsely settled areas where evidence of the effects of residential properties, such as car parking or lighting, is currently very limited.

Tourism and recreation

Specific locations within the White Peak meet the recreational needs of large numbers of people. These areas, particularly the Limestone Dales, are cherished and valued by the residents and visitors. There is localised heavy recreational pressure for active sports such as mountain biking and driving or use of motorised off-road vehicles.

Farming and forestry

The White Peak is a largely traditional pastoral landscape, where land is managed at a moderate intensity, allowing occasional patches or fields of more species-rich grassland to survive in places. There has been significant intensification of use, mainly in the Plateau Pastures, which has probably resulted in a substantial loss of natural landscapes. Generally this has not had an impact on the historic stone walled field pattern, which is a significant feature of the area. In places, however, the boundaries are less well maintained, particularly on some of the higher and more steeply sloping ground, where grazing has sometimes ceased. Agricultural intensification has been accompanied by dereliction of traditional stone field barns and an increase in large modern agricultural buildings for housing livestock. Changes to the agricultural economy have resulted in farm diversification. A landscape such as the White Peak, with strong visitor numbers, provides opportunity for tourism-based diversification. Such changes to agricultural practices could result in landscape change.

Both scrub and secondary woodland have increased extensively in the Limestone Dales over the last 100 years, resulting in a more wooded landscape but with the loss of valued views and species-rich grassland in places. In the Plateau Pastures many of the characteristic linear shelterbelts, small plantation woodlands and boundary trees are threatened by neglect, with ageing trees and little replacement planting.

Minerals and resources

Quarries in the White Peak serve local and national demand for limestone used by the construction, cement and chemical industries. In addition, there is a national demand for vein minerals, e.g. fluorspar, used by the chemical industry. There are many landscape impacts associated with these sites, including visual intrusion, adverse effects on the historic landscapes and cultural heritage features, wildlife habitats, associated infrastructure and transportation of products, and tranquillity. There is also pressure to extend the size of the quarries and prolong quarrying beyond the dates of current planning permissions. In places quarrying has gone below the water table, resulting in an entirely new landscape.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national demand for renewable energy schemes, particularly wind power. In addition there is increasing potential for solar and water power, and other renewable energy

sources. Inappropriate wind generation projects could adversely impact on landscape character, the setting of historic features and landscapes, amenity value and tranquillity. Appropriately sited and designed small-scale hydroelectric schemes could provide opportunities for the restoration of historic features such as mills, ponds and leats. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables. There are limited opportunities for woodland management to diversify and provide local wood fuel.

Road safety is a major issue in the White Peak, leading to an increase in number and size of road signs. High levels of vehicle use are increasing damage to roads, walls and verges, leading to a loss of historic features, and creating an increased demand for parking.

Landscape guidelines

WHITE PEAK	Limestone Village Farmlands	Limestone Plateau Pastures	Limestone Hills & Slopes	Limestone Dales
Protect				
Protect the strongly nucleated settlement pattern of villages and scattered farms	●	◐		
Protect and maintain the historic field pattern	●	●	◐	○
Protect and maintain historic drystone walls	●	●	◐	◐
Protect and maintain historic field barns	●	●	◐	○
Manage				
Manage and enhance surviving areas of natural landscapes	◐	◐	●	●
Enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland	◐	◐	●	●
Manage traditional plantation woodlands	◐	◐		
Manage and enhance woodlands				●
Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees	◐	◐		○
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	○	○	◐	◐

WHITE PEAK	Limestone Village Farmlands	Limestone Plateau Pastures	Limestone Hills & Slopes	Limestone Dales
Manage (Continued)				
Manage the network of roads to maintain character and local access	●	●	○	
Manage historic mineral landscapes	◐	◐	◐	○
Plan				
Create areas of limestone grassland and heath	○	○	●	●
Create new native broadleaved woodland	○	○	◐	
Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings	○	◐	◐	○
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs		○		○

● This is a priority throughout the landscape character type

◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features

○ This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect the strongly nucleated settlement pattern of villages and scattered farms

The character of the White Peak is typified by the historic pattern and distinctive vernacular style of its small limestone villages. In order to maintain the integrity of the historic fabric, character and setting of settlements and buildings, new development and conversions should respond positively to the historical settlement pattern, density, local materials and building traditions. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can also impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Protect and maintain the historic field pattern

Field pattern is a prominent feature in the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures, reflecting the historic character of these landscapes. It is important that these field patterns are protected, particularly in the Limestone Village Farmlands where the enclosure reflects the earlier, Medieval, open field system. Where the field pattern has become fragmented through the removal of field boundaries it is important to avoid further loss and to look for opportunities to restore primary boundaries along highways, footpaths and farm and parish boundaries.

Protect and maintain historic drystone walls

Drystone walls, and associated features such as gateposts, are an important historic feature in the limestone landscapes of the White Peak. In places the standard of walls is declining and there is a need to enhance their maintenance.

Protect and maintain historic field barns

Traditional farm buildings are of significant value to the character of the landscape and it is important to maintain the fabric and appearance of such buildings. Isolated field barns are a special cultural feature in the White Peak, especially in the Plateau Pastures. Where they can no longer be maintained in agricultural use, careful consideration needs to be given to appropriate alternatives. Changes to the appearance of either the building or its surroundings should be avoided, especially where these are not in keeping with the rural character of the landscape. Conversion to residential use would be particularly inappropriate in a region where settlement is strongly nucleated in small villages.

Manage

Manage and enhance surviving areas of natural landscapes

Extensive areas of semi-natural grassland and more localised patches of heath are landscape features of the Limestone Dales and Limestone Hills and Slopes. These areas support diverse plant and animal communities and they should be conserved as a priority. Lack of grazing has resulted in some areas reverting to scrub and woodland. There is a need to identify areas that are a priority for scrub clearance and others where retention of scrub or woodland regeneration will be more appropriate and will provide habitat diversity. Appropriate grazing and scrub control should be carried out as a priority to maintain a mosaic of diverse landscapes whilst respecting cultural heritage.

Enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many of the enclosed grasslands in the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species and visual diversity. There is a need to manage these pastures in a more sustainable way that restores or conserves species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved pastures should also be sought, particularly in the Limestone Village Farmlands.

Manage traditional plantation woodlands

In the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures there are linear or rectangular shelterbelts and groups of trees around farmsteads and settlements, and on the site of old lead mine workings. These are often not managed and suffering from dereliction. Opportunities should be sought to ensure their continuity, enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies. To mitigate new development, new plantation woodlands may be appropriate in localised areas where they maintain or enhance existing landscape character. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade, and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Manage and enhance woodlands

Larger woodlands are only a feature in the Limestone Dales, where there is a mixture of both ancient and secondary woods. Many of these woods are neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Some have been recently managed under the Ravine WoodLIFE Project, and further opportunities should be sought to increase diversity and improve woodland productivity whilst conserving cultural heritage features. Plantation woodlands in the Limestone Dales should be managed to create a more semi-natural structure and composition, and extended through natural

regeneration. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies. A balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention of important open landscapes and vistas.

Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees

Individual and groups of linear boundary trees are important landscape features in localised areas of the Limestone Plateau Pastures, e.g. along existing and historic transport routes. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure whilst seeking opportunities, where appropriate, to extend and replace boundary trees. Individual or groups of trees within settlements also contribute significantly to village landscapes. These should be managed to ensure their continuity whilst addressing health and safety issues and residents' amenity.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to maximise opportunities for healthy recreation and to enjoy the landscape. This can be achieved easily by landscape management measures such as surfacing, and by controlling inappropriate use to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests.

Manage the network of roads to maintain character and local access

The network of roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate recreational driving. Opportunities should be sought to manage the increasing size and number of highway signs.

Manage historic mineral landscapes

An important characteristic feature which runs throughout all landscape character types are the historic mineral workings, particularly the remains of lead working. Landscapes associated with historic mineral extraction should be retained and managed, including, where appropriate, providing interpretation of their history.

Plan

Create areas of limestone grassland and heath

Since the 1940s the trend in agriculture has been towards more intensive farming methods. This trend has been especially marked on the poorer land of the Limestone Hills and Slopes. To a lesser

extent this has also occurred in the Limestone Dales, where patches of formerly rough land have been converted to improved pasture. This has resulted in a gradual decline in the diversity of the region, including the loss of many cultural heritage features. There are opportunities to create extensive areas of unenclosed limestone grassland and heath, and to extend and link existing patches, particularly within the Limestone Hills and Slopes, by natural regeneration and creation. In places, there may be localised opportunities to create grassland or heathland habitats above dale brows in the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures areas. Expansion should not occur where this would adversely impact on cultural heritage features and historic landscapes.

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are localised opportunities to extend woodland cover, without affecting cultural heritage and biodiversity features and historic landscapes, within the Limestone Hills and Slopes. There are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration and by planting, although a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention of limestone grassland/heath and scrub. In places there may be localised opportunities to extend Limestone Dales woodland over the dale brow into the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures. This should be done where it would not adversely impact on important cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings

Parts of the White Peak have been heavily influenced by vein mineral extraction and limestone quarrying, with large active quarries in the Limestone Hills and Slopes and Limestone Plateau Pastures. Modern mineral workings should be restored to maximise visual amenity, biodiversity, recreational, educational and heritage value. The aim should be to use the land to create semi-natural landscapes, which blend into the surrounding landscape.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are localised opportunities for the development of water power, solar power, local wood fuel supplies, anaerobic digestion and other renewable energy sources. Opportunities should be sought within new development and management of woodland to increase local renewable energy usage, where it would have a positive impact on the character of the area and its component parts.

Peak District National Park

Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

3. Dark Peak

July 2009

Final Report

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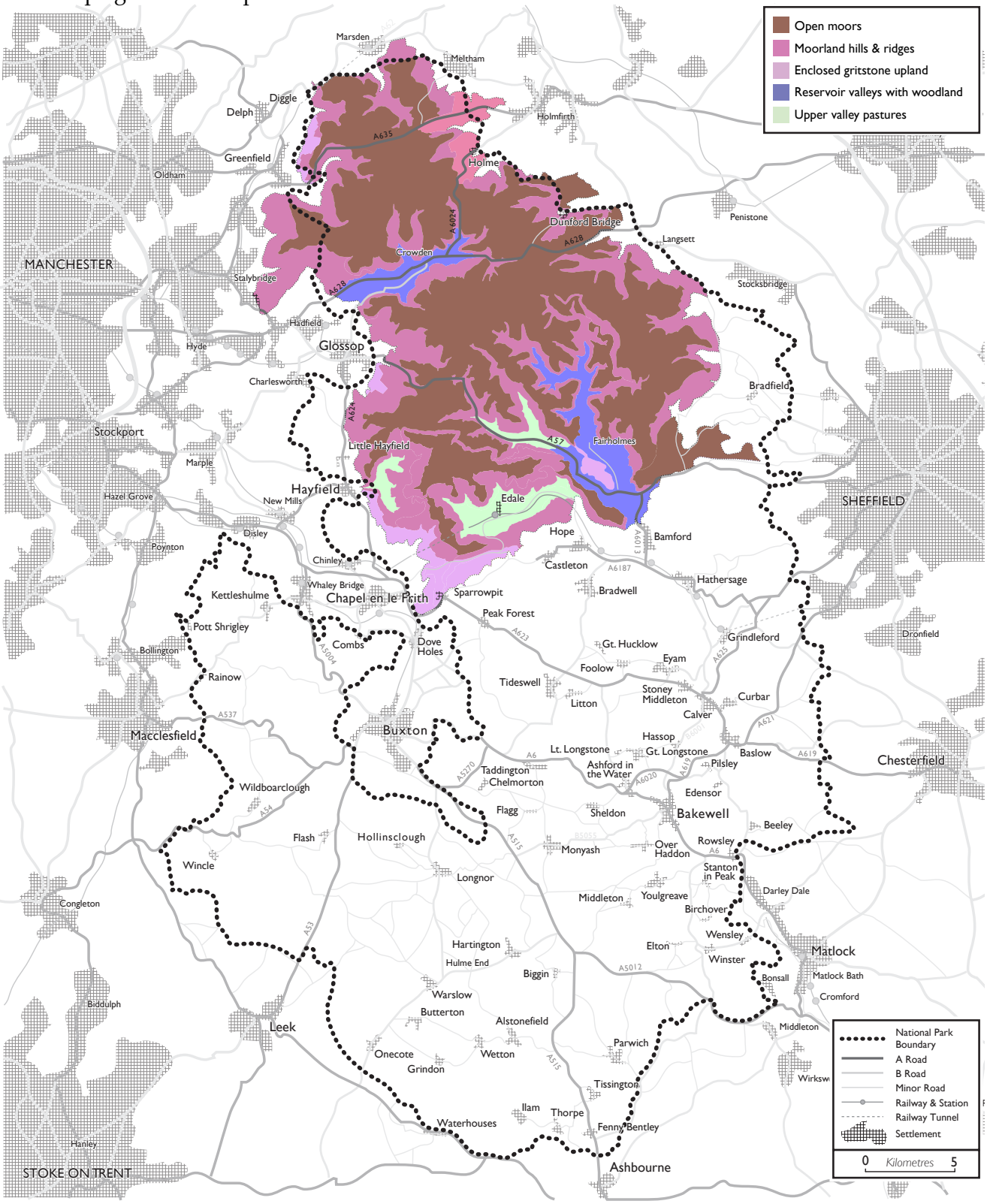

Overall strategy

The underlying geology of the Dark Peak creates a dramatic, upland landscape. The Dark Peak has long been influenced by human activity but retains a distinctly tranquil and remote character; despite intervention it is still a vital landscape. The character contrasts significantly with the more settled landscapes which surround it and this valued contrast should be maintained or, where appropriate, enhanced. In places transportation routes affect tranquillity. There is an opportunity to enhance condition, ensuring ecological integrity and robustness in all of the landscape types. Moorland landscapes in the Dark Peak are likely to be particularly vulnerable to climate change. However, restoring blanket bog to an active healthy condition does provide opportunities for the Dark Peak moors to contribute significantly to carbon sequestration rather than contributing to net carbon release, as in some areas at present. Any changes must be integrated with land uses such as water management, agriculture, grouse moor management and recreation, as appropriate.

The overall strategy for the Dark Peak should therefore be to:

> ***Protect the remoteness, wildness, open character and tranquillity of the Dark Peak landscapes, and manage these landscapes to mitigate the impacts of climate change.***

This can be achieved by ensuring that there are:

- sustainable land management systems capable of supporting appropriate land uses linked to the needs of both moorland and enclosed land
- measures to restore degraded moorland landscapes to good condition, delivering effective public benefits including carbon sequestration, water supply, flood risk control and access
- appropriate measures to enhance the recreational and educational value of these landscapes

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Dark Peak.

Open Moors

This is the most open and unsettled landscape in the Peak District, characterised by expansive open views with blanket bog and upland heath. Priorities are to protect or enhance the integrity of moorlands, which are currently in poor condition; to manage obvious linear features such as fencing to enhance the open character; and to maintain the character of the landscape and its component parts within a sustainable upland management system, integrating land uses such as livestock farming, water supply and grouse shooting with carbon sequestration, recreation and amenity.

Moorland Slopes and Cloughs

This is a steeply sloping landscape with dramatic geology such as scree slopes and gritstone outcrops, as well as a diversity of other features including flushes, springs, rush pastures and clough woodlands. Priorities for this landscape character type should be to enhance landscape integrity and connectivity, particularly of the clough woods. This should be achieved through woodland expansion and conservation, whilst maintaining the valued recreational and cultural heritage resources and controlling associated localised impacts such as footpath erosion, within a sustainable land management system.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is a sparsely settled pastoral upland landscape. Priorities for the landscape include maintaining the historic pattern of sparse settlement and enclosure, and protecting and managing the enclosed character of the landscape, whilst enhancing the ecological value and connectivity of wet pasture in a mixed farming regime.

Upper Valley Pastures

This is a lower lying pastoral landscape with dispersed gritstone farmsteads and cottages as well as a small nucleated settlement. Priorities for this landscape are to protect this historical settlement and enclosure pattern and the views into and out of settlements, whilst enhancing and increasing the extent of habitats within a sustainable farming system.

Reservoir Valleys with Woodland

This landscape has been heavily influenced by human activity with reservoirs, transport routes and large plantation woodlands. The priorities for this landscape include protecting and enhancing the connectivity between semi-natural woodland, replacing coniferous woodland with native, broadleaved species where appropriate; and enhancing recreation and educational opportunities, climate mitigation and the existing, historical enclosure patterns.

Issues of change

Conservation

The Dark Peak is a relatively 'wild' upland landscape dominated by large expanses of unenclosed moorland dissected by steep narrow cloughs, with both broader farmed valleys and wooded reservoir valleys in places. The extensive blanket bogs over deep peat have, in particular, been significantly degraded over a considerable period of time through impacts such as atmospheric pollution, wildfires and historic management practices such as heavy grazing and burning. Where upland pastoral landscapes exist, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Moor, management regimes and grazing have left species-poor grass moorland, signalling a loss of heath species and of wet rush habitats. Since the early 1980s these trends have been slowed and even reversed to some extent by measures such as the Peak District Moorland Restoration Project (and more latterly Moors for the Future), the introduction of the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in 1988 and more sustainable management by moorland owners. Changes in agricultural practice have led to a simplification of landscapes. Woodlands are generally limited within this landscape, although clough woods in the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs provide unique habitats. In the Reservoir Valleys with Woodland, the associated woodland planting often tends to be coniferous, and in some places this can isolate broadleaved and ancient woodland resources.

The altitude, topography and associated climate of the Dark Peak have resulted in its particular past human use. This is evidenced by extensive early prehistoric (Mesolithic) landscapes underlying the peat cover of the high moors, along with more visible examples of past human activity such as peat cutting relics, tracks, hollow-ways and other routes across the moors. All of these features are threatened by extensive peat erosion, wildfires and inappropriate moorland management. Away from the moors the historic settlement and enclosure patterns, such as the Booths at Edale, remain relatively intact.

Climate change implications

The Open Moors and the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs are likely to be particularly vulnerable to climate change through increased fire risk; increased drying, desiccation and erosion of the peat; increased flash floods; vegetation changes such as possible bracken spread; and loss of upland species (many of the characteristic moorland birds are likely to decline). There may also be changes in moorland management as a result of increased water demand, decline in grouse numbers and changes in recreational pressure. These changes can affect the overall landscape character, biodiversity, and the cultural heritage component within and beneath the peat. Down slope, changes are likely to adversely affect water quality and flood risk. More positively, there is potential for this landscape to be a key resource for dealing with climate change; rewetted uplands could sequester carbon efficiently alongside other land uses. The Reservoir Valleys with Woodland may

be affected by changing management approaches as water catchment and management become national and international priorities.

Demography, housing and employment

The Dark Peak is characterised by very limited settlement with historic farmsteads and small clustered settlements off the main plateau. Changes in the farming economy and farming population coupled with the attraction of a rural lifestyle have meant that some farm properties, particularly on the peripheries of the Dark Peak, are no longer exclusively working farms. Instead, they exist as large domestic properties at times associated with small-scale, part time or 'hobby' farming, and sometimes with horse pasturing. Such ownership changes can be associated with separation of farmstead and land holdings, resulting in increased trends to isolated, large modern agricultural buildings. These large, agricultural buildings can be of a scale at odds with the surrounding buildings and landscape, particularly when located away from farmsteads. In some cases these have been screened with tree planting, although such mitigation is not always appropriate, particularly in the more open landscapes. The unsettled nature of the landscape means that views from Dark Peak settlements, such as Edale, are important for continuing the relationship between landscape and settlement. Despite this unsettled nature, the proximity of settled, urban areas to the Dark Peak means that light pollution is having significant consequences on dark skies.

Tourism and recreation

The Dark Peak is a landscape of extremes with the wild Open Moors, the enclosed farmlands and the Reservoir Valleys with Woodland. Each landscape is valued and cherished by those who visit and live there. The Dark Peak can offer opportunities for solitude and tranquillity that surrounding, more settled landscapes, cannot offer. These are highly valued characteristics, providing an important cultural resource. In some areas there is often high recreational demand for the more active sports of mountain biking, sailing, climbing and motorised off-road driving. There is also increasing pressure to stage more sponsored or themed events in the wilder, more challenging areas. A range of opportunities are available for different levels of use, meaning that the Dark Peak has accessibility to a wide range of users.

Farming and forestry

The tradition of upland grazing in the Dark Peak has been the main force in shaping the current character of the area. Whilst the grazing of agricultural livestock was almost certainly a key influence in creating the current open moorland landscapes, high levels of grazing and associated practices such as extensive burning have subsequently contributed to the degradation of the moors. This has resulted in heather loss and erosion, and gullying of the underlying peat. This process largely accelerated throughout the 20th century until 1988, when the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area was introduced and started to encourage a reduction in grazing levels and

restoration of eroding areas. Away from the moors, agricultural intensification of farmland has resulted in the loss and decline of semi-natural grasslands and associated wetland habitats. Future drivers for agriculture in the Dark Peak are likely to include Common Agricultural Policy reform, climate change, food security issues, environmental issues (water quality, biodiversity) and the growing demand for local food products.

Grouse moor management has been another important influence on the moorland landscapes of the Dark Peak for approximately the last 150 years, originally by encouraging reduced grazing levels and diversifying the age structure of heather stands, helping to prevent the degradation of areas of heather moorland to grass moor. However, inappropriate burning in some areas, particularly on the blanket peats and on more intensively managed moors, has led to a decline in their condition. Moorland management practices have been increasingly influenced over the last few years by the SSSI status of most of the moorland and other environmental factors such as water quality. Climate change may render grouse shooting unviable in the Peak District by the late 21st century.

Conifer plantations associated with the main valleys and reservoirs form the bulk of woodland cover in the Dark Peak and also occur very locally on the moorland edge. Fluctuations in the timber market, and increased emphasis on the environmental and amenity benefits of forestry over the last decade or more, have led to restructuring of some conifer plantations to favour broadleaved trees and create more varied structure and landform. There are major proposals to convert plantations to native woodland and open habitats in the Alport Valley. Within some moorland cloughs relics of native woodland survive, though these are often grazed and in poor condition.

Minerals and resources

There are no active quarries within the Dark Peak but there are remains of old quarries, which form an important part of the character of the area. They are a valued cultural heritage, biodiversity, educational and, particularly, recreational resource, with many old quarries being used for rock climbing and bouldering. There is a demand for local stone for building, in particular for roofing stone, which has the potential to generate conflicting building and landscape conservation issues.

This is an important water catchment area, providing both drinking water to the surrounding urban areas and a potential future energy source.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national demand for renewable energy schemes, in particular wind power. The impact of inappropriate wind generation projects could lead to a reduction of amenity value and tranquillity. There may be scope for the development of hydroelectric power schemes, of appropriate siting, scale and design, in some locations where it would not impact significantly on

the landscape. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables, most notably the grid transmission lines in Longdendale.

Road safety is a major issue in the Dark Peak, leading to an increase in the number and size of road signs. High levels of vehicle use are increasing damage to roads, walls, and verges, and creating an increased demand for parking. An increase in all forms of transport have visual and tranquillity impacts, particularly from the amount of air traffic associated with Manchester Airport and the number of cross-park vehicular journeys. Plans for the construction of a Mottram - Tintwistle bypass have recently been postponed but may arise again in the future, with impacts both directly on the landscape and potentially on the volume of vehicle traffic along the A628, A57 and related roads.

In recent years there has been an increase in visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.

Landscape guidelines

Dark Peak	Open Moors	Moorland Slopes and Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Upper Valley Pastures	Reservoir Valleys with Woodland
Protect					
Protect and maintain historic drystone walls			◐	○	◐
Protect and maintain historic hedgerows			○	◐	○
Manage					
Manage the sparse and historical patterns of development	○	○	●	●	○
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	◐	◐	○	◐	◐
Manage and enhance woodlands		◐		◐	◐
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands		○			●
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands			●	●	
Enhance and restore moorland landscapes	●	◐	○		
Manage relict quarries for recreation		◐			
Encourage diverse approaches in moorland management	◐				
Restore clough woods		◐			

Dark Peak	Open Moors	Moorland Slopes and Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Upper Valley Pastures	Reservoir Valleys with Woodland
Manage (Continued)					
Manage the network of roads to maintain character and local access			◐	◐	○
Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes		○	◐	●	◐
Manage and enhance landscape around reservoirs					●
Plan					
Create clough woodlands		◐			
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs				○	○
Create and link patches of wetland farmland habitats	●	◐	◐	○	○
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor	◐	◐	◐		

● This is a priority throughout the landscape character type

◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features

○ This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect and maintain historic drystone walls

Drystone walls and associated features such as gateposts are an important historical feature in the enclosed landscapes of the Dark Peak, in particular the Enclosed Gritstone Upland and Longdendale (Reservoir Valleys with Woodland). Walls and hedges will often appear together, with walls predominating in many areas. In places the management of walls is declining and there is a need to enhance their management in order to protect the historic field pattern.

Protect and maintain historic hedgerows

Hedgerows are an important historical feature within the Upper Valley Pastures, many representing assarted enclosure. The hedges often occur in conjunction with gritstone walls, especially on the upper valley slopes. Many boundaries are gappy and in poor condition, and there is a need to enhance their management to maintain the historic field pattern.

Manage

Manage the sparse and historical patterns of development

The Dark Peak contrasts with surrounding landscapes due to the very limited settlement; this plays a vital role in the character of the landscape. It is important that future development remains very limited in order to maintain this sense of place, which is valued and enjoyed by the surrounding communities and visitors. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern, density, local materials and building traditions. Similarly, where settlement does exist, the views into and out of the settlement should be protected, as they can be important to historical character and sense of place. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character, and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed, especially within the Open Moors and Reservoir Valleys with Woodland, to enhance the capacity to provide healthy recreation for a wide range of users. This can be achieved through appropriate low-key landscape management measures which minimize impact on the “wilderness” qualities of the area, and by controlling inappropriate use to retain character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests.

Manage and enhance woodlands

Woodland in the Dark Peak is not widespread; where it is a landscape feature it needs to be well managed. Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be sought to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Within the Reservoir Valleys with Woodland, large coniferous plantation woods form a distinctive landscape feature. Plantation woods can also be found to a lesser extent within the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, for example the Snake woodlands. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider historic landscape through improved management, including felling and increasing appropriate native tree species, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. This work is already being carried out within the Alport valley, where the technique 'wild by design' is being used.

Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that restores or protects species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought.

Enhance and restore moorland landscapes

Opportunities should be sought for the restoration of degraded moorland landscapes through the re-vegetation of bare peat and rewetting of blanket bog. This could provide a valuable resource in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and increased water storage capacity.

Manage relict quarries for recreation

Quarries provide a very important and highly valued recreation resource for climbing and bouldering in the Dark Peak. They also provide habitat to nesting birds, and other flora and fauna. There needs to be a balance between the value and use of quarries as a recreational and/or biodiversity resource using education and partnership working. In many quarries a balance is already evident, with many routes being overgrown and unused, and climbing concentrating on a few, favoured routes.

Encourage diverse approaches in moorland management

The Open Moors are an important national and international landscape that needs to be protected and managed. There is an increasing emphasis on multi-purpose land use for the moors, including recreation, biodiversity and the ecosystem services of flood control, water quality and carbon sequestration. The variety of land uses will require innovative management techniques to ensure that the landscape and its component parts can robustly absorb different pressures. This can be achieved through different cutting and burning regimes, gully blocking, flagging paths as appropriate and reducing fire risk. On the Open Moors, wire fencing defines land ownership and can be an important management tool to control grazing. However, removal of these boundaries, when no longer required or where appropriate, would enhance the moorland character by strengthening the openness and thus enhancing the sense of remoteness and 'wildness'.

Manage clough woods

On the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, clough woods are an important landscape feature. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features. This would help to reduce erosion caused by increased rainfall run off associated with climate change by stabilising soils, and may help reduce flood risk in lower landscapes by slowing rainwater run off from the uplands.

Manage the network of roads to maintain character and local access

Settlements are connected by a network of roads. These should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character, ensuring good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate recreational driving. Opportunities should be sought to manage the increasing number and size of highway signs.

Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes

The pastoral landscapes of the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Upper Valley Pastures have seen a reduction in the number and quality of wet pastures. Those that remain provide an important resource which should be managed and enhanced. An increase in horse pasturing is creating particular pressures which need to be addressed. On the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs there is a need to ensure that flush, spring and rush pasture associated habitats are robust and capable of maintaining integrity during periods of heavy water run off, which may become more frequent with climate change.

Manage and enhance landscape around reservoirs

The reservoirs of the Dark Peak offer opportunities for landscape enhancement and improved recreational and educational opportunities. This could be achieved by restructuring existing plantation woodland; establishing small-scale scrub, woodland or linear tree features; diversifying associated grassland or heathland areas; and enhancing provision of recreational and educational facilities where appropriate.

Plan

Create clough woods

Opportunities should be sought to extend and create clough woodlands within the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are many opportunities to develop small-scale renewable energy schemes within the fringe areas of the Dark Peak. In particular, there are opportunities in the Reservoir Valleys with Woodland to develop hydroelectric schemes and local wood fuel projects. The Upper Valley Pastures of Edale could support other renewable energy sources, including local wood fuel projects. Opportunities should be sought within new development and management of woodland to increase local renewable energy usage where it would have a positive impact on the character of the area and its component parts.

Create and link patches of wetland farmland habitats

The Dark Peak has strong association with wetland habitats. Pastoral landscapes in particular have seen a reduction in the number and quality of wet pastures. These are important landscapes that need to be protected and managed. Opportunities should be sought to extend and link wet pasture and flushes together, whilst protecting cultural heritage features. There may also be opportunities within the flatter pastures of the Upper Valley Pastures to create flood meadows, helping to reduce flood risks downstream.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

There are opportunities within the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands of the Dark Peak to diversify the existing grassland-based landscapes. This can be achieved by creating new moorland/heath and extending and linking existing patches of moor/heath.

Peak District National Park
Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

4. Dark Peak Western Fringe

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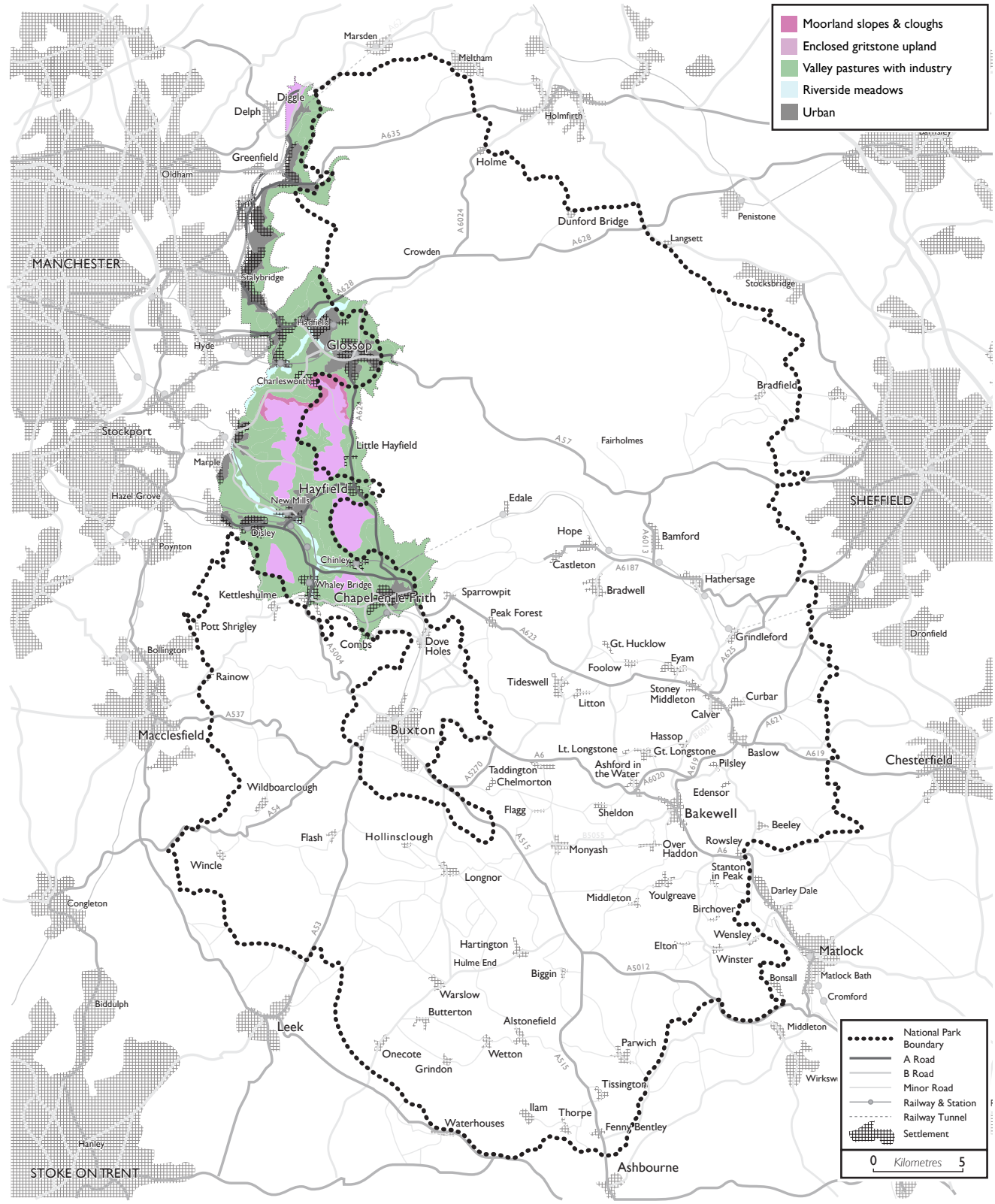

Overall strategy

The Dark Peak Western Fringe consists of sloping and lower lying land adjacent to the Dark Peak, more settled in character than the Dark Peak landscapes. The settlements have a strong historical and visual association with the Dark Peak and represent a wealth of cultural heritage resources. This character and link to the Dark Peak should be protected and managed in order to maintain the distinctive character. The landscapes of the Dark Peak Western Fringe provide an important resource and transition between the more settled and urban areas associated with Manchester in the west and the Dark Peak in the east. There is a need to enhance condition, ensuring ecological and cultural integrity and robustness in all of the landscape character types, and to manage the existing small-scale character of settlements, maintaining density in order to prevent significant urbanisation of character. The transitional nature of this landscape means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities is important.

The overall strategy for the Dark Peak Western Fringe should therefore be to:

> ***Protect and manage the settled, cultural character and the biodiversity and recreational resources of these landscapes through sustainable landscape management, whilst maintaining strong cultural associations with the Dark Peak landscapes.***

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a land planning and management system capable of maintaining and enhancing the settlement patterns and cultural landscape resources
- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting the retention and expansion of habitats

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Dark Peak Western Fringe.

Moorland Slopes and Cloughs

Within the National Park this landscape character type is restricted to a small area around Coombes Edge and Long Clough, to the south of Glossop. This is a steeply sloping landscape with dramatic geology such as scree slopes and gritstone outcrops, as well as flushes, springs, rush pastures and clough woods. Priorities for this landscape character type should be to maintain open views of the dramatic gritstone edges and the mosaic of small-scale semi-natural grassland, heath and woodland/scrub mosaics within a sustainable land management system.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is a sparsely settled pastoral upland landscape largely restricted, within the National Park, to two areas around Ollersett Moor/Chinley Churn and Cowan Edge/Motley Moor/Lantern Pike. Priorities for this landscape character type include managing the sparsely settled character and protecting or enhancing the historical enclosed character of the landscape, whilst enhancing the ecological value and connectivity of wet pastures and heath in a sustainable farming system.

Valley Pastures with Industry

This is a lowland, settled, pastoral landscape with settlement often associated with gritstone-built mills. The priority in this landscape character type is to protect the existing historical settlement and enclosure pattern within a sustainable farming system. This includes retaining the pastoral land uses which are, in places, being significantly altered by horse pasturing activities through the introduction of new boundaries, often post and wire fencing, field shelters and other associated infrastructure.

Riverside Meadows

Within the National Park only Bottoms Reservoir falls within this landscape character type. There are no strong landscape priorities other than ensuring any infrastructure development is minimised and in keeping with the local building styles and materials. Opportunities for hydroelectric power could be considered.

Issues of change

Conservation

The Dark Peak Western Fringe has cultural value largely associated with industrial heritage features including mills and their infrastructures, trackways and small scale remnant quarries and canals (e.g. the Peak Forest Canal), often linked with coal mines. These cultural features are essential to the character of the landscape. In the south of the area the relict Royal Hunting Forest landscapes leave an important influence.

The Dark Peak Western Fringe is largely a pastoral landscape. The higher landscapes, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, have seen heathland vegetation reduced to isolated patches and road verges. This loss is generally associated with agricultural improvement and overgrazing. In the lower lying landscape character types, changing agricultural practices have seen a reduction in wet pastures and flood meadows, which provide ecological diversity and potential flood alleviation resources, particularly in the Riverside Meadows landscape character type. Hedgerows in the lower lying landscapes provide links with woodland but are often degraded and in poor condition; this limits their ecological value and visual unity within the landscape.

Climate change implications

If landscapes are not sufficiently managed and 'climate proofed', issues such as erosion and habitat loss, particularly in the uplands and on sloping land most affected by heavy rainfall run off, will be exacerbated with the changing climate. This could cause significant landscape change. The Riverside Meadows may provide a useful flood water storage resource, which could mitigate the impacts of heavy, energetic rainfall events that may become more regular as the climate changes.

Features of these landscapes, such as faster flowing rivers, have in the past been used to generate energy and provide power to mills. Opportunities to reapply such power sources should be considered as a means of reducing reliance on carbon-based energies and thus mitigating the landscape impacts of climate change.

Demography, housing and employment

The landscapes of the Dark Peak Western Fringe have a settled character in comparison with the Dark Peak. In places, there is an urban fringe character. The drive to meet national housing targets brings the potential for development pressures adjacent to the National Park boundary, and this could impact on the surrounding landscapes and their historical settlement patterns and densities. As with other landscapes associated with the National Park, in some areas, changes in the agricultural sector have led to farms being bought as domestic properties rather than as working

entities. In the Dark Peak Western Fringe, this change in the agricultural character of the area is associated with the introduction of horse pasturing, which can affect the historical agricultural character of the area through changes in the pattern and nature of field boundaries and through damage to pastures and to soil integrity.

Tourism and recreation

The less settled landscapes of the Dark Peak Western Fringe are valued for the opportunities to experience solitude and tranquillity due to their close proximity to existing and historical industry and settlement. The recreational opportunities that are provided by these landscapes are highly valued by local communities and represent an important resource. Honey-pot areas are currently small, but there is a growing demand from horse riding and mountain biking.

Farming and forestry

Much of the agricultural land in the Dark Peak Western Fringe is used for permanent pasture, generally managed at a low to moderate level of intensity. Occasional patches of rougher ground survive in places such as Ollersett Moor, with remnants of heather moor elsewhere (Coombes Rocks, Matley Moor and Lantern Pike). The field pattern is generally in decline, with a loss of boundaries in places, whilst many of the drystone walls that define the pattern are in poor condition, representing a loss of this cultural heritage resource. There has been a move from agricultural production to the use of land for horse pasture in many places, often associated with the development of stabling and post and rail fences. In places, this introduction of uncharacteristic field boundaries is degrading the historical enclosure pattern.

Woodland is not a significant feature inside the National Park within the Dark Peak Western Fringe, where tree cover is largely restricted to small woods, plantations and scattered trees and scrub along watercourses. There is a variable scattering of trees along some field boundaries and groups of trees around farmsteads and other dwellings. Many of these woods and trees are of a similar age and are declining due to lack of management.

Minerals and resources

There is only one active gritstone quarry within the Dark Peak Western Fringe, which lies on the edge of the National Park at Glossop. There are landscape impacts associated with this site, including visual intrusion, adverse effects on wildlife habitats, roads and tranquillity. There are the remnants of former quarries, reflecting the former industrial nature of the area; these relics contribute to the cultural heritage resource of the landscape and as a recreational resource, as many old quarries are used for rock climbing and bouldering.

In the northern part of the area, small reservoirs are a significant cultural feature, where streams descending from the Dark Peak moorlands have been dammed. These provide opportunities for landscape enhancement and recreation.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing demand for national renewable energy schemes, in particular wind power. There is also increasing potential for solar power, water power, and other renewable energy sources. The impact of inappropriate wind generation projects could lead to a reduction of historic landscape character, amenity value and tranquillity. Historical exploitation of hydroelectric power has been an important influence in this area since the industrial revolution and there are opportunities to revive this resource. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, in particular overhead electricity cables. There are opportunities for planting native woodland and improved woodland management linked to local wood fuel usage.

High levels of vehicular use is increasing damage to roads, walls and verges and creating an increased demand for parking. Traffic routes that cross the Park can be very busy and become congested. This affects the 'gateways' in and out of the Park, reducing the visitor experience and causing problems for local people.

Landscape guidelines

Dark Peak Western Fringe	Moorland Slopes and Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Valley Pastures with Industry	Riverside Meadows
Protect				
Protect and maintain features associated with the historic industrial character		◐	◐	◐
Protect and maintain drystone walls, hedgerows and historical enclosure patterns		◐	●	◐
Manage				
Manage the historical patterns of development	○	○	●	●
Manage and enhance woodlands	◐	○	◐	◐
Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes	●	○	○	●
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland	◐	◐	●	●
Manage and enhance areas of heath/moor	◐	●		
Manage and enhance landscape around reservoirs			●	

Dark Peak Western Fringe	Moorland Slopes and Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Valley Pastures with Industry	Riverside Meadows
Plan				
Create new native broadleaved woodland	●	○	◐	◐
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor	◐	●		
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs	◐	◐	◐	◐

● This is a priority throughout the landscape character type

◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features

○ This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect and maintain features associated with the historic industrial character

Whilst most of the 19th century mills in the area lie outside the National Park, there are one or two mills, mill ponds and mill leats present. Small gritstone quarries are also a feature of the higher ground within the Valley Pastures with Industry, and in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands. These features should be protected and maintained for their cultural heritage significance and, where appropriate, their educational and recreational potential.

Protect and maintain drystone walls, hedgerows and historical enclosure patterns

Enclosure is an important cultural feature of the Dark Peak Western Fringe, although it is not always evident on the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, largely due to gradient. In some places, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, the historical enclosure pattern has declined and is not always evident. This historical enclosure pattern needs to be enhanced, particularly the enclosures which pre-date parliamentary enclosure. Equally, where drystone walls are in declining condition these would benefit from enhanced management to maintain this cultural heritage resource and the recognisable landscape character. Hedgerows in the lower lying landscape can often be in poor condition and require enhanced management to ensure good condition and visual unity within the landscape.

Manage

Manage the historical patterns of development

The mill towns and terraced houses so characteristic of the Valley Pastures with Industry in this area fall outside the National Park. Within the National Park, the settlement pattern consists of small hamlets and dispersed settlements associated with the older historic agricultural landscapes. It is important that future development respects and maintains this valued sense of place and historical development patterns. Similarly, where settlement does exist, the views into and out of the settlement should be protected, as they are important to character and sense of place. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside the National Park boundary but could impact on the National Park. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage and enhance woodlands

Woodland in the Dark Peak Western Fringe is limited; where it is a landscape feature, it needs to be well managed. This Dark Peak Western Fringe is largely treeless: there are patches of scrub within cloughs that would benefit from linking to the wider landscape mosaic. There are a few relatively small coniferous plantation woodlands in places, and these would benefit from removal or replacement with broadleaved woodland as appropriate. In the lower landscapes, woodland tends to be associated with boundaries or watercourses; there are patches of ancient woodland and small broadleaved plantations which would benefit from enhanced management.

Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes

The pastoral landscapes of the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Valley Pastures with Industry have seen a reduction in the number and quality of wet pastures. Those that remain provide an important resource which should be managed and enhanced. An increase in horse pasturing is creating particular pressures which need to be addressed. On the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs there is a need to ensure that flush, spring and rush pasture associated habitats are robust and capable of maintaining integrity during periods of heavy water run off which may become more frequent with climate change.

Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species and visual diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that retains diversity, whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought.

Manage and enhance areas of heath/moor

The Dark Peak Western Fringe has areas of enclosure from moorland. In such locations, there are often patches of relict heath/moor habitat. Opportunity should be sought to manage and enhance their condition in order to create a more robust and connected ecological resource.

Manage and enhance landscape around reservoirs

The series of generally small historic reservoirs in the northern part of the area offer opportunities for landscape enhancement and improved recreational and educational opportunities. This could be achieved by restructuring existing plantation woodland; establishing small scale scrub, woodland or linear tree features; diversifying associated grassland or heathland areas and enhancing provision of recreational and educational facilities where appropriate.

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

In the Dark Peak Western Fringe, small blocks of mainly broadleaved plantations, clough woods, linear streamside and field boundary trees are important features. This woodland network would be enhanced by managing the age structure of existing trees, creating new small-scale woods and managing hedgerows to provide linkages between existing sites. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change; on slopes it also reduces water flow and can reduce flood damage to lower lying landscapes.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

There are opportunities within the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands of the Dark Peak Western Fringe to diversify the existing grassland-based landscapes. This can be achieved by creating new moorland/heath and extending and linking existing patches of moor/heath.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are many opportunities to develop small-scale renewable energy schemes within the Dark Peak Western Fringe: there are opportunities in the Valley Pastures with Industry to develop hydroelectric schemes linked to the historic use of water power. Opportunities should be sought within new developments and through the management of woodlands to increase local renewable energy usage, where it would have a positive impact on the character of the area and its component parts. Renewable energy can help to reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energy.

Peak District National Park

Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

5. Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe

July 2009

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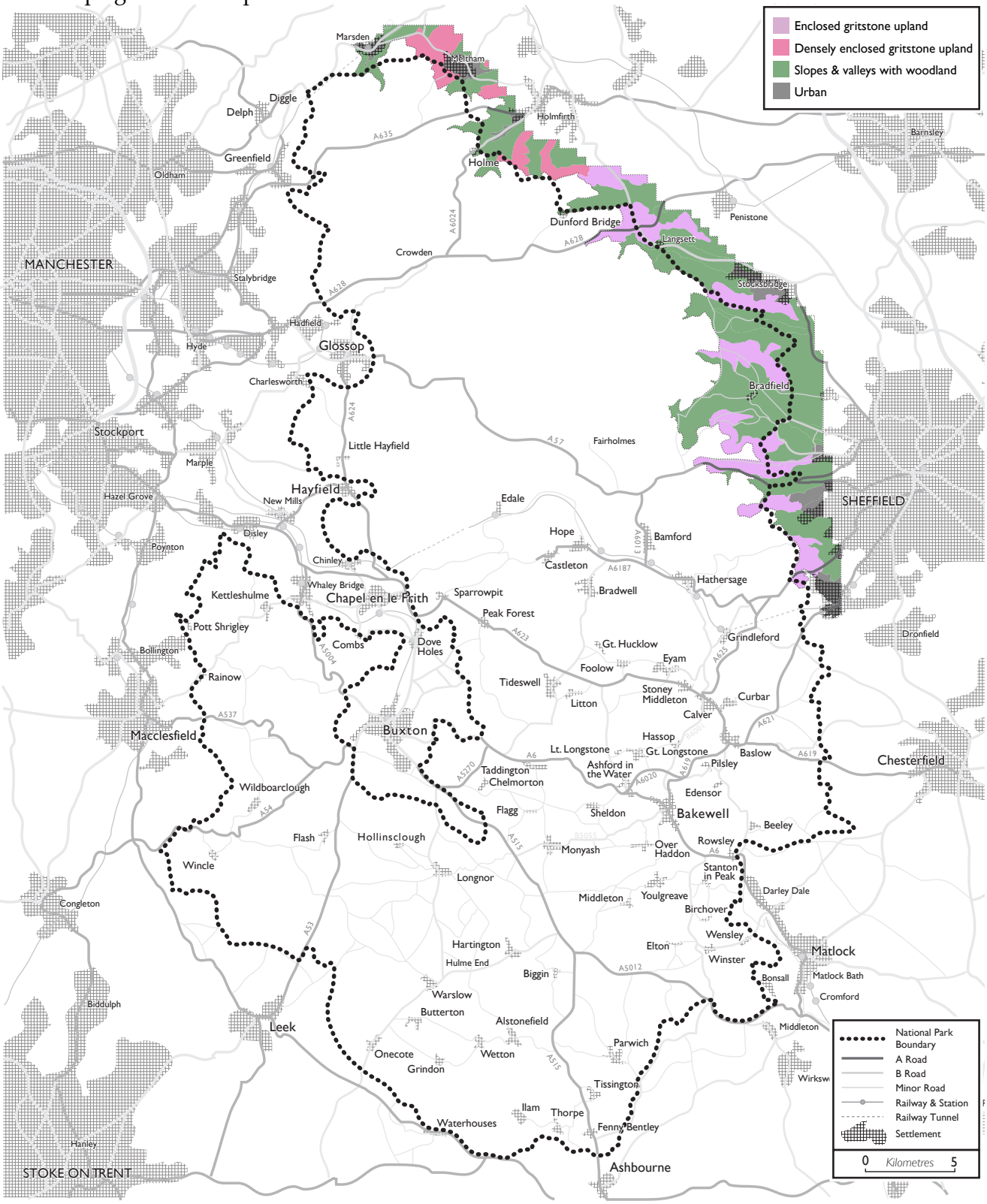

Overall strategy

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe is a pastoral landscape of valleys and slopes, enclosed fields and woodland, between the high open moors of the Dark Peak and the lower lying land to the east. This landscape is often sparsely settled, with a sense of remoteness. Cultural heritage is evidenced by the field and settlement patterns and local traditional building style. There is a need to retain and enhance these features to maintain strong landscape character in the future. This landscape provides an important recreational resource for the surrounding urban populations, particularly the series of reservoirs and surrounding plantation woodlands. This recreational use should be encouraged into the future. The transitional nature of this landscape means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities is important.

The overall strategy for the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the tranquil pastoral landscapes and the distinctive cultural character through sustainable landscape management; seek opportunities to enhance recreation opportunities, woodlands, wildness, and diversity of more remote areas.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting appropriate land uses whilst enhancing the network of habitats
- an approach that conserves or enhances the distinctive dispersed settlement pattern, field pattern and other cultural landscape features
- an enhanced structure and extent of woodland and tree cover in appropriate locations
- appropriate maintenance of infrastructure to enable continued public enjoyment of the landscape

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is a pastoral upland landscape with drystone walls, straight roads and isolated farmsteads. Agricultural improvement and grazing have reduced the ecological diversity of the pastures. The priority should be to protect the historic field pattern and conserve or restore the biodiversity of pastoral farmland. Where opportunities arise, consideration should be given to the creation of an open landscape, restoring and creating heathland.

Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

Within the National Park this landscape character type comprises a small area around Meltham. This is an open settled historic landscape with a strong pattern of small and large fields enclosed by drystone walls, with scattered farmsteads and cottages. The priority should be to protect the historic field pattern and distinctive dispersed settlement pattern, whilst conserving or restoring the biodiversity of pastoral farmland and patches of semi-natural vegetation.

Slopes and Valleys with Woodland

This is a small scale pastoral landscape which is heavily wooded in places. Woodland cover varies with irregular woodland hillside blocks, woods along cloughs, around buildings and reservoirs, and scattered trees along boundaries. There are patches of acid grassland on steeper slopes. The priority is therefore to protect the mosaic and diversity of existing woodlands, boundary trees, grasslands, cultural heritage components and semi-natural habitats. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the integrity of the woodland resource by restructuring plantation woodlands and creating new woodland where appropriate.

Issues of change

Conservation

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe is a pastoral landscape with a strong cultural heritage, particularly that associated with past industry. Some valued cultural heritage features such as drystone walls are, in places, deteriorating in condition and require efforts to conserve and maintain them, including reducing loss through theft of stones for domestic use and through vandalism. Other changes to the cultural heritage resource include the loss and deterioration of historic buildings through disuse. There has been an increase in urbanising elements in the landscape, most often associated with housing development.

In places, the semi-natural habitats associated with the landscape have deteriorated and opportunity exists to extend and restore these habitats, particularly heathland, unimproved grasslands and wet pastures.

Climate change implications

This is an upland pastoral landscape where sloping land may be affected by more extreme rainfall run off, particularly through the winter months, causing problems including downstream flooding of urban areas, erosion and habitat loss. These could lead to significant landscape character change. The uplands are more susceptible to moorland fire risks, which can be exacerbated by periods of sustained dry periods, particularly through the summer months. Climatic changes may affect the species composition of habitats, including the wet and dry clough woodlands. The area is an important water supply resource for adjacent urban areas, with most of the rivers coming off the Dark Peak moors being dammed to form a series of reservoirs. Increased water demand, water quality standards and reduced supply associated with climate change may have a significant effect on future management of the landscape for water supply. The need for less polluting energy sources could increase pressure for energy generation including wind power, solar power and hydroelectric power. This change could impact on the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape.

Demography, housing and employment

The Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe has a strong association with Sheffield and, consequently, it has a character that reflects the proximity of a major settlement. With the closure of much of the historic local industry, many people now commute from this area to Sheffield for work. There may be opportunities to increase local employment by developing opportunities for recreation and tourism. The demand for local affordable housing and national housing targets mean that there could be pressure to increase development in the area. This would affect the character of the landscape, both

those areas within the National Park and those outside of the Park boundary. The integrity of historic buildings is, in some cases, affected by modernisation, such as the replacement of traditional windows with UPVC windows, and this can impact on landscape character. In some locations, such as the Rivelin Valley, there has been a trend for horse pasturing on small pockets of land; this is associated with changes to the agricultural character of the landscape. The location close to Sheffield also means that fly tipping is not uncommon, and although this does not generally have a permanent landscape impact, it can have an urbanising effect on the landscape character.

Tourism and recreation

Whilst the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe has few facilities for recreation and tourism, this is an area that is heavily used by people from adjacent urban areas and as such is highly valued. This is an important recreational transition zone between the tranquil moorland and the neighbouring urban areas. Opportunities should be sought to improve recreational facilities and opportunities within the area, without affecting the landscape character.

Farming and forestry

The landscapes in the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe are used mainly for permanent pasture, generally managed at a moderate level of intensity. Occasional patches of rougher ground survive in places. The historic field pattern is largely intact but many of the drystone walls that define the pattern are in poor condition. In localised areas around the urban fringes, in particular the Rivelin Valley, there has been a move from agricultural production to the use of land for horse pasture. Agricultural improvement, including the ploughing of semi-natural areas and the spreading of paper pulp, has resulted in loss and decline of unimproved grasslands and wetlands.

Small woods are a characteristic feature of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe, particularly in the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. Much of the woodland is of ancient origin with more recent secondary woodland, and in places there are larger blocks of plantation woodlands, mainly on reservoir slopes. Many of these woods are threatened by neglect, and opportunities should be sought to bring them under management.

Minerals and resources

There is an active permission for a ganister quarry within the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe. Opportunity should be sought to minimise any adverse effects of the single quarry site.

This is an important water supply area for adjacent urban areas, with most of the rivers coming off the Dark Peak moors being dammed to form a series of reservoirs.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national demand for renewable energy, particularly wind power. In addition there is increasing potential for solar and water power, and other renewable energy sources. The impact of inappropriate wind generation projects could adversely impact on historic landscape character and on the setting of historic landscape features, amenity value and tranquility. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables. There are opportunities for the development of local hydropower schemes, to plant native woodlands and improve woodland management linked to local wood fuel production and usage. These could help reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

High levels of vehicular use are increasing damage to roads, walls, hedges and verges, creating an increased demand for parking, particularly in Bradfield.

In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.

Landscape guidelines

Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland
Protect			
Protect and maintain historic dry stone walls	●	●	◐
Manage			
Manage and enhance woodlands			●
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands	○		◐
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands	●	●	◐
Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character	○	○	○
Manage historic mineral landscapes	○		
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	◐	◐	◐
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access	◐	◐	◐
Manage and enhance clough woodlands			◐
Manage and enhance areas of heath/moor	◐	○	

Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland
Plan			
Create new native broadleaved woodland			●
Create clough woodlands			◐
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor	◐	○	
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs			◐
Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings	○		

● This is a priority throughout the landscape character type

◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features

○ This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect and maintain historic drystone walls

Drystone walls are an important historical feature in the more upland landscapes in the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe, e.g. the Enclosed and Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands. In places, the management of walls is declining and there is a need to enhance their management in order to conserve and retain the cherished historic field pattern.

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands

Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be sought to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management, to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Coniferous plantation woodlands form significant landscape features, particularly around the reservoirs within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodlands. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider historic landscape through improved management using methods such as felling and replacement with appropriate native tree species, whilst conserving cultural heritage features.

Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that retains species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought, mainly in the Enclosed Gritstone Upland.

Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character

The scattered settlement pattern of farmsteads and houses lying within traditional townships and villages is a unique feature of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe landscapes. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern, local materials and building traditions. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park, considering siting, layout, design and materials. Traditional

buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage historic mineral landscapes

Characteristic features are the historic quarries which provided local building stone within the Densely Enclosed Gritstone Upland landscape type. Within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland there are the remains of coal mining, ganister, fireclay and gritstone quarries. Landscapes associated with historic mineral extraction should be retained and managed, including, where appropriate, providing interpretation of their history.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance capacity for providing healthy recreation and enjoyment of the landscape for a wide range of users. This can be easily achieved through landscape management measures such as surfacing, signage, and by controlling inappropriate uses to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity values.

Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

Settlement is connected by a network of roads. These should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character, ensuring good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate recreational driving. Opportunities should be sought to manage the increasing number and size of highway signs.

Manage and enhance clough woodlands

In some areas clough woods are important landscape features as well as being important habitats. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features.

Manage and enhance areas of heath/moor

Areas that have been enclosed from former historic moors have, in places, remnant patches of moorland habitat. Opportunities should be sought to manage and enhance areas of existing patches of moor and heath in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, enhancing habitat and biodiversity potential.

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are opportunities to extend woodland cover without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes in the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. There are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration, although a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention of acid grassland. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade which may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change; on slopes it also reduces water flow and can reduce flood damage to lower lying landscapes.

Create clough woods

Opportunities should be sought to extend and create clough woodlands within the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features. In wet cloughs, increasing woodland cover can lead to slower water flow at times of heavy rainfall and thus help to reduce flood risks in lower lying landscapes.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

There are opportunities within the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe to diversify the existing grassland based landscapes. This can be achieved by creating new moorland/heath and extending and linking existing patches of moor/heath, enhancing moorland landscapes.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

The Slopes and Valleys with Woodland are particularly suitable for the development of water power and local wood fuel supplies. Opportunities should be sought to develop small hydroelectric schemes and manage woodland to increase local renewable energy usage, thus reducing reliance on traditional carbon-based energies, where it would have a positive impact on the character of the area and its component parts.

Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings

Modern mineral workings should be restored to maximise visual amenity, biodiversity, recreational, educational and heritage value. The aim should be to use the land to create semi-natural landscapes, which blend into the surrounding landscape.

Peak District National Park
Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

6. Derbyshire Peak Fringe

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Final Report

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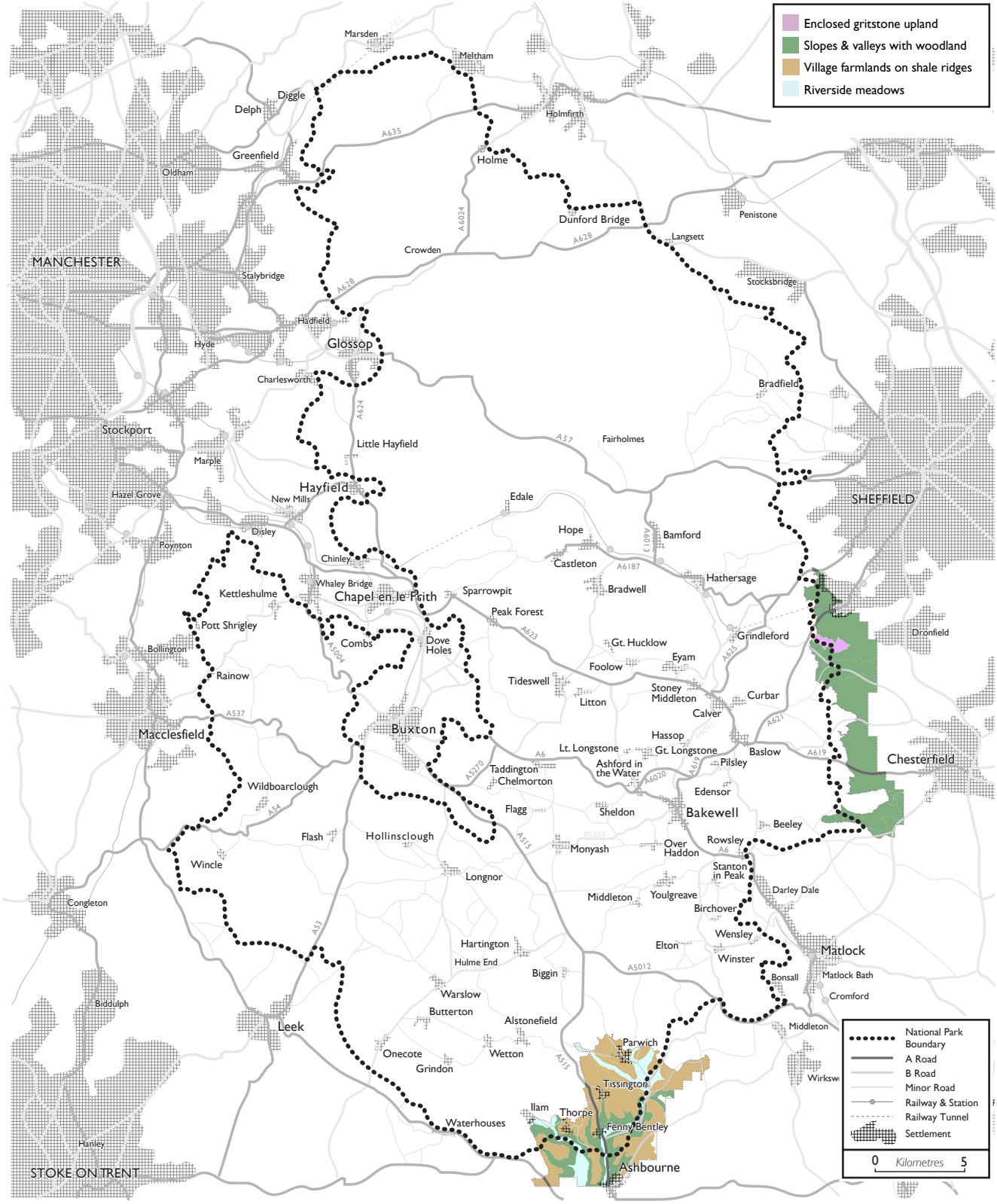

Overall strategy

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe is a transitional landscape that reflects both the higher landscapes of the Peak District and the lower settled landscapes of Derbyshire. This undulating pastoral landscape of slopes and valleys with clustered settlements, scattered farmsteads and fields enclosed by hedges and drystone walls has a strong cultural heritage, evidenced by the extensive ridge and furrow system in the fields surrounding villages. Fragmentation of field boundaries, tree and woodland cover and a further loss of diversity would have a detrimental impact on landscape character. Therefore, there is a need to protect and manage these features to maintain a strong landscape character in the future. The transitional nature of this landscape means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities will ensure a successful outcome.

The overall strategy for the Derbyshire Peak Fringe should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the tranquil pastoral landscapes and the distinctive cultural character through sustainable landscape management, seeking opportunities to enhance woodlands, wetlands, cultural heritage and biodiversity.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- an approach of conserving or enhancing the distinctive clustered settlement pattern, field pattern and other cultural landscapes
- enhanced structure and extent of tree and woodland cover in appropriate locations
- a linked network of habitats and a more diverse river corridor within a sustainable land management system

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe.

Slopes and Valleys with Woodland

This is a small-scale pastoral landscape on the valley sides of the Dove and Bradbourne Brook and tributaries. There are three other small outliers within the National Park, at Harewood Grange, Smeely Woods and Blacka Moor. It is heavily wooded in places, with a mixture of wet and dry woodland. There are groups of trees around buildings, with scattered trees along boundaries and patches of acid grassland on steeper slopes. The priority is to protect the mosaic and diversity of existing woodlands, boundary trees, grasslands, cultural heritage components and semi-natural habitats and seek opportunities to create new woodland where appropriate.

Village Farmland on Shale Ridges

This is the settled pastoral landscape of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe around Tissington and Thorpe. It consists of a clustered pattern of villages and outlying farmsteads with strip fields of Medieval ridge and furrow, enclosed by hedges. The field systems surround their associated limestone/gritstone villages with traditional stone-built buildings. The priority should be to protect the historic pattern of field boundaries, the distinctive historic, clustered settlement pattern and the quality and setting of traditional buildings, whilst restoring the biodiversity of the pastoral farmland and providing resources for visitors within sustainable farming systems.

Riverside Meadows

This is a pastoral landscape of small fields and isolated farmsteads, characterised by a meandering river channel with scattered riverside trees, historic meadows and patches of wetland vegetation. The priority is to restore the diversity of the river corridor landscape and manage it to provide flood water storage and help prevent flooding elsewhere along the river corridor.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is a very small area of pastoral upland landscape near Owler Bar, with drystone walls, straight roads and isolated farmsteads. Agricultural improvement and grazing have reduced the ecological diversity of the pastures. The priority here is to protect the historic field pattern.

Issues for change

Conservation

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe comprises the lower lying landscapes around Tissington/Fenny Bentley in the south and a few fragments of higher land to the east of the National Park, i.e. Holmesfield. There has been a decline in the condition of boundaries: hedgerows can be gappy at the base and overgrown, whilst drystone walls are sometimes in poor condition through the removal of stones and a lack of maintenance. In some places, there is evidence of hedgerow removal. This erosion of boundary features has resulted in a damaged cultural pattern which compromises the visual unity of the historic landscape; hedgerows in a poor condition also reduce ecological value.

The historic ridge and furrow, often associated with Medieval open field systems and located close to settlements, is being damaged on a piecemeal basis by modern agricultural practices such as ploughing. This represents a loss of a valuable cultural heritage resource. In places, permanent pasture is being ploughed up, reducing the ecological character and value of the landscape.

There is a need to ensure that the cultural heritage resources of the built environment are recognised and celebrated into the future, e.g. older buildings including those associated with Medieval granges and occasional field barns. Equally, historical features and landscapes require enhanced management, as some are being overwhelmed by bracken and scrub growth.

Climate change implications

Climate change may affect these landscapes in a number of ways. Increased rainfall and increases in the energy of rainfall are likely to exacerbate flood risk and the impacts of flooding events. Increased rainfall will also exacerbate erosion, damage to soils and to infrastructure such as footpaths and roads. Flooding and erosion may increase silt deposition on land which is of value for conservation. There has been an increase in the number of floodplain ponds in the area, and this may help to mitigate flooding through water storage; equally, the Riverside Meadows, if appropriately managed, may provide a resource for storing flood water and reducing flood risks further down the river corridor.

Demography, housing and employment

As with other fringe landscapes, there is concern that the national housing targets could impact on the landscapes around the boundaries of the National Park and thus affect the setting of the Park. The design of newer housing around the Derbyshire Peak Fringe does not always respond to the design of traditional older properties, and this could lead to a fragmentation and homogenisation of

the settlement character of the area. There is a shift associated with the changing agricultural sector, with some farms being bought as large domestic properties rather than as working entities. This ownership change is regarded as creating a landscape which is 'tidied' as opposed to a working landscape. Such ownership changes can also be associated with separation of farmstead and land holdings, resulting in increased trends to isolated, modern farm buildings sited away from farmsteads.

Tourism and recreation

This is a valued landscape that provides opportunities for a large number of visitors to enjoy activities including family walks, bike rides and visiting historic villages.

Farming and forestry

The landscapes in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe tend to be intensively managed, with a consequent loss of cultural features, historic landscapes and natural landscapes. There is some evidence of a decline in agricultural activity along the eastern fringe of the Park near Dronfield. This is indicated by the presence of horse pastures with post and rail fences.

Ancient woodland cover is well established in the Slope and Valleys with Woodland landscapes along the eastern fringe of the Park. It is much less established in the southern area along the valley sides of the Bradbourne and Bletch Brooks. In the latter area, tree cover consists of patches of secondary woodland and scrub, with only localised ancient woodlands. Woodland becomes more significant again to the west, in the Dove Valley. Elsewhere in the Derbyshire Fringe, tree cover is more or less restricted to scattered, mature hedgerow trees.

Minerals and resources

There are no active quarries in the area although there are the historic remnants of small gritstone quarries. These are seen as an integral part of the cultural landscape.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national and local demand for renewable energy schemes, in particular wind and water power sources. The impact of inappropriate wind generation projects could adversely affect the setting of historic landscape features, amenity value and tranquillity. There is a visual impact of existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables. In places there may be opportunities for developing renewable energy supplies, including local small hydroelectric schemes, planting native woodland and improving woodland management linked to local wood fuel usage and other renewable energy sources.

Road safety is a major issue in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe, leading to an increased number of larger road signs. High levels of vehicular use are increasing damage to roads, walls and verges, and creating an increased demand for parking, particularly at honey-pot areas such as Tissington.

In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts. This can impact on the setting of archaeology, historic features, buildings and landscapes.

Landscape guidelines

Derbyshire Peak Fringe	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges	Riverside Meadows	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
Protect				
Protect historic parkland landscapes		◐		
Protect and maintain historic field barns		◐	◐	
Protect and maintain drystone walls, hedgerows and historical enclosure patterns	◐	◐	◐	●
Manage				
Manage the historical patterns of development	◐	●	○	
Manage and enhance woodlands	●	◐	◐	
Enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands	◐	◐	●	○
Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees	◐	◐	◐	
Manage and enhance wetland landscapes			●	

Derbyshire Peak Fringe	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges	Riverside Meadows	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
Plan				
Create new native broadleaved woodland	●	○	◐	
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs	◐	○	◐	
Create, expand and link wetland landscapes			●	

● This is a priority throughout the landscape character type

◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features

○ This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect historic parkland landscapes

Historic parkland is an important localised feature of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe, particularly at Tissington. There is a need to conserve the cultural integrity of these landscapes whilst enabling them to evolve. Opportunities should be taken to work with landowners to enhance the biodiversity of historic parklands where the structure and character can be appropriately maintained. The production of management plans and partnership approaches with landowners should be considered to achieve these objectives.

Protect and maintain historic field barns

Traditional farm buildings are of significant value to the local character of the landscape and it is important to maintain the fabric and appearance of such buildings. Isolated field barns are a special cultural feature in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe, especially in the Riverside Meadows and the Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges around Parwich. Where they can no longer be maintained in agricultural use (animal welfare standards mean that they are no longer appropriate for housing stock), careful consideration needs to be given to appropriate alternatives. Changes to the appearance of either the building or its surroundings should be avoided, especially where these are not in keeping with the rural character of the landscape. Conversion to residential use would be particularly inappropriate.

Protect and maintain drystone walls, hedgerows and historical enclosure patterns

There is a mixture of enclosure by drystone walls and hedgerows in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe. Enclosure by drystone walls is more common in the upland landscapes of the Derbyshire Peak Fringe. These are often in a declining condition leading to a loss of the historic field pattern, and these walls would benefit from enhanced management. Hedgerows predominate in the lower lying landscapes. These can often be in poor condition and require enhanced management to ensure good condition, which improves their ecological functions and ensures retention of the cultural and visual pattern.

Manage

Manage the historical patterns of development

The clustered settlement pattern with scattered outlying farms is a unique feature of the Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges. It is important that future development protects the sense of place and historical development patterns where possible. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and traditions and opportunities sought to mitigate the urbanising character of some past development. In addition, opportunities to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park, considering siting, layout, design and materials should be taken. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage and enhance woodlands

Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be taken to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that retains species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought; the grasslands of the Riverside Meadows could be enhanced for use as a flood water storage resource and to help prevent flooding elsewhere along the river corridor.

Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees

On the Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges and in the valley landscapes, linear trees along field boundaries and stream-lines form an important component of the tree cover. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure. Groups of amenity trees are often associated with settlement and the use of appropriate species should be encouraged.

Manage and enhance wetland landscapes

Within the pastoral landscapes of the Riverside Meadows, there has been a decline in the wetland landscapes. Where these habitats occur they are an important landscape resource. It is therefore important that the remnants of semi-natural vegetation are managed and enhanced.

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are opportunities to extend woodland cover without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. In places there are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration, although a balance will be needed between woodland expansion and the retention of unimproved grassland. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change. In the Riverside Meadows there are only limited opportunities for wet woodland creation due to potential impacts to flooding severity of increased woodland cover on the floodplain.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

The Slopes and Valleys with Woodland and Riverside Meadows are suitable for the development of water power and local wood fuel supplies, helping to reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energy. Opportunities should be sought within new built development and management of woodland to increase local renewable energy usage, where it would have a positive impact on the character of the area and its component parts.

Create, expand and link wetland landscapes

There has been a decline in the wetland habitats within the pastoral landscapes of the Riverside Meadows. Opportunities should be sought to create and expand wetland landscapes and linking existing features. In addition opportunities should be sought to create diverse flood meadows with natural, dynamic rivers and streams. Such reintroduction would enhance the ecological character of the landscape whilst providing flood management services, helping to reduce flooding elsewhere along the river corridor.

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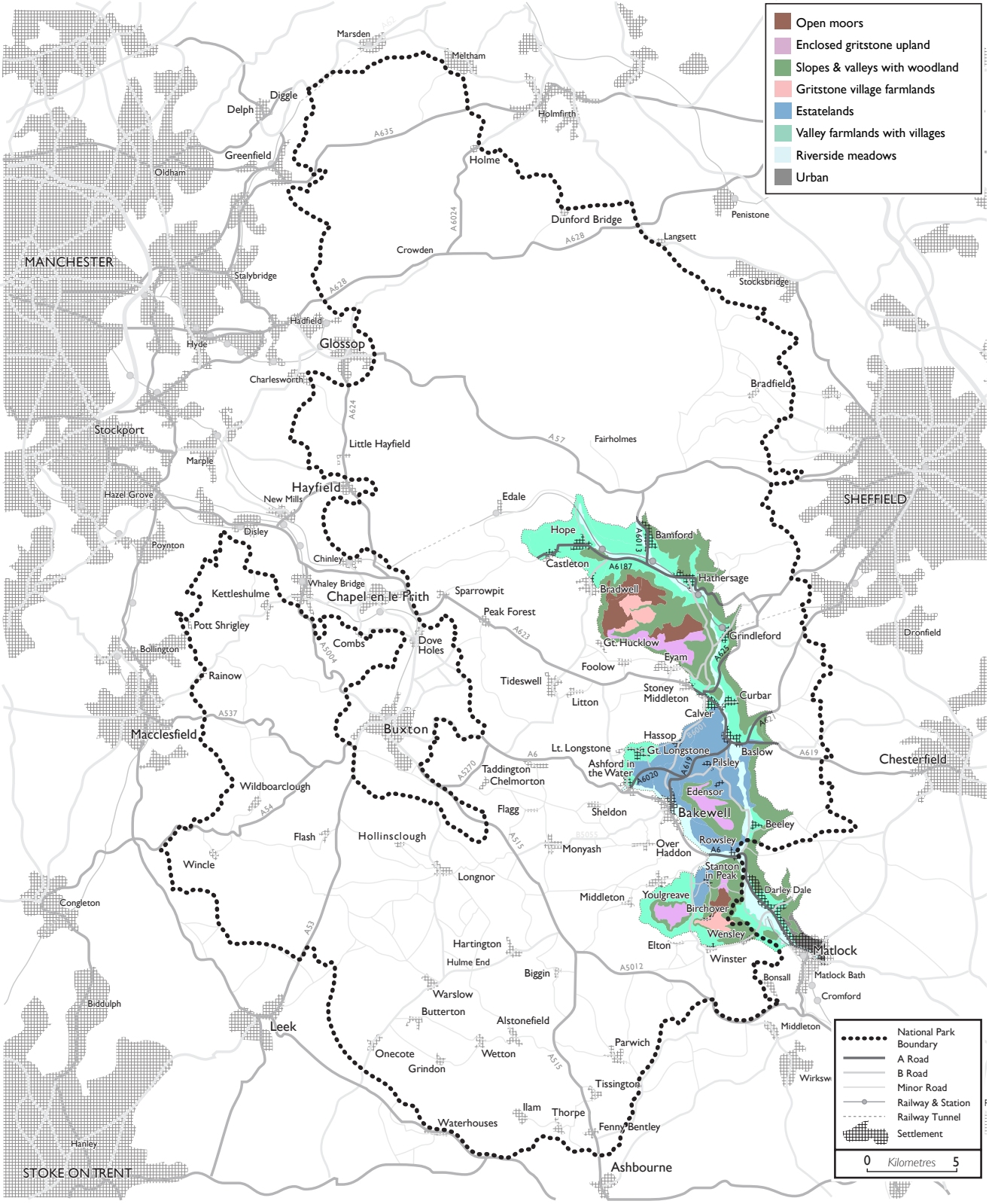

Overall strategy

The key characteristics of the Derwent Valley are its settled, well-wooded agricultural character. In places this character has been degraded by poorly sited and designed development, and there are opportunities to reduce these impacts through good design. Fragmentation of field boundaries, tree and woodland cover and further loss of natural landscapes would have a detrimental impact on landscape character. Woodland creation and enhancement of habitats will strengthen existing landscape character, whilst in the future lower lying landscapes adjacent to the river could provide significant flood water storage services.

Therefore the overall strategy for the Derwent Valley is to:

Protect and manage the settled, agricultural character of these landscapes seeking opportunities to enhance wooded character, cultural heritage and biodiversity; manage floodplain landscapes to increase flood water storage and enhance biodiversity

This can be achieved by ensuring that there are:

- vibrant local settlements where development is well designed and integrated into the surrounding landscape
- enhanced structure and extent of tree and woodland cover in appropriate locations
- a linked network of habitats and a more diverse river corridor

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Derwent Valley.

Open Moors

This is an open, unsettled, largely unwooded landscape with extensive remains of prehistoric settlement and semi-natural habitats. The priority should therefore be to protect the open character and diversity of moorland landscapes.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is an open landscape with a well defined pattern of drystone walls. The priorities should therefore be to protect the historic pattern of field boundaries and to protect and manage the biodiversity of pastoral farmland.

Slopes and Valleys with Woodland

This is a pastoral landscape with interlocking blocks of ancient and secondary woodland, interspersed with patches of acid grassland. The priority is therefore to protect the mosaic and diversity of woodlands, grasslands, and associated cultural heritage features, seeking opportunities to create new woodlands and restore or create acid grassland where appropriate.

Gritstone Village Farmlands

This is an open, settled landscape with a well defined pattern of small fields enclosed by drystone walls often resulting from the enclosure of Medieval open fields. The priorities should therefore be to protect the pattern of field boundaries and the distinctive historic nucleated settlement pattern, whilst restoring the biodiversity of the pastoral farmland.

Valley Farmlands with Villages

This is a historic, settled, pastoral landscape of villages, outlying farmsteads, and ancient enclosure patterns, with a network of streams, and damp hollows. Tree cover is mainly restricted to stream-line and hedgerow trees. The priorities, therefore, are to protect and manage linear tree cover, whilst seeking opportunities to restore biodiversity and enhance the contribution of built development, and field boundaries, to landscape character.

Estatelands

This is an enclosed estate landscape with nucleated villages and historic halls, surrounded by parkland and discrete blocks of woodland. The priority is to protect the historic estate character of the landscape, and maintain and enhance parkland and veteran trees whilst seeking opportunities to create broadleaved woodland where compatible with the historic designed pattern.

Riverside Meadows

This is a small-scale pastoral landscape characterised by a meandering river channel with scattered riverside trees, historic meadows and patches of wetland vegetation. The priority is therefore to restore the diversity of the river corridor landscape and manage the landscape to provide flood water storage.

Issues of change

Conservation

Patches of moorland, e.g. on Stanton Moor, have in places fallen into lack of management, and birch scrub is encroaching. Scrub, which is also encroaching on steeper slopes, may adversely affect important archaeological features and landscapes. There has been a general decline in the extent and diversity of unimproved grassland, particularly on the upper valley slopes. The extensive areas of upland oak and birch woodland on the valley slopes have, in places, fallen into poor management. Scattered trees in historic parklands and in field boundaries are a key characteristic of the Derwent Valley and there is a need to manage and replace veteran trees. Habitats associated with rivers require an enhancement in quality and better linkages in order to develop robust aquatic wildlife corridors.

Climate change implications

There is likely to be an increase in flooding due to wetter winters and more extreme rain events, creating a demand for flood water storage in the Riverside Meadows. Increased temperatures are likely to have an impact on the structure and species composition of habitats and soils. Summers may be drier, so there is likely to be an increased potential fire risk in the areas of Open Moors, and peat may become more friable and therefore prone to erosion and gullying. All these issues pose a threat to the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape.

Demography, housing and employment

Demand for new housing and commercial development could affect the character of the landscape. There is a demographic change taking place, with an increase in the number of people wanting to live in the area and commute away to work and/or work from home. The changing population and increased desirability of the area is affecting the way the landscape is used for living and working. This is causing a shortage of affordable, local needs housing in some parishes. There has also been an increase of urbanising elements in the landscape, most often associated with housing development, including post-war ribbon development and more recent conversion and enlargement of properties.

Demand for new development could impact on the character of the historic settlement pattern and its associated field boundaries; careful management and design is required to prevent this. Industrial units can have a localised negative impact on the surrounding landscape if they are not well designed. Larger settlements within the Derwent Valley and at the edge of the National Park, e.g. Darley Dale and Matlock, have a localised negative impact on the landscape.

There is some horse pasturing within the Derwent Valley, which in places has a visual impact, often where there is associated equipment in the fields.

Tourism and recreation

This is a cherished and valued landscape that provides opportunities for the recreational needs of large numbers of people. There are increasing visitor numbers to the Derwent Valley, as it provides many opportunities for accessible and affordable recreation. In localised areas motorised off-road vehicles are causing physical damage to the infrastructure of historic rights of way.

Farming and forestry

There has been an intensification of agricultural land use in the Estatelands and Valley Farmlands with Villages, leading to a decline in traditional management of field boundaries and the degradation of historic field patterns. Elsewhere, this historic field pattern is generally well maintained, except on the slopes around Abney/Eyam Moors, where the farmland is often abandoned and reverting to rough grassland and scrub. There has been some recent management of the moorland vegetation for grouse shooting on the higher land on Eyam, Abney and Offerton Moors.

Woodland in the Derwent Valley is located mainly in the Estatelands and Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. The larger estate woodlands are often well managed, unlike the smaller, less accessible woodlands. There are opportunities for enhancing the structure and diversity of woodland blocks. In places, only relics of ancient woodland now remain and there is scope for expansion of woodland where this will not adversely affect other priority habitats, cultural heritage and key viewpoints.

Minerals and resources

Modern quarries in the Derwent Valley serve local and national demands for gritstone and shale for use in the construction and cement industries. There are many landscape impacts associated with these sites and the transportation of their products. These include visual intrusion, adverse effects on the historic landscapes, wildlife habitats, tranquillity and road traffic. There is pressure to extend the size of the quarries and to prolong quarrying beyond the end dates of current planning permissions.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing demand for local and national renewable energy schemes, in particular wind power. The impact of inappropriate wind energy generation projects could lead to a reduction of historic landscape character, amenity value and tranquillity. There is a strong history of using water as an energy source within the Derwent Valley, and there are opportunities to reconnect to this

cultural heritage by developing new forms of hydroelectricity schemes. There are opportunities for planting native woodland and improved woodland management linked to local wood fuel usage and developing other renewable energy sources.

Road safety is a major issue in the Derwent Valley, leading to an increased number of larger road signs. High vehicle use is also associated with increasing damage to roads, walls, hedges and verges, leading to the loss of historic features and creating an increased demand for parking.

Existing infrastructure associated with power supply has a visual impact, e.g. overhead electricity cables. In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.

Landscape guidelines

Derwent Valley	Open Moors	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes & Valleys with Woodland	Gritstone Village Farmlands	Valley Farmlands with Villages	Estatelands	Riverside Meadows
Protect							
Protect historic parkland landscapes			◐			◐	○
Protect historic hedgerows			◐		●	◐	○
Protect historic drystone walls		●	◐	●	○	◐	
Manage							
Manage and enhance woodlands			●		○	◐	○
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands			◐			◐	
Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees			◐	○	●	◐	◐
Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic	○	○	◐				
Enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland		●	◐	●	◐	○	●
Enhance the diversity of arable farmland					◐	◐	
Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character		○	◐	○	●	○	
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	○	
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access		◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	
Manage historic mineral landscapes	○	◐	◐				

Derwent Valley	Open Moors	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes & Valleys with Woodland	Gritstone Village Farmlands	Valley Farmlands with Villages	Estatelands	Riverside Meadows
Plan							
Create new native broadleaved woodland			●		◐	◐	○
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor	●	○	○				
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs			●		◐	●	○
Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings	◐			◐			

● This is a priority throughout the landscape character type

◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features

○ This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect historic parkland landscapes

Historic parkland is an important feature of the Derwent Valley. There is a need to protect the historic integrity of these landscapes whilst allowing them to evolve. Opportunities should also be sought for enhancing the biodiversity of historic parklands where structure and character can be appropriately maintained. The production of management plans should be considered to achieve these objectives.

Protect historic hedgerows

Hedgerows are an important historical feature in many of the lower lying landscapes in the Derwent Valley. Many boundaries are gappy and in poor condition, and there is a need to enhance their management to maintain the historic field pattern. Riverside Meadows are open landscapes and the management of internal hedgerows is less of a priority.

Protect historic drystone walls

Drystone walls are an important historical feature in the upland landscapes of the Derwent Valley. In places the management of walls is declining and there is a need to enhance management in order to protect and retain the historic field pattern.

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands

Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be sought to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst protecting cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes, which would reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies. Opportunities should be taken to remove coniferous woodland, replacing it, where appropriate, with native, broadleaved species.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Coniferous plantation woodlands form significant landscape features, particularly within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodlands. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider historic landscape through improved management, using methods such as felling and replacement with appropriate native tree species, whilst conserving cultural heritage features.

Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees

In the valley landscapes, linear trees along field boundaries and stream-lines form an important component of the tree cover. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure and to reinforce the historic field pattern. Groups of amenity trees are often associated with settlement and the use of appropriate species should be encouraged.

Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic

Birch scrub is encroaching in some areas of the Open Moors and Slopes and Valleys with Woodland, causing damage to cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. There is a need to identify areas that are a priority for scrub clearance and others where woodland regeneration will be more appropriate.

Enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many of the grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these pastures in a more sustainable way that restores or protects species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought, particularly in Riverside Meadows where grasslands could enhance their role for flood water storage, helping to reduce flood impacts further downstream.

Enhance the diversity of arable farmland

There are localised areas of arable farmland in the Estatelands and the Valley Farmlands with Villages landscape character types. Where these occur, measures to enhance diversity, such as uncropped margins or reversion to grassland, should be considered.

Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character

Some past development has had an urbanising influence in the Derwent Valley, particularly in the more settled lower lying landscapes. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and traditions. Opportunities should be sought to mitigate the urbanising character of some past development. This may be achieved through good design, removal or reducing the impacts, based upon consideration of local character, condition and viewpoints. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance its capacity to provide healthy recreation for a wide range of users. This can be achieved through landscape management measures including surfacing and signage, and by controlling inappropriate use to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests.

Manage the network of roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate recreational driving. Opportunities should be sought to manage the increasing size and number of highway signs.

Manage historic mineral landscapes

Characteristic features of the Open Moors, Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland, are the historic quarries which provided local building stone and millstones. Landscapes associated with historic mineral extraction should be retained and managed, including, where appropriate, providing interpretation of their history and developing their recreation and habitat potential.

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are opportunities to extend woodland cover, without affecting cultural heritage features and landscapes, particularly in those landscape character types in which woodland is a key characteristic. In the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland there are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration, although a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion, the retention of acid grassland/heath and the visibility of gritstone edges. In the Estatelands there are opportunities to expand plantation woodlands. There are localised opportunities to create new woodlands within the Valley Farmlands with Villages to help integrate new and existing development. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade and may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change. On slopes, woodland planting can also decelerate water flow and reduce flood damage to lower lying landscapes. In the Riverside Meadows there are only limited opportunities for wet woodland creation, because increasing woodland cover on the floodplain can exacerbate flooding potential.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

Dry heath is a priority landscape feature and is a product of historic and current management regimes. Opportunities should be sought to create and expand small patches of heath/moor in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

Several of the landscape character types within the Derwent Valley are suitable for the development of water power, local wood fuel supplies and other appropriate renewable energy schemes. Opportunities should be sought within new development and management of woodland to increase local renewable energy usage, where it would have a positive impact on the character of the area and its component parts.

Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings

Modern mineral workings should be restored to maximise visual amenity, biodiversity, recreational, educational and heritage value. The aim should be to use the land to create semi-natural landscapes, which blend into the surrounding landscape.

Peak District National Park
Landscape Strategy and Action Plan

8. Eastern Moors

July 2009
Final Report

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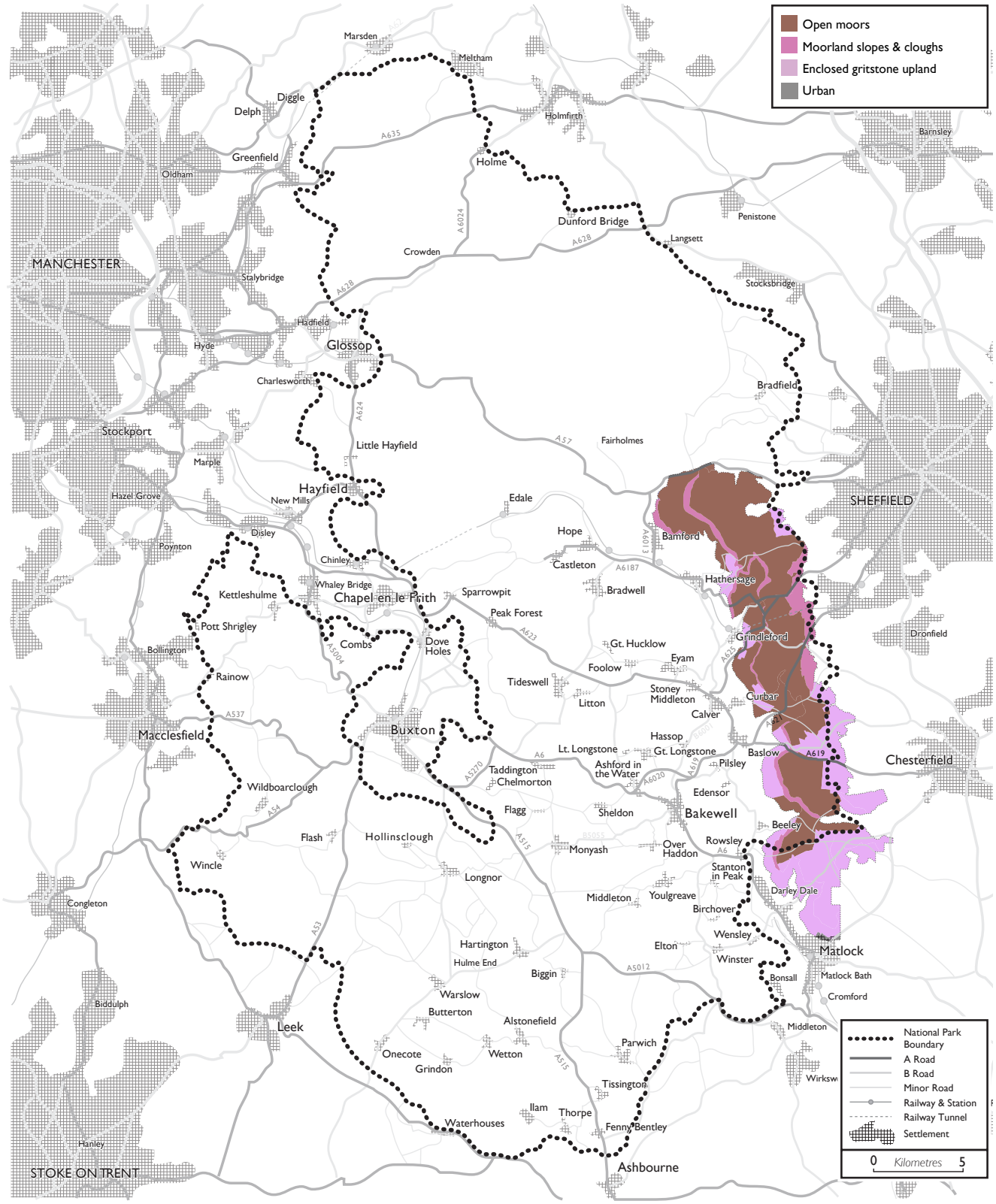

Overall strategy

The Eastern Moors is an upland landscape crossed by historic transport routes, with expansive views over the more settled landscapes in the lowlands and valleys, and is lower lying than the Dark Peak to the north. This lower plateau has a rich cultural heritage, with significant evidence of different periods of human activity. There is a need to ensure that this resource is maintained and also enhanced into the future. The landscape provides an important ecological and a valued recreational resource for the surrounding populations. These resources need to remain strong and valid into the future. Climate change may affect this landscape, both through damage associated with changing weather patterns and as a limited carbon sequestration resource; such use can be integrated with current land uses. The strong relationship of this landscape with surrounding urban areas means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities is important.

The overall strategy for the Eastern Moors should therefore be to:

> ***Protect and manage the open upland landscapes; seek opportunities to manage and enhance cultural heritage, biodiversity, recreational opportunities and tranquillity whilst maintaining the open character; and manage the landscapes to mitigate the impacts of climate change.***

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting existing land uses and activities whilst also enabling potential services, such as climate change mitigation measures
- a diverse ecological resource in good condition with connections between the different habitats enabling continued robustness
- celebrated cultural heritage in good condition, sustainably managed

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Eastern Moors.

Open Moors

This is the most open and unsettled landscape in the Eastern Moors, characterised by expansive open views, dwarf shrub heath and grass moorland. Priorities should be to protect and manage the open character and diversity of the moorland landscapes, the cultural heritage components and historic landscapes, and to protect and manage the ecological integrity of heath with an associated reduction in the area of grass moorland. These priorities should be carried out within a sustainable upland management system capable of integrating existing land uses such as agriculture and amenity with potential land uses such as carbon sequestration.

Moorland Slopes and Cloughs

This is a steeply sloping landscape with dramatic geology including scree slopes and gritstone outcrops, which are popular as a recreational resource. The priority is to protect and manage cultural heritage components and landscapes, whilst protecting or managing biodiversity and enabling the continuation of recreational uses. These resources need to be protected and managed within a sustainable land management system.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is pastoral upland landscape with drystone walls, straight roads and isolated farmsteads. Agricultural improvement and grazing have reduced the ecological diversity of the pastures. The priority should be to protect the historic field pattern and to protect or restore the diversity of pastoral farmland.

Issues of change

Conservation

The Eastern Moors is a similar but lower lying landscape to the Dark Peak. The lower altitude means that this landscape, unlike the Dark Peak, has been settled or worked for many years. The result is a landscape rich in cultural heritage such as prehistoric monuments, Medieval settlements, industrial heritage and historic parkland features. These elements are at risk from a range of current management practices. It is important that the cultural heritage resource of the Eastern Moors is conserved within any land management regime.

The Eastern Moors is an important and diverse natural landscape resource. The integrity of the natural landscape needs to be supported within any land management regime and alongside other pressures such as recreation.

Climate change implications

The Eastern Moors may provide a resource with which to sequester carbon. However, limited blanket bog cover means the potential for this is less significant than in the Dark Peak. The upland landscapes associated with the Eastern Moors are vulnerable to extreme weather events such as prolonged dry periods. This will increase the vulnerability of soils to erosion, whilst heavy, energetic rainfall may exacerbate such problems. Climatic changes pose a threat to the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape. Drier, hotter summers may also be associated with increased fire risk, particularly from accidental fires.

Demography, housing and employment

The Eastern Moors is a largely unsettled regional character area, with evidence of historic settlement. However, settlement and development are now confined to occasional stone farmsteads or shooting lodges, and there are currently no significant identified pressures which may lead to changes.

Tourism and recreation

This is a cherished and valued landscape that meets the recreational needs of large numbers of people, in particular from Sheffield. The Eastern Moors is a transition zone, providing many opportunities for accessible and affordable recreation, and is a cherished and often tranquil contrast with urban areas. Certain recreation pressures have a localised impact on tranquillity, e.g. active sports such as the use of motorised off-road vehicles.

Farming and forestry

Like the adjoining Dark Peak, the Eastern Moors consists mainly of wild moorland landscapes, which are managed mainly for rough grazing, amenity and grouse shooting. There are also some enclosed moorland landscapes, particularly in the south of the area, where the land is managed as improved permanent pasture. The stone walls that define fields in these landscapes are often in poor condition, and in places there has been an associated degradation of historic field patterns.

The Eastern Moors are mainly open and un-wooded, but there is encroaching birch scrub and a number of medium sized conifer plantations on the Open Moors.

Grouse shooting occurs locally on the Eastern Moors. The intensity of moorland management and the density of grouse can affect the ecological integrity of the moors. The management approaches associated with moorland management can affect the archaeology, other cultural heritage features, landscapes and ecology.

Minerals and resources

The historic remains of former quarries can be found along most of the edges, particularly those where mill stones were manufactured; these are now often important wildlife habitats, recreational resources and cultural heritage features in their own right. Although there are no modern quarries, there is a pressure to open up some old quarries to meet the needs of local, vernacular building repairs.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing demand for local and national renewable energy schemes, particularly wind power. In addition there is increasing potential for solar, water, and other renewable energy sources. The impact of inappropriate wind energy generation projects could lead to a reduction of historic landscape character, amenity value and tranquillity. There is a visual impact from existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables.

Road safety is a major issue in the Eastern Moors, leading to an increased number of larger road signs. High levels of vehicular use are increasing damage to roads, walls and verges, leading to a loss of historic features and creating an increased demand for parking. Traditional road usage has altered, with increasing daily traffic on minor roads affecting the visual amenity and tranquillity of the area.

In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.

Landscape guidelines

Eastern Moors	Open Moors	Moorland Slopes and Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
Protect			
Protect historic drystone walls			●
Protect and maintain cultural heritage resources	●	◐	◐
Manage			
Manage and enhance woodlands		◐	○
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands	◐	◐	
Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic	◐	○	
Manage the sparse and historic pattern of development	○	○	●
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland			●
Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management	●	○	

Eastern Moors	Open Moors	Moorland Slopes and Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands
Plan			
Create, extend and link areas of heath	●	◐	○
Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply		○	○
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs			◐

● This is a priority throughout the landscape character type

◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features

○ This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect historic drystone walls

Enclosure is a localised feature on the Eastern Moors. However, in some places, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, the maintenance of walls, and associated fixtures such as gateposts, is declining. There is a need to enhance their maintenance in order to protect and maintain the historic field pattern. This is particularly true for the boundaries that pre-date parliamentary enclosure.

Protect and maintain cultural heritage resources

This is particularly important on the Eastern Moors where the cultural heritage resource is significant but not always immediately evident. Efforts should be made to ensure that the resource is considered and protected when any management decisions or new practices are being considered or carried out. Appropriate opportunities for education/interpretation should also be developed.

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands

Woodland on the Eastern Moors is not widespread; where it is a landscape feature, it needs to be well managed. The wet and dry clough woods of the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs provide vital habitats for moorland birds and invertebrates, and may help reduce flood risk in lower landscapes by slowing rainwater run off from the uplands. Opportunities should be taken to extend and enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Coniferous plantation woodlands form unnatural landscape features within the Open Moors and Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, such as at Burbage. These woodlands often cause damage to cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider landscape through improved management, including felling and replacement with appropriate native tree species, or complete removal where appropriate.

Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic

Birch scrub is encroaching in some areas of the Open Moors, causing damage to cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. There is a need to identify areas that are a priority for scrub clearance and others where it should be retained to enhance ecological and visual diversity.

Manage the sparse and historic pattern of development

The Eastern Moors contrast with surrounding landscapes due to the very limited settlement, which plays a vital role in the character of the landscape. It is important that future development is limited and responds positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and traditions in order to protect this sense of place. Similarly, where settlement does exist, the views into and out of the settlement should be protected, as they can be important to character and sense of place. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park, considering siting, layout, design and materials. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that restores or protects species diversity, particularly wet, rushy pastures, whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be taken.

Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management

There is currently a diversity of approach to moorland management associated with the relatively high number of landowners in the area. Opportunities should be sought to further diversify the management of moors, developing varied cycles of management. This will enable a structurally diverse age range of stands of heather, thus enhancing the range of habitats which consequently may enhance the biodiversity of moorland. There is currently limited co-ordination of land management between the different owners. A co-ordinated approach could enhance the ecological, social and economic value of the moor.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance capacity and provide opportunities for healthy recreation to a wide range of users. This can be achieved through

landscape management measures such as surfacing and signage, and by controlling inappropriate uses to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests. The edges of the Eastern Moors are an internationally acclaimed rock climbing resource.

Plan

Create, extend and link areas of heath

Opportunities to extend heathland within the Open Moors should be sought, whilst safeguarding cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. There may be further opportunities to create, expand and link heath patches in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Slopes and Cloughs where appropriate, within a sustainable upland management system.

Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply

Where environmentally appropriate, and when demand can justify supply, it may be acceptable to open up some relict quarry sites over a limited extent and duration to enable restoration of local, vernacular buildings. Such decisions must be made on a site basis and consider all economic, landscape and environmental needs and issues.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are limited opportunities for small-scale renewable energy sources within the Eastern Moors but they should be sought as appropriate, within any new development. Management of woodland for wood fuel may increase local renewable energy usage, where it would have a positive impact on the character of the area and its component parts, reducing reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Peak District National Park

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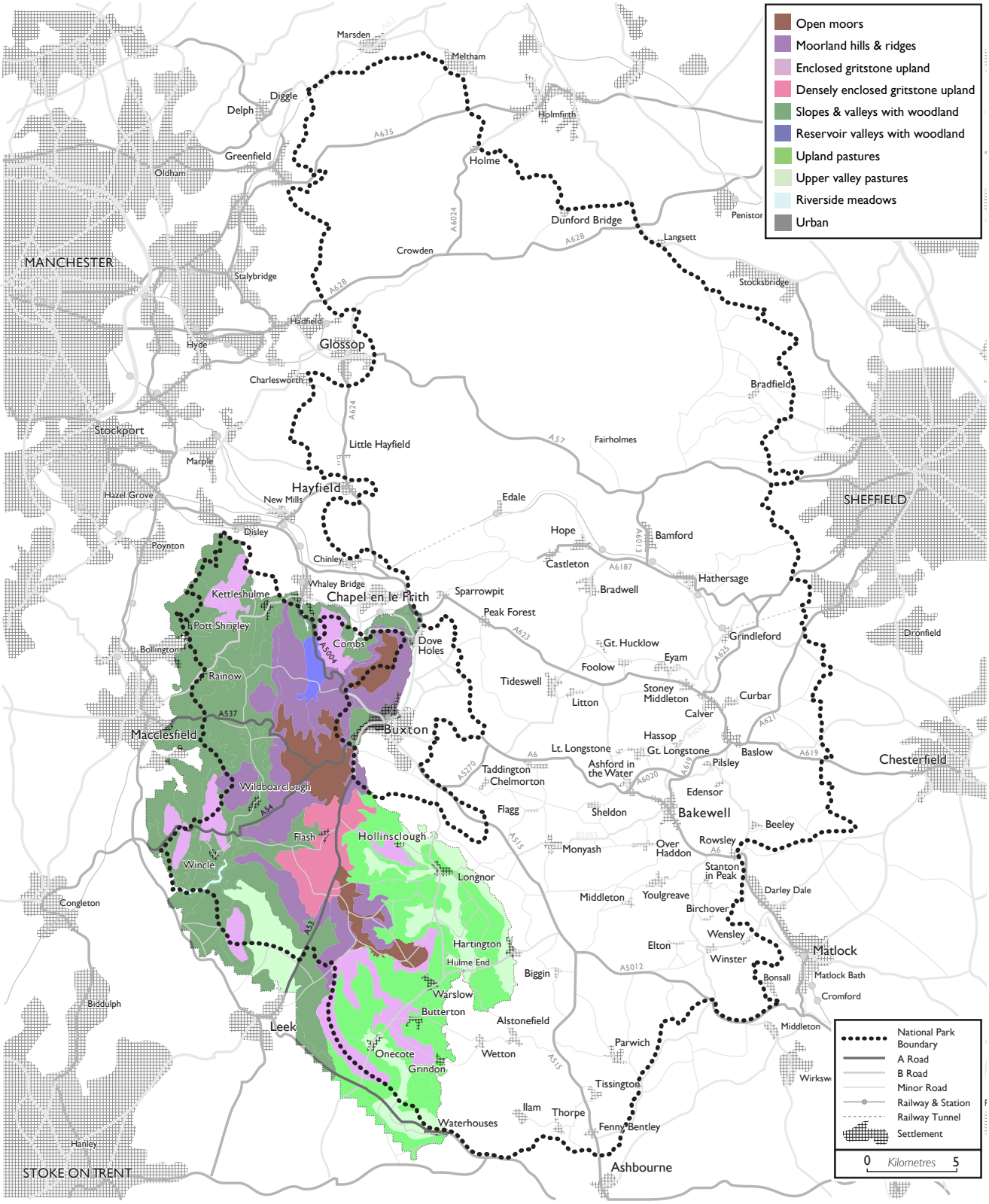

Overall strategy

The South West Peak contains a diverse range of landscapes from the unenclosed moorlands and settled uplands to the river corridors in the lower valleys. The contrast between these distinctive landscapes should be maintained and, where appropriate, enhanced to strengthen landscape character. The South West Peak is an area with a long history of human influence evidenced by the historic settlement pattern, field boundaries and other cultural heritage features. This influence is reflected in a distinctive dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and villages built of the local stone, and should be maintained. Although major vehicular routes have a local visual and noise impact on the area, there are extensive areas which have maintained a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. Tranquil areas are often associated with important ecological resources such as the Open Moors. This tranquillity needs to be protected and, where it is no longer evident, created or enhanced. There is a need to enhance the diversity and robustness of character throughout all landscape types of the South West Peak.

The overall strategy for the South West Peak should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the distinctive historic character of the landscapes through sustainable landscape management, and seek opportunities to value the diverse landscapes of the South West Peak whilst managing recreation opportunities, woodlands, wildness and the diversity of remoter areas.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting existing land uses whilst protecting the existing network of habitats
- an approach that protects and manages the distinctive dispersed settlement, field patterns and other cultural landscapes
- enhanced structure and extent of woodland and tree cover in appropriate locations
- an approach to restoring distinctive moorland landscapes

To achieve the above strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the South West Peak.

Open Moors

This is an open, largely unsettled landscape with prehistoric remains and extensive semi-natural habitats. The priority should therefore be to protect the open character and diversity of moorland landscapes.

Moorland Hills and Ridges

This is an open, largely unsettled landscape of steep slopes and high hills with extensive semi-natural habitats, enclosed in places with drystone walls. It also includes much of the Goyt Valley plantation woodlands. The priorities should be to protect the open landscape character and vestiges of historic field boundaries, to remove or integrate plantation woodlands into the moorland landscape, and to protect and manage biodiversity.

Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

The Enclosed Gritstone Uplands are an open landscape with a well defined pattern of drystone walls. The priority should be to protect the vestiges of historic field boundaries and to protect and manage biodiversity within the pastoral farmland. Where opportunities arise, e.g. where there are large enclosures of rough grazing land, consideration should be given to the restoration of an open moorland landscape.

Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is an open, settled historic landscape with a strong pattern of small and large fields enclosed by drystone walls. The priority should therefore be to protect the historic field pattern and distinctive dispersed settlement pattern, whilst protecting or managing the diversity of pastoral farmland and patches of heathland.

Slopes and Valleys with Woodland

This is a pastoral landscape with a strongly wooded character of irregular woodland blocks along cloughs and around buildings, scattered trees along boundaries and patches of acid grassland on steeper slopes. It includes the extensive Macclesfield Forest plantations. The priority is to protect the mosaic and diversity of existing woodlands, boundary trees, grasslands, semi-natural landscapes and their cultural heritage components, to better integrate plantation woodlands into the landscape and to seek opportunities to create new native woodlands where appropriate.

Upland Pastures

This is a settled upland pastoral landscape of dispersed farmsteads and a few villages, with a pattern of small to medium sized fields. The priority is to protect historic field boundaries and historic settlement patterns whilst protecting or managing the diversity of pastoral farmland.

Upper Valley Pastures

This is a settled pastoral valley landscape of dispersed farmsteads with scattered trees along boundaries and streams. The priority is to protect and diversify the historic network of boundaries and trees, and to encourage natural river processes to provide flood storage, amenity and biodiversity benefits.

Reservoir Valleys with Woodland

This is an enclosed landscape of steep sided valleys dominated by large reservoirs, with large interlocking blocks of coniferous and mixed plantation woodland, and patches of acid grassland. The priority is to enhance the diversity of woodlands, encourage a more natural landscape character, and to protect and manage semi-natural habitats.

Riverside Meadows

This is a small-scale pastoral landscape characterised by a meandering river channel with dense riverside trees, patches of wetland and predominantly hedgerow boundaries. The priority is to protect the diversity of the river corridor landscape and manage the landscape to provide flood water storage, helping prevent flooding elsewhere along the river corridor.

Issues of change

Conservation

Past drainage and agricultural improvement have reduced the extent and diversity of blanket bog and heath locally. Woodland diversity has been reduced by the isolation of woodland patches, grazing, poor management and invasion by rhododendrons. Coniferous plantations have, in places, replaced more diverse semi-natural landscapes. Grassland diversity has been reduced by agricultural improvement and methods, such as the change from hay to silage. Agricultural intensification has also led to a decrease in water quality associated with the run off of pesticides and fertilisers. Historic field boundaries, including hedgerows and drystone walls, are often in poor condition, particularly on land being used for extensive sheep grazing. Field barns, which are a localised historic feature, are now often redundant, at risk from abandonment and vandalism. Animal welfare standards mean that they are no longer appropriate for housing stock.

Climate change implications

Climate change is likely to cause an exacerbation of issues such as erosion and habitat loss, particularly in the upland and sloping landscapes. These areas could be severely impacted by increased rainfall or more energetic rainfall which may occur due to changing climatic conditions. Prolonged periods of hot and dry weather may impact on soils, leaving them dry and, where peat-based, friable and at an increased fire risk. Changing soil conditions are likely to lead to changing habitats as species move and adapt accordingly. All these issues pose a threat to the character, cultural heritage component and biodiversity of the landscape.

The landscapes of the South West Peak may also provide opportunities for mitigating climate impacts. The Riverside Meadows can provide a useful resource for combating climate change impacts as a flood water storage resource, protecting landscapes downstream. The Goyt Valley may be affected by changing management approaches as water catchment management becomes a national and international priority. Upland landscapes, with blanket bog habitats, are a key resource because if rewetted, they could sequester carbon efficiently alongside other land uses. All mitigation measures need to take into account the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape.

Demography, housing and employment

Pressure for residential development is somewhat less intense in the South West Peak than elsewhere in the National Park. However, there is still a need to provide affordable housing for key workers and to ensure that development is sensitive and appropriate to landscape character and the historic settlement pattern. In some areas, changes in the agricultural sector have led to farms being

bought as large domestic properties rather than as working entities. Such ownership changes can be associated with separation of farmstead and land holding, resulting in increasing trends to isolated, modern farm buildings, located away from farmsteads.

The adjacency of urban areas to the South West Peak means that light pollution is having significant consequences on dark skies.

Tourism and recreation

This area receives less visitor pressure than many other areas of the National Park, and is much valued by residents for its variety of landscapes and tranquillity. Most of the recreation in the South West Peak is concentrated into a few honey-pot sites, with much of the remaining area receiving relatively few visitors. There are significant opportunities for active sports such as mountain biking, climbing and motorised off-road driving, though the latter is, in localised places, causing physical damage to the infrastructure of historic rights of way.

Farming and forestry

The core moorland landscapes in the South West Peak (Open Moors and Moorland Hills and Ridges) are relatively well maintained and in reasonable condition. However, there has been some historic loss/degradation of moorland and rough grazing land on higher ground in the northern half of the area. In contrast, the structure of the historic enclosed agricultural landscape is, for the most part, in decline. Grouse shooting moors exist in the South West Peak but tend to exist on a smaller scale than in the Dark Peak. The intensity of moorland management for grouse can affect the ecological integrity of the moors. Highly fragmented land ownership in the post-war era has created low viability farms with fewer opportunities to offset income from tourism. This is forcing farms to increase in size and intensity and to diversify into businesses such as haulage, which have a significant impact on the landscape locally. In addition there has been an increase in hobby farmers leading to changes in grazing management, including horses, alpacas and traditional cattle breeds. In places, most notably in the Upper Manifold Valley area, the historic field pattern has been quite heavily modified, resulting in both a loss of boundaries and development of many gappy/ overgrown hedges. Although field pattern in the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland and Enclosed Gritstone Uplands tends to be more intact, many of the hedgerows are in poor condition. This is leading to a decline in the historic field pattern throughout the area.

Most of the ancient woodland in the South West Peak is associated with the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. In places, particularly in the Dane Valley and around Gun Hill, there is fairly consistent woodland cover. Elsewhere, however, this cover is patchy and there are larger blocks of more recent plantation woods (e.g. Macclesfield Forest). There are opportunities to enhance the structure and diversity of both semi-natural and plantation woodlands. The decline in historic land management patterns has created scope for the expansion of woodland. Expansion could occur where it will not

adversely affect priority habitats, cultural heritage features and key viewpoints. Woodlands tend not to be a feature in the other South West Peak landscapes. The moorland areas are typically un-wooded and open, apart from occasional large plantations. Opportunities should be sought to diversify and modify plantation woods and, where appropriate their removal should be considered to extend moorland. In the other agricultural landscapes, scattered tree cover has, in places, a poor age structure.

Minerals and resources

There is only one small-scale active quarry within the South West Peak which provides local building stone. This is helping to conserve the local character of the historic built environment. There are the remains of former quarries throughout the area and there is pressure to open up some of these quarries to meet the needs of local building repairs.

Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing national demand for renewable energy schemes, in particular wind power. Inappropriate wind generation projects could adversely impact on landscape character, the setting of historic features and landscapes, amenity value and tranquillity. There are opportunities for small scale hydroelectric schemes, planting native woodland, and improved woodland management linked to local wood fuel usage and other renewable energy schemes.

Road safety is a major issue in the South West Peak, leading to an increase in the number and size of road signs. High levels of vehicle use are increasing damage to roads, walls, hedges and verges, leading to a loss of historic features. In places the lack of parking is causing conflicts with residents, with access to property and roads being blocked. There is a demand for innovative methods to encourage visitors to use public transport.

There is a visual impact from the existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables. In recent years there has been an increase in visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.

Landscape guidelines

South West Peak	Open Moors	Moorland Hills and Ridges	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Upland Pastures	Upper Valley Pastures	Reservoir Valleys with Woodland	Riverside Meadows
Protect									
Protect historic drystone walls		◐	●	●	○	◐	◐		○
Protect historic hedgerows			○		●	◐	●		◐
Protect historic parkland landscapes			○		◐				
Manage									
Manage and enhance woodlands					◐				
Manage and enhance clough woodlands					◐	○		◐	
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands		◐		◐	◐	○		●	
Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees					◐		●		◐
Enhance and restore moorland landscapes	●	●	◐	◐					
Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management	●	●	◐	◐		○			
Enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands			◐	◐	◐	●	◐		●

South West Peak	Open Moors	Moorland Hills and Ridges	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	Slopes and Valleys with Woodland	Upland Pastures	Upper Valley Pastures	Reservoir Valleys with Woodland	Riverside Meadows
Manage (Continued)									
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	◐	◐	◐	○	◐	○	◐	◐	○
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access			◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	
Manage the dispersed and historic settlement patterns of development			○	◐	◐	●	○		
Manage intrusive features on farmland and farmsteads			○	◐	○	◐	○		
Manage historic mineral landscapes	○	○	○	◐	○	○		○	
Plan									
Create new native broadleaved woodland					◐		○	○	○
Create clough woods		○	○	○	◐	○	○	●	
Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor	○	◐	◐	○					
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs		○			◐		◐	●	○
Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings					○				

● This is a priority throughout the Landscape Character Type (LCT)

◐ This is a priority in some parts of the LCT, often associated with particular conditions/features

○ This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations

This will generally be inappropriate in this LCT

Landscape guidelines explanation

Protect

Protect historic drystone walls

Drystone walls, and associated features such as gateposts, are an important historical element in the more upland landscapes in the South West Peak, particularly the Enclosed and Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands. Walls and hedges often appear together with walls predominating in many areas. In places the management of walls is declining, and there is a need to enhance their management in order to protect and retain the historic field pattern.

Protect historic hedgerows

Hedgerows are an important historical feature on many of the gentler summits and lower slopes in the South West Peak, often occurring in conjunction with gritstone walls. Many boundaries are gappy and in poor condition, and there is a need to enhance their management to protect the historic field pattern.

Protect historic parkland landscapes

Historic parkland is an important localised feature of the South West Peak. There is a need to protect the historic integrity of these landscapes whilst allowing them to evolve. Opportunities should be sought for enhancing the biodiversity of historic parklands where the structure and character can be appropriately maintained. The production of management plans and partnership approaches with landowners should be considered to achieve these objectives.

Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands

Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be taken to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon-based energies.

Manage and enhance clough woodlands

In some areas clough woods are important landscape features as well as being important habitats. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes and existing ecological features.

Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Large coniferous plantation woodlands form distinctive landscape features within certain landscape character types. Opportunities should be taken to integrate them into the wider historic landscape by better management, including felling and increasing appropriate native tree species, whilst protecting cultural heritage features. In the Slopes and Valleys with Woodlands it will generally be appropriate to retain plantation woodlands but manage it through restructuring, reprofiling and increasing the area of native woodland. In other landscape character types (LCT) these measures may be appropriate, or it may be appropriate to restore open landscapes by felling areas of plantation woods.

Manage and enhance linear tree cover and amenity trees

In the valley landscapes, linear trees along field boundaries and streams form an important component of the tree cover. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure. Groups of amenity trees are often associated with settlement, and the use of appropriate species should be encouraged.

Enhance and restore moorland landscapes

Opportunities should be sought for the restoration of degraded moorland landscapes through the re-vegetation of bare peat and rewetting of blanket bog. This could provide a valuable resource in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and increased water storage capacity.

Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management

There is currently a diversity of approach to moorland management. Opportunities should be sought to further diversify the management of moors, developing longer cycles of management enabling some stands of heather to grow much longer and older, thus enhancing the range of habitats which consequently may increase the biodiversity of moorland.

Enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands

Many of the grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way, that protects or manages species diversity whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be sought, particularly in Upland Pastures and Riverside Meadows where their use for flood water storage could be enhanced.

Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance the capacity for providing healthy recreation for a wide range of users. This can be achieved through landscape management measures including surfacing and signage, and by controlling inappropriate uses to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests of the landscape.

Manage the network of roads to maintain character and local access

The scattered settlement pattern of farmsteads and houses lying within traditional townships and villages is connected by a network of roads. These should be managed to maintain their local rural character and scale to ensure good local access, whilst discouraging inappropriate recreational driving. Opportunities should be sought to manage the increasing size and number of highway signs.

Manage the dispersed and historic settlement patterns of development

The dispersed settlement pattern with occasional small villages is a unique feature of the South West Peak landscapes. New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and building traditions. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside, but has an impact on, the National Park. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can also impact on landscape character, and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

Manage intrusive features on farmland and farmsteads

In some areas an accumulation of agricultural scrap and building materials has occurred on a few properties, and diversification of farm enterprises into businesses such as haulage has also affected the character of some holdings. This is having a significant impact over a wider area, causing damage to archaeological features and historic landscapes; opportunities should therefore be sought for the removal of intrusive features, or their careful siting and screening where necessary.

Manage historic mineral landscapes

Landscapes associated with historic mineral extraction, in particular coal mining and stone slate quarries, should be retained and managed, including, where appropriate, providing interpretation of their history and developing their recreation and habitat potential.

Plan

Create new native broadleaved woodland

There are opportunities to extend woodland cover without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes, particularly in those landscape character types where woodland is a key characteristic. In the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland there are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration. However, a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention or creation of acid grassland/moorland. There are localised opportunities to create new woodland in the Upper Valley Pastures, particularly around existing and new developments. In the Riverside Meadows there are only limited opportunities for wet woodland creation due to potential impacts on flooding of increased woodland cover in the floodplain. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade which may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Create clough woods

Opportunities should be sought to extend and create clough woodlands within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features. In wet cloughs, increasing woodland cover can lead to slower water flow at times of heavy rainfall and thus help to reduce flood risks in lower lying landscapes.

Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor

There are opportunities within the Moorland Hills and Ridges, Enclosed Gritstone Upland and the Densely Enclosed Gritstone Upland of the South West Peak, to diversify the existing grassland-based landscapes. This can be achieved by creating new moorland/heath and extending and linking existing patches of moor/heath, enhancing moorland landscapes. Opportunities to restore large areas of grass moor in the Open Moors and Moorland Hills and Ridges should also be sought.

Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

Several of the landscape character types within the South West Peak are suitable for the development of water power, local wood fuel supplies and other renewable energy sources. Opportunities should be sought within new development and the management of woodlands to increase local renewable energy usage, where it would have a positive impact on landscape character and its component parts.

Develop appropriate landscapes from mineral workings

Modern mineral workings should be restored to maximise visual amenity, biodiversity, recreational, educational and heritage value. The aim should be to use the land to create semi-natural landscapes, which blend into the surrounding landscape.

Peak District National Park
Landscape Strategy and Action Plan 2009 – 2019

Action Plan

July 2009
Final Report

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Introduction

This Action Plan sets out how the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines will be delivered across the National Park as a whole. The Action Plan has been produced by the Peak District National Park Authority, with input from many stakeholders. The Action Plan is for the whole National Park, and the delivery of these actions will often require a partnership of several organisations. Appropriate lead partners have therefore been identified for each action. Implementation of these actions will be by various means; some will be part of day-to-day work, others will be specific projects and some will be resource-reliant, both in terms of funding and staffing.

The timescale for actions have been broken down into short (2010-12), medium (2012-15) and long term (2015+). In addition, some projects will require occasional action at infrequent periods of time (as appropriate), or require continuous action at regular periods of time (continuous action).

Recognise landscape in law

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
1.1 Influence the UK Government to ensure that landscape is recognised in all relevant legislation	Peak District National Park Authority English National Park Authorities Association Association of National Park Authorities Natural England Campaign to Protect Rural England (national office) Campaign for National Parks English Heritage	As appropriate	English National Park Authorities Association Landscape Group has a clear remit to review national legislation
		As appropriate	Ensure that landscape is fully considered in Peak District National Park Authority responses to national legislation

Integrate landscape into policy

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
2.1 Ensure that the Local Development Framework Core Strategy takes full account of landscape and uses the Landscape Character Assessment and Strategy as a framework for spatial planning	Peak District National Park Authority	2009 - 2011	Local Development Framework policy based on understanding of landscape character
2.2 Ensure that Natural England's emerging Protected Landscapes policy is relevant and appropriate to the Peak District	Natural England Peak District National Park Authority English National Park Authorities Association	2009 and as appropriate	Natural England Protected Landscapes policy is relevant to the Peak District
2.3 Landscape 'proof' all National Park Authority policies, plans and strategies	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Landscape proofing checklist agreed with Peak District National Park Authority
		As appropriate	Landscape proofing checklist applied to all policy development
2.4 Influence policies and strategies of adjoining planning authorities	Peak District National Park Authority Friends of the Peak District Sheffield Area Geology Trust	2010 – 2011 and as appropriate	Workshop held for senior officers and planning committee members of adjoining planning authorities
		As appropriate	Comments submitted for all policies and strategies affecting the Peak District
		Continuous action	Input into regional policies relevant to landscape

2.5 Ensure agri-environment and woodland management scheme targeting responds to distinctive landscape character	Natural England Forestry Commission Peak District National Park Authority	Continuous action	Targeting of agri-environment and woodland management scheme agreements responds to distinctive landscape character
2.6 Protect Peak District landscapes from inappropriate effects of major infrastructure developments and their cumulative effects	Regional Development Agencies Peak District National Park Authority Highways Agency UK Government Adjacent planning authorities Statutory undertakers	As appropriate	Peak District National Park Authority minerals, energy generation and infrastructure policies in place

Identify and assess landscapes

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
3.1 Review Landscape Character Assessment	Peak District National Park Authority	2018	Landscape Character Assessment updated
3.2 Facilitate Community Landscape Character Assessments	Peak District National Park Authority Friends of the Peak District Communities/Parish Councils Sheffield Area Geology Trust	2011 - 2012	Resource pack developed to support Community Landscape Character Assessments
		2012 - 2015	Community landscape projects initiated
3.3 Work with adjacent authorities to identify continuities in landscape character types	Peak District National Park Authority Other adjacent authorities	As appropriate	Joint responses developed to European Landscape Convention – "protect, manage and plan"

Set landscape objectives

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
4.1 Review landscape description unit condition assessments in liaison with Area Teams and stakeholders, and identify priorities for mitigating landscape detractors and for enhancement	Peak District National Park Authority Communities	2013 – 2015	Priorities for site/feature-specific landscape enhancement/mitigation identified, e.g. field boundaries
4.2 Set climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives for all landscapes	Peak District National Park Authority Natural England	2015 +	Priorities for climate change adaptation and mitigation identified for each landscape character area

4.3 Mid-term review of Landscape Action Plan with stakeholders	Peak District National Park Authority	2013 – 2015	Mid-term review of actions completed and revised
4.4 Review Landscape Strategy and Action Plan	Peak District National Park Authority	2019	Landscape Strategy and Action Plan updated
4.5 Review outputs of Community Landscape Character Assessments and assess implications for Landscape Strategy and Action Plan	Peak District National Park Authority	As appropriate, as Assessments are completed	Implications of Community Landscape Character Assessments incorporated into mid-term review of the Landscape Action Plan

Protect landscapes

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
5.1 Identify priorities for protecting cultural heritage features and landscapes, and explore options for sustainable management	Peak District National Park Authority English Heritage Natural England	2010 - 2012	Clear priorities for cultural heritage features agreed
5.2 Identify priorities for protecting locally distinctive traditional farm buildings, including field barns, and initiate action	Peak District National Park Authority English Heritage Natural England	2013 - 2015	Advice note issued on sustainable future use of agricultural buildings
5.3 Implement action to protect and restore field boundaries, with a focus on those boundaries identified as priorities	Peak District National Park Authority Natural England	Continuous action	Programme of field boundary protection and restoration established and underway

Manage landscapes

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
6.1 Adjoining planning authorities to take due care when considering development on the fringes of the National Park to avoid adverse impacts on the National Park and its valued characteristics	Constituent and adjacent planning authorities Peak District National Park Authority	Continuous action	Annual review of significant new development on the fringes of the National Park
		2015 +	Develop sensitivity mapping to include areas beyond the edge of the National Park
6.2 Continue project to underground key overhead electricity lines, and ensure new development does not result in inappropriate overhead lines	Electricity supply companies Electricity regulator English National Park Authorities Association Peak District National Park Authority Friends of the Peak District	2009 - 2012	Current programme to underground cables implemented
		2013 – 2015	Park-wide priorities for undergrounding identified and implementation programme agreed
6.3 Reduce the landscape impacts of transport infrastructure, including road furniture and improve road safety	Highways Authorities Highways Agency Peak District National Park Authority	2013 – 2015	Road Signage Agreements established to uphold National Park purposes
		Continuous action	Annual review with Highways Authorities of problem areas and priorities for action

6.4 Manage road verges, tracks and footpaths to protect the cultural features and enhance biodiversity and attractiveness	Highways Authorities Highways Agency Peak District National Park Authority Wildlife Trusts	2015 +	Priority road verges for conservation/enhancement identified and managed
		2015 +	Code of practice provided to contractors working on road verges, footpaths and tracks to ensure protection of valued features
6.5 Ensure development control decisions consider landscape character	Peak District National Park Authority	Continuous action	Regular landscape training course for all Planning Services staff and Authority members
		2010 - 2012	Forms of development requiring landscape advice agreed
		2013 – 2015 +	Priorities for planning enforcement agreed
6.6 Diversify agricultural grasslands to enhance biodiversity and enjoyment of the landscape	Peak District National Park Authority Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Partnership Natural England	2010 - 2012	Grassland management guidance provided to landowners and agri-environment advisers
		2013 - 2015	Research conducted to identify focus areas to diversify grassland
6.7 Enhance woodland management	Forestry Commission BAP Partnership Peak District National Park Authority Natural England Small Woods Association	2013 – 2015	Report developed detailing means of improving the management of small woodlands, especially in the White Peak
		As appropriate	Management agreements established for woodlands

6.8 Influence management of small land holdings	National Smallholders Organisation Peak District National Park Authority Country Land and Business Association British Horse Society	2012	Guidelines developed for horse-owners and small-holdings in the Peak District
6.9 Continue restoration of blanket bog and other moorland landscapes	Moors for the Future Partnership National Trust Water companies RSPB Large Estates and Landowners	Continuous action	Continued funding for Moors for the Future Partnership and water companies' Asset Management Plans secured
		Continuous action	Plan to apply lessons learned from Moors for the Future in other moorland landscapes developed

Plan landscapes

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
7.1 Address landscape impacts of coniferous woodland through a combination of reshaping/restructuring, restoration of open habitats and replacement with broadleaved woodland as appropriate	Forestry Commission United Utilities Severn Trent Water Yorkshire Water National Trust Wildlife Trusts	2013 - 2015	Five year target for management of conifer woodlands established
		2015 +	Assess impact of conifer removal on landscape

7.2 Increase broadleaved woodland cover in appropriate locations	Forestry Commission Woodland Trust National Trust Natural England BAP Partnership Country Land and Business Association Small Woods Association Larger Estates and Landowners	Continuous action	Sites suitable for woodland creation identified
		2013 – 2015	Appropriate new woodland creation encouraged in liaison with Forestry Commission and landowners
7.3 Ensure landscape scale perspective on any project development and implementation scheme in the Peak District	Peak District National Park Authority Natural England Friends of the Peak District The Wildlife Trusts BAP Partnership English Heritage RSPB National Trust Utility Companies	As appropriate	All appropriate projects assessed against the landscape strategy
7.4 Establish a landscape framework for the delivery of the Peak District BAP so that habitat planning is targeted at the most appropriate landscapes	Peak District National Park Authority Members of BAP Partnership Natural England	2013 – 2015	Supplementary report and table developed setting out guidelines

7.5 Develop a Peak District Geodiversity Action Plan (GAP)	Natural England East Midlands Geodiversity Forum Sheffield Area Geology Trust British Geological Survey Peak District National Park Authority Regionally Important Geological Sites local groups	2015 +	Geodiversity Action Plan developed
7.6 Review quarry restoration methods to ensure best practice	British Aggregates Association Mineral Products Association Peak District National Park Authority Natural England Wildlife Trusts Mineral Operators Mineral Planning Authorities	2015 +	Position statement on quarry restoration published

Monitor change

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
8.1 Develop landscape monitoring programme, including Conservation Area Appraisals	Peak District National Park Authority Natural England English Heritage Sheffield Area Geology Trust	2010 - 2012	Monitoring programme established. Four Conservation Area Appraisals done each year
		2015 +	Report on landscape change produced
8.2 Monitor policy	Peak District National Park Authority National Park Management Plan External Monitoring Group	Continuous action	Annual monitoring report on LDF and Management Plan takes account of landscape
8.3 Monitor people's perceptions	Peak District National Park Authority Peak Experience	As appropriate	Visitor and resident surveys consider valued characteristics of landscape and future priorities
8.4 Monitor light pollution and take action to reduce it	Peak District National Park Authority Campaign to Protect Rural England (national office) Macclesfield and other Astronomical Societies	2015 +	Annual monitoring of light pollution at fixed points across the Peak District
		2015 +	Project to assess and reduce light pollution sources established

Promote education & training

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
9.1 Run training courses for professionals, land managers and farmers engaged in landscape issues	Losehill Hall	As appropriate	Landscape professionals, land managers and farmers trained in landscape that includes biodiversity and cultural heritage
9.2 Develop landscape education resources for schools, colleges and universities	Losehill Hall	2010 - 2012	Landscape educational materials linked to relevant areas of the curriculum developed
		As appropriate	Courses focussed on landscape for schools and colleges delivered
		As appropriate	Active liaison with university courses to promote understanding of landscape

Raise awareness, understanding & involvement

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
10.1 Develop communications plan for Landscape Strategy and Action Plan	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Communications plan published
10.2 Landscape character based interpretation that takes account of geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural heritage	Peak District National Park Authority Peak District Interpretation Partnership Peak Experience	As appropriate	Approach to landscape interpretation agreed with Peak District Interpretation Partnership

10.3 Link Environmental Quality Mark and Live and Work Rural Programme to key landscape characteristics	Peak District National Park Authority	2010 - 2012	Measures to integrate landscape advice agreed with project officers

Co-operate across Europe

Action	Lead partners	Timescale	Measures of success
11.1 Share experience and good practice with other protected landscapes and public authorities in other European countries	Europarc Federation English National Park Authorities Association Peak District National Park Authority	As appropriate	Experienced shared with landscape organisations across Europe