

JOINT ACTION PLAN

For the Peak District National Park



2009—2012



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**NATURAL ENGLAND AND THE
PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

PART 1 – HOW WE WILL WORK TOGETHER

This Joint Action Plan between Natural England and the Peak District National Park Authority sets out what the two organisations wish to achieve by working together in the Peak District. Our organisations start from the basis of common statutory objectives and recognition and respect for the strengths which we both bring to the relationship. While there are many areas of synergy there are also important differences, which we will use to our collective advantage:

Natural England brings

- substantial national capacity and expertise on policy and evidence
- a national coverage which embraces all designated landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and beyond – allowing ‘good practice’ experience to be brought in from elsewhere and disseminated more widely
- formal involvement in the selection of National Park Authority members appointed by the Secretary of State
- leadership in the delivery of Government goals relevant to the natural environment
- regional-level influencing
- local delivery expertise, backed by agri-environment resources

The Peak District National Park Authority

- has deep knowledge of the Peak District with strong connections to local communities and land managers
 - has expertise in, and understanding of, a range of issues on a landscape scale
 - brings delivery on the ground and leadership of delivery by others through our National Park Management Plan
 - has a wider remit which embraces social and economic dimensions
 - enjoys strong links with the local government and regional planning frameworks
 - is responsible for a breathtaking environment and ensures people are able to enjoy and take inspiration from the finest landscapes
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JOINT ACTION PLAN

In the Peak District, Natural England and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) affirm the common vision for all national parks shared between Natural England and the English National Parks Authorities Association (ENPAA):

“To ensure that the landscapes, wildlife, geodiversity and cultural heritage of English National Parks are conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit, well-being and enjoyment of present and future generations. We aspire for National Parks to be exemplars in sustainable development and so contribute to a better quality of life for all.”

There are many ways in which the aspirations and work of the Peak District National Park Authority and Natural England interact. These range from involvement in spatial planning and joint projects on promoting biodiversity to addressing the effects of transport on protected landscapes. A major area of joint effort is the delivery of agri-environment schemes where the focus is on collaboration between local front-line staff to communicate and co-ordinate activity to achieve maximum efficiency of delivery and environmental gain.

This Joint Action Plan does not seek to describe all of the relationship that the Peak District National Park Authority and Natural England enjoy. It does not include day to day activity or routine collaboration. Nor does this Agreement have a legally binding status. Rather it identifies the major areas where working together, we will make a real difference in achieving our vision, providing a focus for joint activity and a framework to support joint action.

Both organisations commit to working together to achieve tangible results over the 3-year lifetime of this Joint Action Plan, both in the key areas identified and in any others that might subsequently be added.

In delivering these actions, we have regard to the following principles:

- we will always consider opportunities for co-operation and joint representation when developing strategic documents in our area
 - at all other levels across our operations, we will look for ways to improve outcomes and provide public value by working together and in partnership with others
 - in any joint projects, we will demonstrate the public benefits of our relationship through joint communications and media
 - we will ensure that in all our activities, both organisations are aware of and have full regard for each other's statutory duties
 - we will work to ensure that high quality data is gathered and made available to ourselves and partners, to inform the decisions taken for the environment
 - we will continue to share training and workshops for National Park Authority and Natural England staff.
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To deliver this, the Peak District National Park Authority and Natural England have agreed to deliver jointly across a series of headline issues. These are:

- CLIMATE CHANGE: DELIVERY OF HEALTHY PEAK DISTRICT UPLANDS



The focus of our current activity lies with the Moors for the Future Partnership, a major joint project to deliver multiple benefits at a landscape scale for the internationally important moorlands of the Peak District. We will take forward this vital work to showcase the role that restored healthy peatlands play in carbon capture and climate change adaptation and mitigation alongside its other benefits for people and the environment.

- DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE AND PLACE: ACCESS, ENJOYMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEAK DISTRICT

Currently both partners promote public access, enjoyment and understanding of the National Park's exceptional environment. We have worked together e.g. to fund resources for ranger services, interpretation and education delivery.

This Joint Action Plan will build on this through greater cooperation on a number of key projects including the Mosaic project, development of a volunteering strategy and joint delivery of the Health and Wellbeing agenda.



JOINT ACTION PLAN

- LANDSCAPE: HIGH QUALITY LAND MANAGEMENT DELIVERED THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

To contribute to the European Landscape Convention, we will jointly deliver the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan for the Peak District.

Our land management services already work closely, for example, through our joint Peak District Land Management Advisory Service, to deliver a strongly consistent message to Peak District farmers and landowners, advising on grants, regulation and links between a high quality environment and a thriving local economy. With other partners, we will innovate through joint approaches to deliver a more efficient and effective service to land managers, so meeting the immensely challenging targets facing our landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage.



- STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES: A STRONG PARTNERSHIP



Both organisations have a wide range of statutory and legal responsibilities on land management and in the planning process. These include development control, protection of special wildlife and places, promoting access to land and public enjoyment. We will improve efficiency by developing mechanisms to ensure consistent and joint approaches on regulation and other areas of joint interest.

Signatures and Date

Natural England.....

Peak District National Park Authority.....

Date.....

PART 2 – OUR JOINT ACTIONS FOR 2009 - 2012

CLIMATE CHANGE: DELIVERY OF HEALTHY PEAK DISTRICT UPLANDS

Outcome: The special qualities of the National Park will be safeguarded and enhanced to create a healthy natural environment whilst considering the possible future impacts of climate change.

HEADLINE ACTIONS	MILESTONES
<p>Strengthen the landscape scale approach to conservation management, for example, through Moors For the Future</p>	<p>Successful Life+ bid implemented 2010 onwards</p> <p>Production of Moorland Restoration Handbook by end of 2009</p> <p>Sphagnum propagation project delivered by end of 2010</p> <p>Defra Demonstration Project 'Making Space for Water' delivered by 2011</p> <p>Yorkshire Water Recovery Project delivered by end of 2012</p> <p>Environmentally Sensitive Area Conservation Plan project delivered by 2014</p> <p>Contribute to the development of a Peak District Eastern Moors project</p>
<p>Delivery of Climate Change Action Plan for the National Park</p>	<p>Implement, support and promote research projects/programmes to develop understanding of how uplands might respond to climate change, particularly through the Moors for the Future partnership to develop shared understanding and help inform policy</p> <p>Research programmes on climate change and flood control through Moors for the Future</p> <p>Achieve joint targets for natural resource protection and climate change through agri-environment schemes developed with farmers and landowners</p>
<p>Initiate discussions to look at potential for designation of a Section 35 National Nature Reserve on a PDNPA upland estate</p>	<p>Project Plan in place by 2011 and a National Nature Reserve designation proposal by 2012</p>

JOINT ACTION PLAN

DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE AND PLACE: ACCESS, ENJOYMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEAK DISTRICT

Outcome: Increased awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the National Park.

HEADLINE ACTIONS	MILESTONES
<p>Deliver greater access, enjoyment and understanding through contributing to delivery of the English National Park Authorities Association / Natural England Shared Outcomes Agreement</p>	<p>Deliver the Mosaic Project (building local Black and Minority Ethnic groups' capacity for engagement with the National Park) to agreed outcomes by March 2012</p> <p>Develop exemplar projects that deliver physical and intellectual access improvements to all users e.g. through the Recreation Strategy for the National Park, review of the Peak District Interpretation Strategy and development of a Peak District Volunteer Strategy</p> <p>Establish consistent messages and co-ordinated actions to promote the health benefits of recreation</p>
<p>Raise awareness and promote understanding of the special qualities of the National Park amongst partners and the general public</p>	<p>Agree key shared messages, communications protocol and processes</p> <p>By 2012 develop a network of education officers including partner providers to ensure consistent messages and provision across the area</p>

LANDSCAPE: HIGH QUALITY LAND MANAGEMENT DELIVERED THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Outcome: Effective partnership delivery for key local and regional agendas through being proactive, innovative and forward looking.

HEADLINE ACTIONS	MILESTONES
Work towards achievement of targets within the European Landscape Convention	Implement Landscape Strategy Action Plan
Develop the work of the Peak District Land Management Advisory Service as a key mechanism for achieving best practice in sustainable land management	<p>300 farmers / land managers engaged with annually through Peak District Land Management Advisory Service</p> <p>60 Higher Level Scheme Agreements delivered annually</p> <p>50 Catchment Sensitive Farming schemes delivered annually as part of continued work in Dove, Hamps, Manifold and Wye river catchment areas</p>
Ensure targets for Sites of Special Scientific Interest are delivered and maintained on Natural England / Peak District National Park Authority land	Natural England / Peak District National Park Authority land in target condition: 95% by 2010 and 100% by 2012
Deliver national and local Biodiversity Action Plan targets	<p>By 2010, agreement on a functioning local record centre to deliver:</p> <p>Improved baseline information on habitats and species (2011) and improved understanding of habitat and species trends (2012)</p> <p>National, regional and local Biodiversity Action Plan targets met in the Peak District through targeted delivery (ongoing) and further review in 2011</p> <p>Develop actions that focus on top priority endangered species, e.g. raptors, crayfish by April 2010</p>
Delivery of appropriate Cultural Heritage Strategy actions for the National Park	Restoration of 60 traditional farm buildings by end of 2012
Improve the prosperity of the rural economy by capitalising on the distinctive National Park environment as a business asset	140 new businesses participating in the Environmental Quality Mark as part of the Live & Work Rural Programme

JOINT ACTION PLAN

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES: A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Outcome: Statutory responsibilities are delivered effectively and reflect the respective roles of the two organisations.

HEADLINE ACTIONS	MILESTONES
<p>Develop existing links that the National Park Authority has within local government and regional planning frameworks to ensure clear policies that support a high quality natural environment</p>	<p>Natural England to make full input to consultation on the Local Development Framework for the National Park</p> <p>Natural England to contribute fully to recruitment of new Authority Secretary of State-appointed members, ensuring that environmental and recreational understanding of new and existing members is of appropriately high level</p> <p>Natural England to provide advice on environmental issues arising from planning and other issues: develop a service level agreement</p> <p>Joint support to county and district Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements to ensure environment is fully addressed</p>
<p>Deliver Government objectives relevant to the landscape and natural environment</p>	<p>Natural England / Peak District National Park Authority delivering targets e.g. Water Framework Directive, Sites of Special Scientific Interest condition, European Landscape Convention, Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations</p> <p>Agreed mechanism to ensure consistent and/or joint approaches to major issues and opportunities affecting the National Park e.g. cross-park traffic</p>
<p>Influence key stakeholders at regional level to ensure National Park purposes are taken into account</p>	<p>Agreed partnership approach to influence and guide regional initiatives e.g. review of Regional Spatial Strategies</p>
<p>Deliver National Park Management Plan outcomes and associated strategies/action plans</p>	<p>Natural England to take an active role in implementation, monitoring and review of relevant National Park plans and strategies</p>