

Draft Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23

Section 1: The Peak District National Park

The Peak District National Park plays a special role well beyond its borders. It is of international, national, regional, and local importance. Established in 1951, it was the UK's first National Park; there are now fifteen. As well as providing a breathing space and opportunities for learning, discovery and enjoyment for millions of people, the designation of National Parks is because of their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage - the 'special qualities' that make them so important. The special qualities of the Peak District National Park are detailed in Section 6. Please see figure 1 for a visual representation of the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides.

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

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

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

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

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



THE PEAK DISTRICT

7

Figure 1

Peak District National Park: benefits in numbers



Benefits within the Peak District National Park

555
square
miles
of PDNP contributing
to natural beauty

over
1/3
of the PDNP
is open access

1,472
scheduled monuments
in the PDNP

1/3
of the PDNP is designated
for nature conservation

45
million
burgers
beef and lamb to clean burgers
produced in the PDNP each year

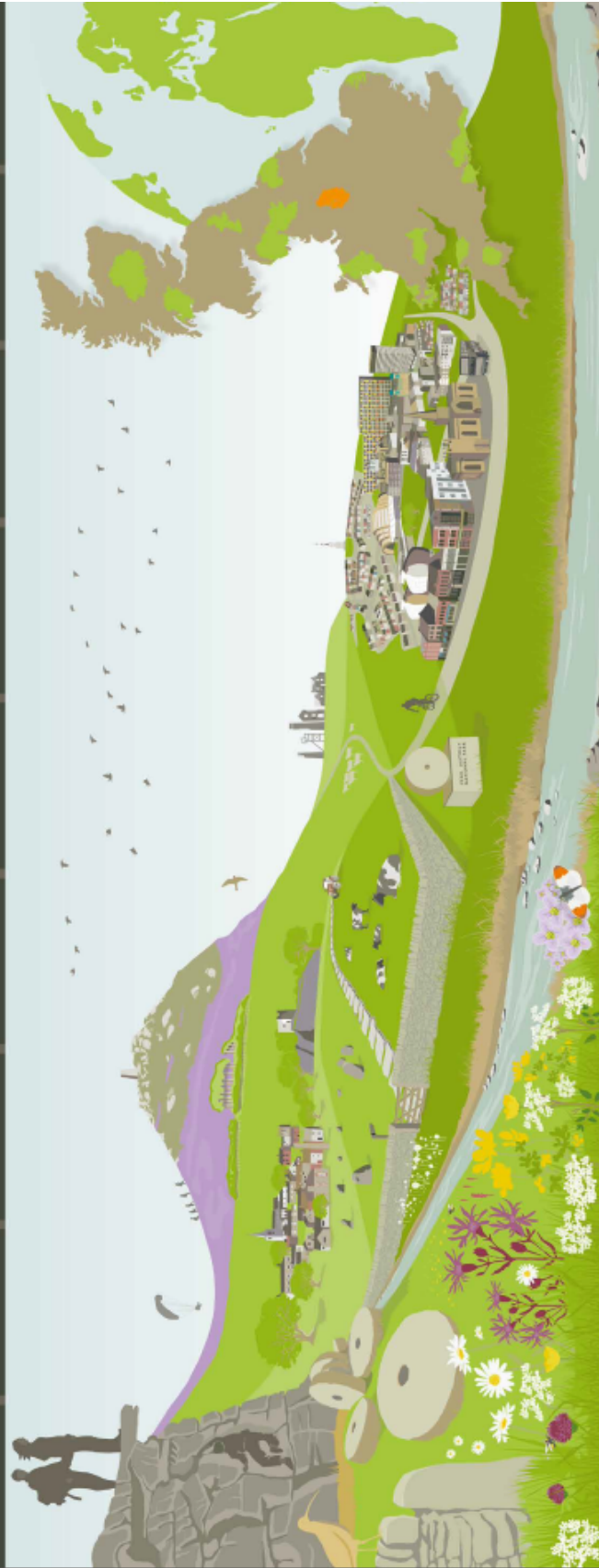
5%
flood risk
reduction
blanket bog restoration
reduces peak storm water flows

£3.8
billion
value of the output produced
in the wider Peak District

£1.6
trillion
value of the natural
environment

PDNP is part of the
12
percent
of land on earth that is in a
protected area

Benefits for the UK and the globe



158
UK priority species
in the wider Peak District

2,910
listed buildings
in the PDNP

over
1,300
miles
of rights of way
in the PDNP

65
miles
of cycling trails
in the PDNP

450
billion
litres
of drinking water a year
provided by the PDNP

over
12
million
visits to the PDNP a year

206
million
pints
of milk produced in
the PDNP each year

PDNP contributes
to the
£2.2
billion
UK health benefits of
outdoor exercise

up to
20
million
tonnes
of carbon is stored in
PDNP peat bogs

Biodiversity, geodiversity, cultural heritage, soil quality, pollination,
energy provision, past regulation, tranquillity, recreation, clean air

Sense of history, regulating water flow,
clean water, timber, food

Carbon storage, sense of place, tourism,
inspiration, natural beauty

Section 2: The National Park Management Plan

The 1995 Environment Act requires the Peak District National Park Authority to produce a management plan that outlines the vision for the management of the National Park. It must reflect National Park purposes and be updated at least every five years.

It is not the intention of the plan to duplicate or³ outline what others are already doing. The intent is to add extra value to the good work already in hand. Moreover, we need to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Peak District National Park's special qualities.

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

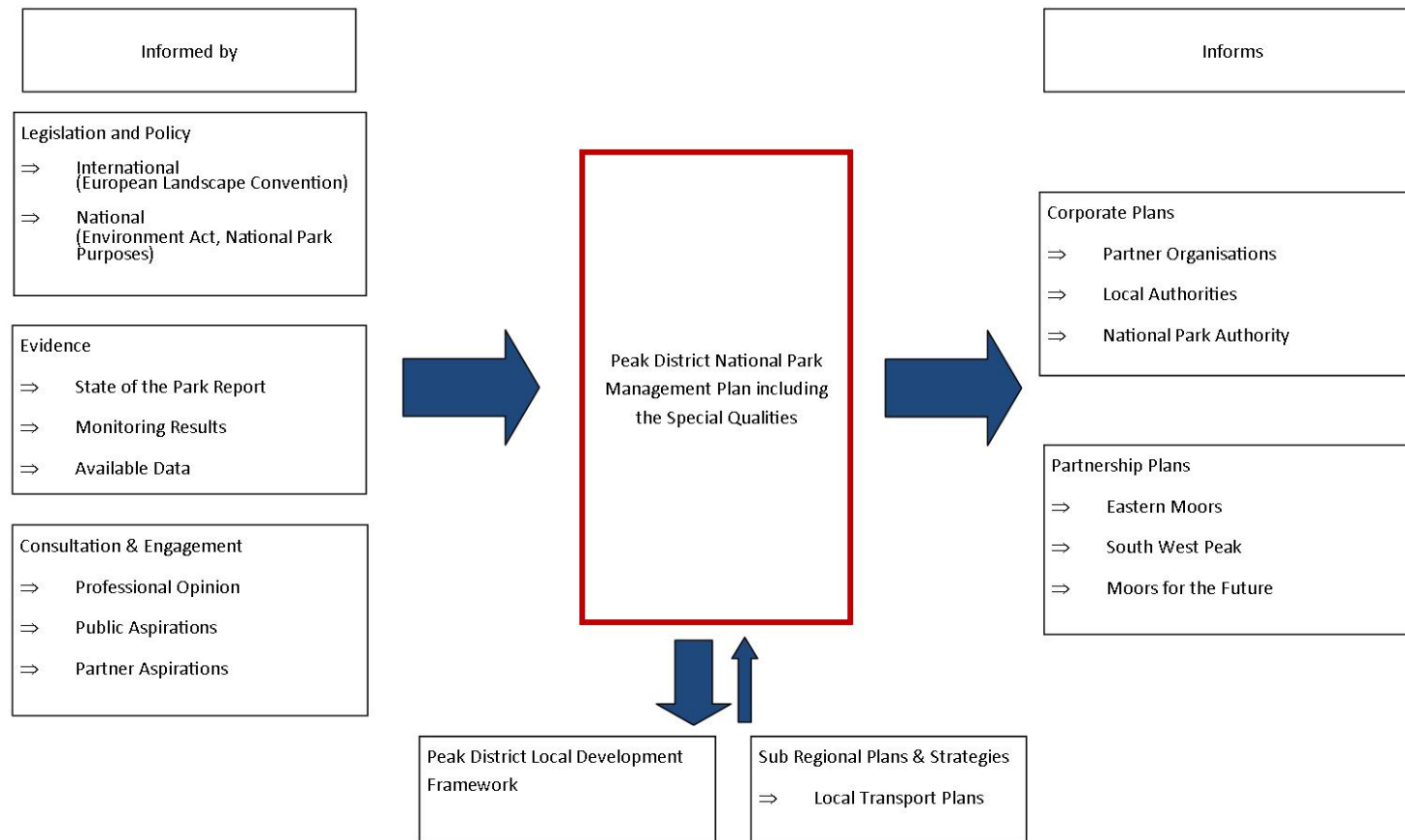
The National Park Management Plan provides the framework that encourages everyone to work together to achieve National Park purposes. It is not a plan for an individual organisation or group but a plan for the place. It is, therefore, a partnership plan. It is the single most important policy document for the Peak District National Park. It tells everyone what the main issues and priorities are. It then sets out how we are going to tackle those issues over the next five years.

The National Park Management Plan then informs the content of the corporate plans of all partners and provides the context for the Peak District Local Development Framework.

The management plan has been informed by a number of factors. These include relevant international and national legislation, national policies, professional opinion, public aspirations and evidence from a range of sources. For example Defra have published an 8–Point Plan for England's National Parks, which this management plan will help deliver appropriate elements through the delivery plan.

See figure 2 for a visual representation of how the National Park Management Plan is informed by and informs other strategies and policies.

Figure 2: How the National Park Management Plan relates to other plans, policies and strategies



Section 3: Working Together to Secure the Most for the Peak District National Park

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

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

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

Discussions in the development phase of this management plan have provided a common understanding that we want to collectively influence to provide a supportive policy, decision making and funding framework. It is agreed that we want support and funding for conservation of the Peak District National Park. We need supportive policy and legislation, as well as sufficient funding. The Peak District National Park delivers a wide range of benefits. We want people to acknowledge this value and so to want to invest in conserving and enhancing the benefits the National Park provides. We want the resources and means to conserve the special qualities. To do this, we need to have a collective voice, as this is more influential than individual voices.

Discussions led to this way of working because decisions made nationally and locally can create a benefit and a negative impact on the landscapes and the communities of the Peak District National Park. There are unintended consequences, such as the loss of irreplaceable natural and cultural features or loss of services to communities who enjoy the Peak District National Park. It takes concerted work to maintain the natural benefits society gains from the Peak District National Park. Bringing people together has a greater impact than many individual contributions.

It was also agreed that we would work together to engage in new ways of working. We want to embed smart and effective ways of working in the Peak District National Park. We want to access funding for joint working in rural areas. As Britain's first national park, we have always been pioneering and want to continue to be a test bed for new ways of working. To achieve this, we will need to join or create new partnerships as well as developing our existing partnerships. We need to be smarter in how we work together to take advantage of all opportunities.

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

Section 4: National Park Management Plan Vision

When developing the management plan, early public consultation revealed a strong preference for the management of the Peak District National Park to focus on the first statutory purpose. Therefore, we have refined the vision to better reflect our two statutory purposes and duty. By conserving and enhancing a diverse working and cherished landscape we will be delivering the first statutory purpose. By ensuring we provide a welcoming and inspiring place for all we will be delivering the second statutory purpose. By seeking to have thriving communities with a sense of place and a sustainable economy that conserves the special qualities we will be performing the duty.

Figure 3: The Peak District National Park Management Plan Vision



To help us to achieve the vision, we have developed seven areas of impact and an associated delivery plan. The main element of the vision that each area of impact contributes to is highlighted throughout the area of impact section of the management plan. However, in reality many of the areas of impact will be helping to deliver more than one element of the vision.

Section 5: The Areas of Impact of the Peak District National Park Management Plan

Introduction

The seven areas of impact are those themes where our actions have the potential to add the greatest value to existing work or to drive forward bold new agendas. They are the focus of the National Park Management Plan, with deliverable actions for each area of impact. The areas of impact are in no particular order. They should be read as an integrated set, rather than in isolation.

Area of Impact 1:

A National Park for everyone

What does this mean and why does it matter?

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

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

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

What we want to do:

Overcome physical barriers to access

We want to improve access to the Peak District National Park to enable more people to enjoy its special qualities.

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

Why?

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

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

Overcome perceived barriers to access

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

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

Why?

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

Area of Impact 2:

Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park provides a valuable space for escape, excitement, adventure and relaxation. It is a place to enjoy. We can create experiences that move, teach and inspire people. They can learn more about the value of its landscape, wildlife and ways of life. They can discover what the National Park gives to us. The National Park is the setting

for our shared cultural heritage, a cornerstone of our lives and values. We want to help people to recognise and understand this when they enjoy the special qualities. This applies equally to the people who live and work here as to visitors.

Promoting opportunities to enable the enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the Peak District National Park is a statutory purpose of the National Park. Achieving this is fundamental to the future existence of the Peak District National Park. Understanding that its special qualities are at risk from a range of pressures can help reduce those pressures and increase people's enjoyment. With enjoyment, there comes responsibility. It is important that everyone recognises the part they can play in helping to protect the Peak District National Park. Duty for its care is a shared one.

What we want to do:

Balance opportunities for enjoyment with conserving a fragile environment

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

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

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

Why?

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

Ensure shared responsibility

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

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

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

donate to a National Park cause.

Why?

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

Area of Impact 3: Preparing for a future climate

What does this mean and why does it matter?

Climate change is the greatest long-term threat to our upland landscapes. It has the potential to change the features that make up the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Climate change will modify the Peak District National Park's special qualities and alter the opportunities for the public to enjoy them. It will also alter the benefits the Peak District National Park provides. At this time, it is uncertain what the effects will be.

Responsible and inventive management can help to mitigate the effects of climate change by creating and maintaining resilient landscapes. Resilient landscapes consist of fully functioning ecosystems that allow nature and people to adapt to climate change. This will aid wildlife and communities within the Peak District National Park, as well as those that feel a knock-on impact - regionally, nationally and even globally. The challenge is twofold. We must balance the need to actively manage our contribution to climate change, with the desire to conserve and enhance the special qualities.

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

What we want to do:

Reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities

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

Traditional Peak District National Park and management has tried to adapt to changes to keep the National Park relevant to society. We need to look to the future and decide what we must do differently in light of what we know about the potential effects of future climate changes. We cannot keep things the same. We need to build our evidence base to help make these decisions.

Why?

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

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

Area of Impact 4:

Promote the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park has a direct positive effect on the quality of life of those living within and outside its boundary. Its natural processes enrich our air, water and soil. This provides a wide range of benefits, some of which have only recently been recognised. Putting a value on these benefits is only just happening. At present, the nation is taking advantage of these natural benefits without considering how sustainable this is.

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

Many businesses draw value from the Peak District National Park. Some are within its borders but others are in the surrounding towns and cities. They take advantage of their relationship with its special qualities. We need to encourage businesses to embrace the landscape, and its enhancement, as part of their business model. This will help to ensure the sustainability of these benefits. In addition, businesses provide part of the experience that visitors seek when entering the National Park and ensuring that such businesses thrive in a way which promotes and protects the special qualities of the National Park is an important part of people's enjoyment of the place.

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

What we want to do:

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

We want more people to understand and value the benefits that society derives from the Peak District National Park.

Why?

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

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

We want to support a dynamic network of businesses committed to conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park on which so many livelihoods rely.

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

We want an environment where businesses can modernise and evolve while conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park and enriching the communities that live within it.

Why?

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

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

Area of Impact 5: **Ensuring a future for farming and land management**

What does this mean and why does it matter?

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

Some support payments do not focus enough on enhancing the special qualities or on providing long-term benefits. There is great uncertainty about the future level and type of funding support after our exit from the European Union. However, there is an opportunity to influence new schemes to pay farmers and land managers to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

Farming and land management that produces more at the expense of the environment is not sustainable. It will leave the landscape less resilient to the uncertain effects of climate change. People need to support sustainable farming and land management that protects what is special about the landscape. This includes recognising that the land can provide benefits beyond food and timber. We want to work alongside people who manage the land to ensure that decisions are made that protect and enhance our special landscapes.

The immediate key challenge for ensuring a future for farming and land management is securing future land management support schemes. This underpins the whole future of many farms. However, even when measures have been put into place to secure this, there are two further challenges for the future – ensuring succession for farming and supporting farm diversification.

Many farms are struggling, with some farm households surviving only because of support payments and off-farm income. The viability of farms varies quite a lot, both within and between the farm types of dairy and livestock (beef and sheep). Some could survive without Government payments but many rely on them. Many holdings are part time. As a result, the sector has at times struggled to attract and retain younger people. Currently, there is an upsurge in numbers of students at agricultural colleges and participating in on-farm training.

It is important there are a range of farm businesses available for these young people to start and grow their farm business as well as joining family farm businesses. Then older farmers and land managers can pass on their local knowledge and skills.

Many farmers started their career with the intention of just farming; now many are finding diversification is essential. This requires additional knowledge, skills and time. In addition, starting a new venture brings new risks. Therefore, we need some innovative support to secure viable farms.

Secure future land management support schemes

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

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

Why?

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

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

Ensure that the management of the uplands conserves and enhances the special qualities of the Peak District National Park

We want management of the uplands to be sustainable by delivering positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.

Why?

The Peak District National Park is renowned for its upland landscapes. Its blanket bogs, upland heaths, clough woodlands and rocky outcrops provide habitats for many species. They provide the setting for recreational activities. They support the economy by providing jobs for the tourist and land management sectors. They also provide benefits to society such as flood alleviation and carbon sequestration.

This is relevant to the Peak District National Park because 37% of its 555 square miles is upland moor. In order to conserve and enhance these areas we need to focus on ensuring responsible enjoyment, managing fire risk and increasing the variety and abundance of moorland birds, including under represented birds of prey. Partnerships such as the Local Access Forum, Fire Operations Group, Moors for the Future and the Birds of Prey Initiative have made progress over the past five years but there is further work to be done

Area of Impact 6:

Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park's contrasting landscapes are one of its special qualities. They each require their own method of land management. The 2010 Making Space for Nature report called for more, bigger, better and joined up ecological networks to enable nature to thrive. The most effective way to do this is to focus on restoring, conserving and enhancing the locally, nationally and internationally important habitats that make up the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park. This means working in a wide enough geographical area and in a strategic way so the change is bigger. It means bringing together organisations and specialists to work together for the landscape as a whole. We need specialists like ecologists, cultural heritage experts, tourism bodies, outreach workers and businesses, to work as teams. To do this, we need to build on, and expand, our existing ways of working and partnerships.

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

What we want to do:

Establish monitoring at a landscape scale

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

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

Why?

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

Establish a White Peak partnership

We want a wide-ranging partnership in the White Peak area of the Peak District

National Park with a clear vision and actions.

Why?

In the uplands, the Dark Peak and South West Peak both have landscape scale partnerships with a vision and actions. Please see figure 4 for a diagram of the three National Character Areas. We now have many processes and systems in place to deliver partnerships and projects at a landscape scale. We should look to build on these to deliver improvements to the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the White Peak. However, whilst the White Peak has a landscape partnership, it is still developing and needs to agree a vision.

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

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

Figure 4: The 3 National Character Areas within the Peak District National Park



Maintain exiting landscape scale delivery

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

Why?

The Dark Peak is the first upland in England, when travelling north from London, so the issues are unique. There has been much work undertaken in the Dark Peak to restore the quality of its moorlands. They provide a dramatic landscape and a globally rare habitat. The aim of this work is to restore and conserve the ecological integrity of the blanket bog whilst raising awareness of the multitude of benefits that moorlands provide including carbon sequestration, flood alleviation and recreational opportunities.

Historic over grazing altered species composition and caused erosion. More recently, atmospheric pollutants have and continue to change the species composition, as have wild fires. Recent environmental schemes are addressing these issues. Nevertheless, there are still problems to solve. In particular there is a need to ensure that moorland management delivers sustainable environmental, social and economic outcomes. In addition, there is the

continuing as absence of birds of prey which needs to be addressed.

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

Area of Impact 7:

Supporting sustainable communities

What does this mean and why does it matter?

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

A sustainable community relies on social, economic and environmental factors. Peak District National Park residents live in an amazing landscape full of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage which are all closely connected and interdependent.

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

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

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

What we want to do:

Improve access to services

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

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

We want a Peak District National Park-wide enhanced broadband service, delivered in innovative ways with communities, that enables communities to access services.

Why?

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

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

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

Support the provision of locally needed housing

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

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

We will work together in the active delivery of affordable housing appropriate to the needs of local people. We want to support community-led housing initiatives that recognise the importance of delivering affordable homes with the community at the heart of the development process.

We want to attract appropriate levels of inward investment from Government and others that reflects the cost of building affordable homes in the Peak District National Park.

Why?

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

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

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

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

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

Section 6: The Special Qualities of the Peak District National Park Management Plan

Introduction

The Peak District National Park is the UK's first national park. It is a treasured landscape of exceptional natural beauty shaped by the interaction of people and nature over thousands of years. Lying at the southern end of the Pennines, surrounded by urban areas, it is easily accessed by the 16 million people living within an hour's drive.

The Peak District National Park is distinct from the surrounding lowlands and its three main landscapes, the Dark Peak, White Peak and South West Peak, each have their own character and sense of place. Over a third of the area is protected for nature conservation and the mosaic of landscapes support an abundance of plants and animals. People have lived here for over 10,000 years shaping the landscape and leaving a wealth of cultural history. It remains a lived-in landscape where industrial features make up one of the many layers of the landscape.

For hundreds of years, this diversity of landscapes and rich cultural heritage has created recreation opportunities from adrenaline sports to leisurely rambles. Here, millions of people can get active, escape the pressures of everyday life, explore creative activities and learn about landscapes, cultural heritage and wildlife. The landscape also provides wider-reaching benefits like fresh water, flood prevention, food and carbon storage.

Special Qualities

Special qualities define what is distinctive and significant about a national park. The Peak District National Park has seven special qualities that it will seek to conserve and enhance. One of its purposes is to promote opportunities for people to understand and enjoy these special qualities.

Currently, not all the special qualities are in a desirable condition. The intention is to work in partnership to conserve and enhance the special qualities. This means we will maintain and enhance a distinctive sense of place for future generations to enjoy. As landscapes and ideals change over time, the aim is not to preserve a landscape frozen in time. Understanding the special qualities helps us to plan effectively and manage the Peak District National Park in order to conserve and enhance them.

The special qualities that follow are in no particular order and should be read as an integrated set. They are interlinked, with some providing the foundation for others. For instance, 'habitats and species' are integral to 'beautiful views', while the 'undeveloped' nature of the area is at the core of many of the special qualities.

The next step is to define measurable indicators for each special quality through consultation and then assess their current condition. Aspirations for the future condition of each special quality will allow clear actions to be set to close the gap between this and their current condition. Aspirations will be long-term and actions will be delivered through the National Park Management Plan (NPMP). Ultimately, the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities will underpin all of the work across the Peak District National Park through the 2023-28 NPMP.

Special quality 1:

Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology

The combination of contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology across the Peak District National Park creates its famous beautiful views.

The area's geology is often revealed in spectacular ways. Visitors stumble upon stunning panoramas when landscapes suddenly change, like the hairpin bends at Crowdecote with their unexpected view across the 'dragon's back' of Chrome and Parkhouse Hill. Others explore the 'shivering mountain' of Mam Tor, following the dramatically collapsed road. Those walking the Manifold Valley in the summer see the river 'vanish' at Wetton Mill, running through caves and underground passages before reappearing at Ilam Park.

The contrasting landscapes that give the Peak District National Park such iconic views have been produced by the interaction between people and nature over thousands of years, giving different areas their own individual character and sense of place.

The Dark Peak's Millstone Grit horseshoe has scattered rock outcrops and deep cloughs across a moorland landscape, its elevation giving panoramic views that contrast the perceived wilderness of the moors with the neighbouring cities. Walk on Holme Moss and enjoy uninterrupted moorland views across miles of heather and peat and out over the neighbouring cities. Experience the unique position of the Peak District National Park, with beautiful views surrounded by urban life.

Views across the White Peak's rolling limestone plateau reveal a farmed landscape enclosed by dry stone walls and interspersed with deeply dissected wooded dales and grasslands. These views are accessible and intimate. Visit Monsal Head to take in spectacular views across the lush green valley, where the historic railway viaduct spans the gorge. The viaduct is part of the Monsal recreation trail, giving users a birds-eye view of the river and the surrounding pastures.

The South West Peak's sweeping views reveal iconic ridges and valleys with unusual features like the 'Winking Man' rock formation at Ramshaw Rocks. Discover the Upper Dane Valley and pause on Axe Edge to enjoy breath-taking views as far as the eye can see in all directions, with the outlines of instantly-recognisable Peak District hills stretching away to the east in sharp contrast with the flat, tree-covered expanse of the Cheshire plains to the west.

Special quality 2:

Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats

As one of the UK's most accessible national parks, the Peak District National Park allows millions of people to enjoy distinctive habitats and a wealth of wildlife.

From the atmospheric dark moors and bogs of Bleaklow to the leafy woodlands, sparkling rivers and dramatic limestone cliffs of Dovedale, the Peak District National Park's wildlife and habitats are internationally important and valued by millions of people. They differ from the surrounding lowlands and densely populated towns and cities, being created by the interaction between centuries of land management and the area's distinctive climate, steep slopes and dramatic topography.

The diverse mosaic of habitats support a rich range of wildlife; from Jacob's ladder to lapwing, from dipper to mountain hare. Many are locally, nationally and even globally rare. Wildlife is an integral part of the Peak District experience for residents and visitors, young and old, the expert and the curious.

Lying at the southern tip of the Pennines, the Peak District National Park is at a crossroads, where the uplands of the north-west meet the lowlands of the south-east. With many species at the edge of their ranges, the mix of species is unique. The bilberry bumblebee, once widespread across the north and west of England, is still found on the bilberry moorlands of the South West Peak. The iconic 'mountain blackbird', or Ring Ouzel, is thriving on Stanage Edge, its most south-easterly breeding area. The rare leek-coloured hawkweed, previously thought to be globally extinct, was rediscovered along the Monsal Trail in 2017.

Visit the Dark Peak and explore iconic expanses of blanket bog, moorland and heathland, interspersed with flushes and springs. Fringed by upland oak woodlands and grasslands rich in colourful waxcap fungi, these uplands are bisected by the streams and rivers that feed the many local reservoirs. Stop to watch rare upland birds like golden plover through binoculars or lie back to see a sea of fluffy white cotton grass bobbing in the breeze against a bright blue sky.

A trip to the White Peak reveals precious and vulnerable ash woodlands, ponds and clear-flowing streams, limestone heath, lead mine remains and species-rich grasslands. Walk through the steep-sided valley of Lathkill Dale during spring and be surrounded by flower-rich grassland and the instantly recognisable song of the skylark. Picnic at Cheedale and be transfixed by the rhythmic bobbing of a dipper or hear the familiar plop of a water vole launching itself into the river.

Explore the South West Peak and find habitats similar to the Dark Peak, but in a much more intimate mosaic. Smaller blocks of moorland fringed with rush pastures, hedges, rivers and farmland. Listen out for the 'go back, go back' cry of a red grouse or the burbling song of a curlew. Look closely and spot an elusive camouflage-striped snipe emerging from the bog or a short-eared owl swooping over the moors.

Special quality 3:

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

The Peak District National Park is an accessible backdoor wilderness allowing millions of people to find a welcome sense of tranquillity.

For generations, working people have escaped from towns and cities to visit the Peak District National Park and enjoy its tranquillity. Being immersed in tranquil, undeveloped places allows people to step outside their busy lives and be refreshed. It improves mental and physical wellbeing and is one of the most sought-after qualities of the countryside.

As modern life offers fewer opportunities for tranquillity, the Peak District National Park's tranquil places are all the more important. They offer a powerful sense of timelessness and escape, with the relative peace and quiet in stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of the surrounding cities. This contrast is why the Peak District National Park is so special. It retains its distinctly tranquil and undeveloped character, despite being one of the most popular, accessible and well-known areas in England. And its close proximity to the cities means many millions of people are able to benefit from its relative tranquillity.

This tranquillity is experienced in many ways. For some, it is about quiet appreciation of natural wonders. Standing on the summit of Black Hill as the sun sets provides a rare opportunity to find solace in an open landscape away from the distractions of modern living. Being surrounded by the sounds of bubbling water, rustling leaves and evocative bird song on a quiet day at Padley Gorge can bring peace to a busy mind. Stepping into the cool, atmospheric confines of Lud's Church on a hot summer's day can be a profound experience. Watching the dark night skies at Minninglow is a world away from the bright lights of nearby urban neighbourhoods, inspiring people to marvel at our place in the universe, just as our ancestors have for thousands of years.

For others it is about the relative tranquillity of the Peak District National Park's villages and town. These can be a world away from inner-city life, with many people finding serenity in the narrow streets, characterful buildings and small shops. This glimpse into a rural way of life feels, for many, like stepping into another time.

Special quality 4:

Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry

People visiting, working and living in the Peak District National Park today are immersed in a lived-in landscape that has been shaped by people for thousands of years. Here, human activity can be traced back for more than 300,000 years, with caves revealing the tools used and animals hunted by our Palaeolithic ancestors. With one of the richest concentrations of prehistoric monuments in the country, explorers can glimpse the lives of past communities, their lost traditions and ancient beliefs displayed through stone circles, burial mounds and hillforts.

Some of the diverse cultural heritage is prominent within the landscape, from the Bronze Age Nine Ladies stone circle to the eleventh century Peveril Castle and the great estate houses of Chatsworth, Haddon Hall and Lyme Park in their iconic parkland settings. Generations of farmers have created a rich tapestry of surviving farmsteads, unique field patterns and iconic dry stone walls that criss-cross the landscape. Past industry has left quarries, mills, weirs, railways and limekilns, many of which can be explored today. Approach the dark silhouette of Magpie Mine, visible on the skyline, and discover the remains of a lead mine that has stood here for over 300 years.

Trade and transport routes, vital to people and industry throughout the years, have also left their marks on the landscape. Waymarked turnpike roads, packhorse routes and saltways are still visible. The historic green lanes now used for recreation were once main travelling routes. Cycle the Tissington Trail and follow a Victorian railway route that transported Peak District National Park minerals and produce from farms, cottage industries and mills to the rest of the nation. Travel the long, straight road between Ashbourne and Buxton and marvel that this was a route used by Roman legionaries. Walk ancient tracks like the Long Causeway and trace the footsteps of medieval ancestors.

The landscape itself bears witness to these past lives, having been transformed by people. The Peak District National Park's famous grassy dales and open moorland have been largely created by people and their industry; moulded by over 10,000 years of woodland clearance and thousands of years of agricultural development. Subsequent industries supporting generations of local people have further shaped the landscape, leaving distinctive imprints in managed woodlands, mine shafts, meadows, quarry faces and lead rakes. Many of these have become unique habitats.

This transformation continues today with valuable woodland, grassland and moorland habitats being restored through landscape-scale projects.

Special quality 5:

Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions

Generations of life are reflected in the diversity of the Peak District National Park's buildings, whether agricultural or industrial, religious or social, domestic or educational. Together, these create the characteristic settlements typical of the area, with manor houses, churches, schools, farmhouses, inns, shops and industrial buildings of all sizes, from large mills and factories to small smithies and workshops. The settlements range from loose, linear communities of farmsteads and paddocks to nineteenth century planned estate villages. They have a rich history, with many mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The settlements and communities have evolved alongside industry. The area has been farmed for thousands of years and many farmsteads have medieval origins, with some dating back to former royal and private forests. Industries have shaped the character of settlements through weavers' cottages, terraced workers' houses, mills, smithies and workshops. Large landowning families have also given some communities their iconic character, such as the Chatsworth Estate and Edensor village.

Today's surviving historic places are a rare connection to a unique past; painting a picture of people's lives in the Peak District National Park. These traditional settlements built by communities to meet local needs create the unique character of the place, with their distinctive grouping and use of locally available stone – limestone in the White Peak and gritstone in the Dark Peak. Walk through scattered medieval farmsteads in Abney or discover ancient villages of labourer's cottages like Bradwell and feel connected to the lives of those who lived and worked here in the past. Explore Bakewell with its Anglo-Saxon church founded in 920 and famous five arched bridge from 1200 and marvel at the ingenuity of our ancestors.

These distinctive historic places have a sense of community with local people feeling pride in the area and connected to its history. Today's communities are involved in everything from conservation projects and producing future village plans to providing community transport. Community initiatives like Bamford's community-owned Anglers Rest and the community-led Calver Weir Restoration Project show how local communities continue to shape the area. Many cultural traditions continue today, with crowds of local people and visitors attending events like Tissington well-dressing, Edale fell race, Castleton Garland Day and Winster Pancake Run. Such traditions link together local communities, past and present.

Many stories and products are associated with Peak District National Park settlements. Visit Eyam to learn how seventeenth century locals isolated themselves to stop the Bubonic Plague spreading. Go sightseeing in Castleton and explore its caves, including the Blue John and Treak Cliff caverns where the famous Blue John gemstone is found. Try a Bakewell pudding, which local legend attributes to an inexperienced cook's attempt at a jam tart.

Special quality 6:

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

The Peak District National Park is bordered on all sides by major towns and cities. It is within an hour's travel for around 16 million people, providing a rural oasis in stark contrast to its urban neighbours.

Although today many visitors take access to the Peak District National Park for granted, prior to 1949 the majority of its moorland and hills had no public access. People were passionate about exploring Kinder Scout, so it became the stage for the Kinder Mass Trespass in 1932. Protests like this reflected a desire for greater public access to the uplands, leading to the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. National parks were established as places of escape and enjoyment, with the Peak District National Park being the first on April 17th 1951.

Today it provides a vital space that nurtures physical and mental wellbeing. Escape the daily routine and find activities to suit all ages and abilities, with a third of the Peak District National Park being open access land, over 1,300 miles of rights of way and a network of accessible routes or 'miles without stiles'. Plan scenic family bike rides away from the traffic on old railway routes. Reflect on the day's experiences while relaxing in picturesque villages, country cafes and traditional public houses. Walk in one of the UK's best-loved, most accessible places, where networks of walking routes have been developed over generations by some of the oldest rambling groups in the country. Accept a challenge by walking the hugely popular Pennine Way, which begins in Edale.

People looking for outside adventure are spoilt for choice. Enjoy a night sleeping under the stars at one of the many campsites. Satisfy that inner adrenaline junkie by paragliding above breath-taking landscapes, climbing world famous crags, scrambling over boulders or potholing through subterranean limestone labyrinths. Be immersed in the landscape while horse-riding along ancient bridleways, mountain-biking on rocky descents or fly fishing on fast-flowing rivers.

The Peak District National Park is somewhere for visitors to discover more about wildlife, geology, history and rural life through exploration, visitor centres, school trips, volunteering and guided walks. It is an unrivalled setting to escape the pressures of everyday life and recharge drained batteries motivating people to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle.

Special quality 7:

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

It is clear that people who visit, live or work in the Peak District National Park directly benefit from it. Yet many of its benefits go beyond its boundary to positively impact the UK and the rest of the world, including people who may never visit the area or may be unaware of its existence.

Protecting national park landscapes on a large scale enhances natural resources and allows vital benefits such as flood prevention, clean water provision and food production to function more naturally. Scale enhances the benefits that can be provided by an area, enabling them to flow beyond its boundaries. Such public benefits originate in the landscape, but many have been shaped by people through industry, land management and farming.

The Peak District National Park is a refuge for species that used to be widespread. Species like the small heath butterfly, water vole, curlew and a range of hay meadow plants. Climate change will make this role ever more important. Increasing temperatures, changing habitats and unpredictable weather will force wildlife to move in search of suitable homes. Protected areas like the Peak District National Park where wildlife can thrive are vital, particularly as they may then repopulate other areas in the future.

Being surrounded by urban areas makes the Peak District National Park's protected space of even greater significance as a breathing lung and green oasis for the millions of people who live in close proximity. The landscape character flows beyond the Peak District National Park's boundary, creating a valued setting and positively impacting the surrounding areas. Turn on a tap in Sheffield and drink water that originated in the Peak District National Park's hills and was filtered by its uplands. Take a deep breath in Buxton and breathe clean air produced by the Peak District National Park's vegetation. Live downstream and benefit from a reduced risk of flooding due to the Peak District National Park's upstream habitats, which store and slow the flow of water.

These positive impacts also flow beyond the UK. Climate change is predicted to affect the everyday lives of billions of people, but by absorbing and storing millions of tonnes of carbon, the Peak District National Park's habitats can help to lessen these future impacts by increasing climate change resilience. As part of a global network of protected landscapes, the Peak District National Park plays a crucial role in protecting the vital ecosystems that will sustain life into the future. By contributing to visions of sustainable biodiversity and social and economic wellbeing at local, regional, national and international levels, the Peak District National Park provides benefits that extend well beyond its boundary to the whole planet.