

**Appendix A**

**Peak District National Park Management Plan – Progress on Signatures**

**Report on Performance from April 2014**

This document provides an update on what has been happening since April 2013 under each of the five Peak District National Park Management Plan Signatures agreed by Advisory Group in 2012. Lead partners have provided updates on progress against the actions they had agreed to deliver during the year.

In summary:

- 77 Activities are on track or complete
- 17 Activities were behind schedule, late in starting or had priorities changed as of March 2014
- 2 actions have been cancelled

<i><b>Environment Open for Business</b></i>	<i><b>Destination Pedal Peak District</b></i>	<i><b>Better, Bigger, more Joined Up</b></i>	<i><b>Community Led Planning</b></i>	<i><b>Inspiring Generations</b></i>
1.1	13.1	19.1	32.1	44.1
2.1	13.2	20.1	32.2	44.2
2.2	13.3	20.2	32.3	44.3
3.1	14.1	20.3	33.1	44.4
4.1	15.1	20.4	34.1	45.1
5.1	15.2	20.5	35.1	45.2
6.1	15.3	20.6	35.2	46.1
6.2	15.4	21.1	36.1	46.2
6.3	15.5	21.2	36.2	47.1
7.1	16.1	21.3	36.3	48.1
7.2	17.1	22.1	37.1	48.2
8.1	17.2	22.2	38.1	49.1
9.1	17.3	22.3	39.1	49.2
10.1	18.1	22.4	40.1	49.3
10.2		22.5	41.1	50.1
11.1		23.1	42.1	51.1
12.1		24.1	42.2	51.2
		25.1	42.3	52.1
		26.1	43.1	53.1
		26.2		
		26.3		
		27.1		
		27.2		
		28.1		
		29.1		
		30.1		
		31.1		

For more information on delayed and cancelled activities, see Appendix d.

## Appendix A

# Peak District National Park Management Plan – Progress on Signatures

## Report on Performance from April 2014

### Signature 1: An Environment Open for Business

- Rollout of superfast broadband by BT and local councils has started, with a number of Peak District towns and villages benefitting during 2014, and more to be connected during 2015. The National Park Authority is now working with BT to ensure any new infrastructure is implemented in a way which is sympathetic to the historic characteristics of settlements and the landscape. We are also continuing to ensure the importance of superfast broadband is recognised for the remaining residents and businesses of the Peak District not covered by BDUK funded rollout, including working with the Mobile Infrastructure Project.
- The Business Peak District prospectus was launched in December 2013, and aims to attract business and investment into the area based on its special qualities. Building on this, a Peak District economic evidence base has been put together, as the first stage of an ‘Enterprise Peak District’ package of investment. This will help ensure that the Peak District puts forward a strong and consistent set of interventions to all Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- Our response to Climate Change continues through carbon reduction demonstration projects on PDNPA owned properties such as Big Fernyford Farm, whilst through pre-application advice and information we will enable others to take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The number of planning applications that incorporated energy efficiency and micro-renewables proposals increased from 15% to 41% in 2013/14. A launch of a re-designed Climate Change and Renewables Supplementary Planning Document later this year will encourage even more ‘green’ planning applications in future years. We are also working more closely with the Derbyshire and Staffordshire Climate Change Forums in an effort to achieve more in partnership through 2015 and beyond. The National park Authority has committed to signing the Derbyshire Climate Change Charter.
- Visit Peak District & Derbyshire have been working with a panel of industry experts, Business Peak District and the National Park Authority to create a useful on-line ‘brand toolkit’ which can be used to promote businesses and organisations in the area. The idea is to raise recognition of the Peak District brand by consistent and sustained promotion of the Peak District as a special place to visit, both online, in the press, and in day to day business. The more recognisable and valuable the brand becomes, the more it can help to sell products and services, creating more interest for businesses in the marketplace in which they operate.
- During 2013/14, over 400 businesses were supported by environmental grants, advice and programmes of work by the National Park Authority and Business Peak District partners. The focus for 2014/15 will be on further support events emphasising the ‘Inspired by the Peak District’ brand. Over 50 businesses have now signed up to the ‘Inspired by the Peak District’ brand.

## Appendix A

### **Peak District National Park Management Plan – Progress on Signatures**

#### **Report on Performance from April 2014**

- Although 12 new businesses signed up to the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark during 2013/14, the total number of EQM businesses declined by 1 from 65 to 64. Reasons included retirement, not wanting to pay the fee, non-compliance or planning enforcement issues. Due to reductions in capacity, case studies to raise awareness and highlight benefits to other businesses and individuals have not been produced as originally planned. It should be noted that EQM now operates on 50% of the resource it enjoyed a year ago, but is still remaining financially viable.

#### Signature 2: Destination Pedal Peak District

- Works are underway in delivering the key routes within the Pedal Peak District phase 2 project - extending links to Sheffield, Barnsley, the Hope Valley, Stoke & Staffordshire, Matlock and Buxton. Work can already be seen 'on the ground' between Hathersage and Bamford, with construction of an improved segregated cycleway. A number of grants have been awarded to communities who are promoting and providing facilities to complement cycling as part of the wider project, for example 'Cycle Bamford', the Lido café in Hathersage and Bradfield post office and café.
- The Wider Peak District Cycling Strategy was published in October 2014, after final consultation during the Spring. The strategy outlines our ambition for cycling in the wider Peak District, building on existing plans, working together to gather evidence, and sourcing funding to grow the benefits of cycling. The Plan looks ahead, and aims to further strengthen the Peak District's position as a premier world destination for cycling.
- 2014 was another fantastic 'Summer of Cycling' in the Peak District, with over 100 local events, punctuated by two internationally renowned cycling events taking place. A successful first L'Eroica event was supported by a host of local public and private sector partners, and received excellent reviews from the press and the public. The world famous Tour-de-France passed through 14 miles of the northern Peak District, including the gruelling Holme Moss climb, on 6 July 2014, and was the result of a huge collaboration between Local Authorities, DMPs, volunteers, and provides a great opportunity to showcase the Peak District to the world.
- An audit of key 'recreation hubs' in the national park was undertaken in October 13, with close collaboration with Rangers. The purpose of this audit was to look at basic infrastructure, signage, facilities, and potential risks and opportunities for developing key visitor sites around the National Park in a sustainable way. This is informing Development Management Policies for recreation hubs and informing new on-site branding.
- The Peak District Tourism strategy got off to a good start with a wide range of partners early in 2013. An opportunity arose to work on a D2N2 commissioned tourism study which has

## Appendix A

### **Peak District National Park Management Plan – Progress on Signatures**

#### **Report on Performance from April 2014**

now concluded, and will underpin the visitor economy growth work for the Peak District and Derbyshire. This links directly to projects which are in the Enterprise Peak District package.

- The many activities under the Destination Pedal Peak District signature will also help make the Peak District a UK centre for Health and Wellbeing. Whilst this is an ambitious long term goal, and a relatively new concept for the National Park Authority and partners, we believe the Peak District is well placed to fulfil this role, and can help drive and deliver regional and national targets to improve the mental and physical health of the population.
- A successful initiative between TM Travel and Chatsworth offering reduced entry for bus passengers was established this year, which could provide a foundation for developing an attractive branded bus service as an attraction in its own right. However, funding is extremely limited, and compounded by the lack of resource for the 'Peak Connections' project and cuts to bus subsidies.
- Sustainable travel in and around the Peak District is an issue that we need to explore further. There is very little resource to deliver the aims and ambitions of the Peak Connections project to improve public transport access and opportunities around the Peak District. This is an area that could do with some significant development, as there is the potential not only to link some of the best attractions, destinations and communities in the Peak District, but also to create an attraction in its own right, such as the successful New Forest Tour.

#### Signature 3: Better, Bigger and More Joined Up

- Moorland restoration and management work continues through the Moors for the Future Partnership, and the National Trust Upland Vision, focusing on stabilising important carbon stores within peat and soils. During 2013/14 Moors for the Future raised and invested £4.7 million in the Moorland Landscape, and is on track to achieve £4.9 million in 2014/15. The partnership is also focussing on woodland restoration around the Dark Peak and Derwent Valley catchment. The Clough Woodland project, which is the largest area of upland woodland grant scheme in the country, is being expanded whilst other projects are successfully enhancing and restoring woodland elsewhere in the Peak District. A further example is the Dane Valley Diamonds project which includes partners such as Natural England, Forestry Commission, and the Woodlands Trust.
- Complementing this work, the Environment Agency funded Water Catchment Restoration project is on track for completion by March 2015, with over 250ha of catchment moorland having received initial treatment, and all planned gully blocking completed. It is likely that a bid will be made by the National Park Authority and the National Trust to continue this work beyond 2015.
- There are significant landscape-scale estate management projects throughout the Peak District which help conserve the special qualities of the national park. Notably, the Sheffield Moors Master Plan was published in January 2014 and sets out a partnership approach of

## Appendix A

### **Peak District National Park Management Plan – Progress on Signatures**

#### **Report on Performance from April 2014**

both public sector and charitable organisations to managing 56 sq km area of nationally and internationally important moorland for the next 25 years. The National Park Authority has worked with users and stakeholders to develop a new vision as the basis for an updated management plan for the Stanage and North Lees estate, which forms part of the wider Sheffield Moors area. The new management plan will aim to achieve full cost recovery, and facilitate better investment in conservation and maintenance of natural and recreational assets.

- After laying firm foundations with partners, businesses and organisations in 2013, the Peak District Local Nature Partnership was recently awarded 2.5 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund for a South-West Peak Landscape partnership scheme. The scheme will include habitat restoration and creation, priority species conservation, and integrating cultural heritage and benefits for communities. The Local Nature Partnership remains watchful regarding the appearance of ash dieback within the Peak District area. There remain no reports of the disease within the national park.
- English Heritage has funded novel research managed by John Barnatt, Senior Survey Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park Authority, into the significance of Ecton Mine, an internationally significant (SSSI) mining site dating back to the Bronze Age. This work has brought together surveys of both surface and subterranean evidence. A major monograph, [\*Delving Ever Deeper: The Ecton Mines Through Time\*](#), presents this research. Wider conservation work at the Ecton Hill site involving National Trust, Natural England, the Ecton Mines Educational Trust and the Ecton Field studies association, is seeing restoration of the pump house and surrounding land. The site provides a fascinating insight into historic mining for people of all ages, and is a great example of positive partnership working in the Peak District.
- Partners have represented the profile and interests of local farmers and land owners at a national level to help influence reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, ensuring that the Peak District's voice is heard beyond the national park. More locally, we promote the Peak District Land Management Advisory Service to support and advise farmers on grants and land management. 56 Higher Level Agri-Environment Schemes have been brokered during 2013/14. 122,000ha (85%) of national park land is now covered by agri-environment schemes representing a 1.8% increase on the previous year.
- Links have been re-established between Derbyshire Climate Change Group and National Park Management Plan, and additional staffing resource has been secured to tackle climate change work within the national park.
- A Moors for the Future model estimates that the benefit of peatland stabilisation in terms of avoided carbon loss could be up to 833 tonnes per sq. km per year. This is predominantly through avoided loss of carbon, primarily as a result of the re-vegetation of bare peat and blocking erosion gullies reducing particulate organic carbon losses by 97%. A business case is being assessed for a carbon budgeting model at National Park Authority owned Warslow

## Appendix A

# Peak District National Park Management Plan – Progress on Signatures

## Report on Performance from April 2014

Estate, which if successful could be used to as a low carbon demonstration from March 2015.

### Signature 4: Community Led Planning

- Neighbourhood area designations, which are the first stage of the process, have been undertaken by Chapel, Whaley, Hartington, Bradwell and Bakewell. Bakewell are also working closely with Policy Planners to help with the detailed Development Management Plan policies for Bakewell.
- The High Peak Borough Council Housing Enablement project has been successfully working with local communities to assess demand for local housing, and improve local housing allocation. The project will also help determine whether the capacity for development laid out in the National Park Authority's planning strategy can be delivered. Housing needs surveys have been completed in Hayfield, Castleton, Hope and Bamford, and discussions with the community are taking place (or will take place in the near future) to discuss potential sites, and overall capacity for development.
- The Staffordshire Moorlands Community Engagement project has provided advice and support to help communities deliver local projects. It has engaged Parish Councils and communities that lie both within the National Park and those that lie along its border. The project liaises closely with the Churnet Valley Local Landscape Partnership to deliver cross boundary community activities which enhance the special qualities of the national park and also promote a high quality of life for communities in local villages.
- Increasingly, local people are encouraged to help shape the places in which they live. There are many ways in which people can become involved in planning their communities, but as every community is different there are many techniques that can be applied to address the various issues they might face. We have developed a 'menu' of options including neighbourhood planning, village plans, and information on planning policies and documents that are useful in helping individuals decide which is right for their community. The menu is available online at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning)
- The recently introduced Climate Change and Sustainable Buildings Supplementary Planning Document is now being widely considered by planning applicants prior to submission. Evidence shows that 41% of planning applications consider and incorporate energy efficiency and micro-renewables proposals. The document is being redesigned to make it more attractive and easier to use, which should help achieve a target of 60% consideration and incorporation in planning applications.
- The National Park Authority planning service continues to improve engagement with communities and businesses on planning matters through quarterly bulletins to Parishes

## Appendix A

### **Peak District National Park Management Plan – Progress on Signatures**

#### **Report on Performance from April 2014**

and developers, and regular meetings with Parishes, the Parishes Forum, and developers. The Localism Act and Neighbourhood planning are fundamental elements of this engagement.

- A Heritage Lottery bid focussing on the impacts of World War 1 on the national park landscape was submitted in December 2013 but failed to attract funding. A revised bid will be submitted in January 2015 to a specific World War 1 fund, and focussing on landscape change, using national park visitor centres.
- The majority of the actions on this Signature have now been delivered. Some partners feel the focus of this Signature in next 2 years should now go beyond the useful but narrow scope of 'Community Led Planning', and tackle some of the other aspects of maintaining thriving and vibrant communities as described in the National Park Management Plan. Work to refresh this signature has begun, and consultation workshops taking place with Parishes and local community organisations.

#### Signature 5: Inspiring Generations

- The Peak District Youth Forum has been established for 13 to 25 year olds who want their voices heard on national park issues. Terms of reference for the Youth Forum were agreed in July, although the group decided not to have a formal constitution. The Forum will meet 4 times per year, with a residential weekend event each Spring. Feedback so far has been very positive. The Forum is developing a social media campaign and web page, and exploring training and shadowing opportunities for those keen to be more involved in the national park. It has also worked with the National Park Authority to produce a short film aimed at teenagers which promotes sustainable visiting. The film is called #Do This and can be found on the Authority web site as well as YouTube.
- The Peak District Inspiring Generations group is now well established, having met three times in the past year with representation from National Trust, Severn Trent Water, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, MOSAIC, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and PDNPA. The group has focussed on 'cradle to grave' initiatives that organisations in the national park run to engage people in outdoor activity. The group is also aiming to forge stronger links to Public Health boards, and is posing some key questions regarding barriers to independent mobility, and the role of outdoor activity in providing opportunities that balance the rights of children with the need for health and safety.
- The Inspiring Generation group have an ambition to provide one million new opportunities across the Peak District. A sub group is looking at national funding to develop clear strategic direction as well as implementation of a range of mini-programs. The larger Inspiring Generations group would then build on this work, and seek wider funding from a national

## Appendix A

### **Peak District National Park Management Plan – Progress on Signatures**

#### **Report on Performance from April 2014**

source, such as HLF or Reaching Communities, to roll out a large-scale project which would also draw on the successes of the Stepping Stones to Nature project.

- The number of National Park Volunteers has continued to increase, with too many examples of conservation work across the national park to list. 8,387 volunteer days were organised or supported by PDNPA during 2013/14, and the number of days attended by under-represented groups was 1,917 – exceeding our target of 1,900 annually.
- Partners, including Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Derby University, National Trust, RSPB and Derbyshire County Council have organised four screenings of the film ‘Project Wild Thing’ followed by workshops on how to work with families to encourage unstructured play in the national park. Additionally, a screening of the film to Advisory Group in March highlighted a shared aspiration to target all school age children within a specific radius with a national park experience during their school years.
- Much of the effort of the Peak District MOSAIC has been taken up with establishing itself as an Independent Charitable Organisation. Consequently, some of the planned activity for 2013/14 has not been achieved, resulting in only 8 of 17 interventions being delivered during the year. Nevertheless, six new champions have been recruited, and six new communities have been represented during 2013/14.
- A Heritage Lottery bid to extend the Peak District Award into deprived areas in the North West of England in 2013 was unsuccessful, but re-submission has been encouraged by the HLF. However, despite this set-back, the Peak District Award is now well-grounded and well recognised as a means to encourage participants to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the national park. 300 awards per year are being completed, with different levels of award available depending on time committed, to reach people of all ages and abilities.
- No evidence of progress against the objective to ‘Encourage wider support of individual trusts and charities’ has been demonstrated since the National Park Management Plan was launched in 2012. This may be because the action to deliver the objective is currently to ‘Identify a baseline of existing support and membership by March 2014’ which is quite vague. It also carries underlying issues of business competitiveness and information sharing which cause additional difficulties. Advisory Group recommend the removal of the activity, as well as the removal of the corresponding aim in the NPMP ( see Appendix c, Section B)