

Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23



National Park Management Plan
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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. The designation of national parks is because of their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage - the 'special qualities' that make them so important. They also provide a breathing space and opportunities for learning, discovery and enjoyment for millions of people. The special qualities of the Peak District National Park are detailed in Section 5. 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.



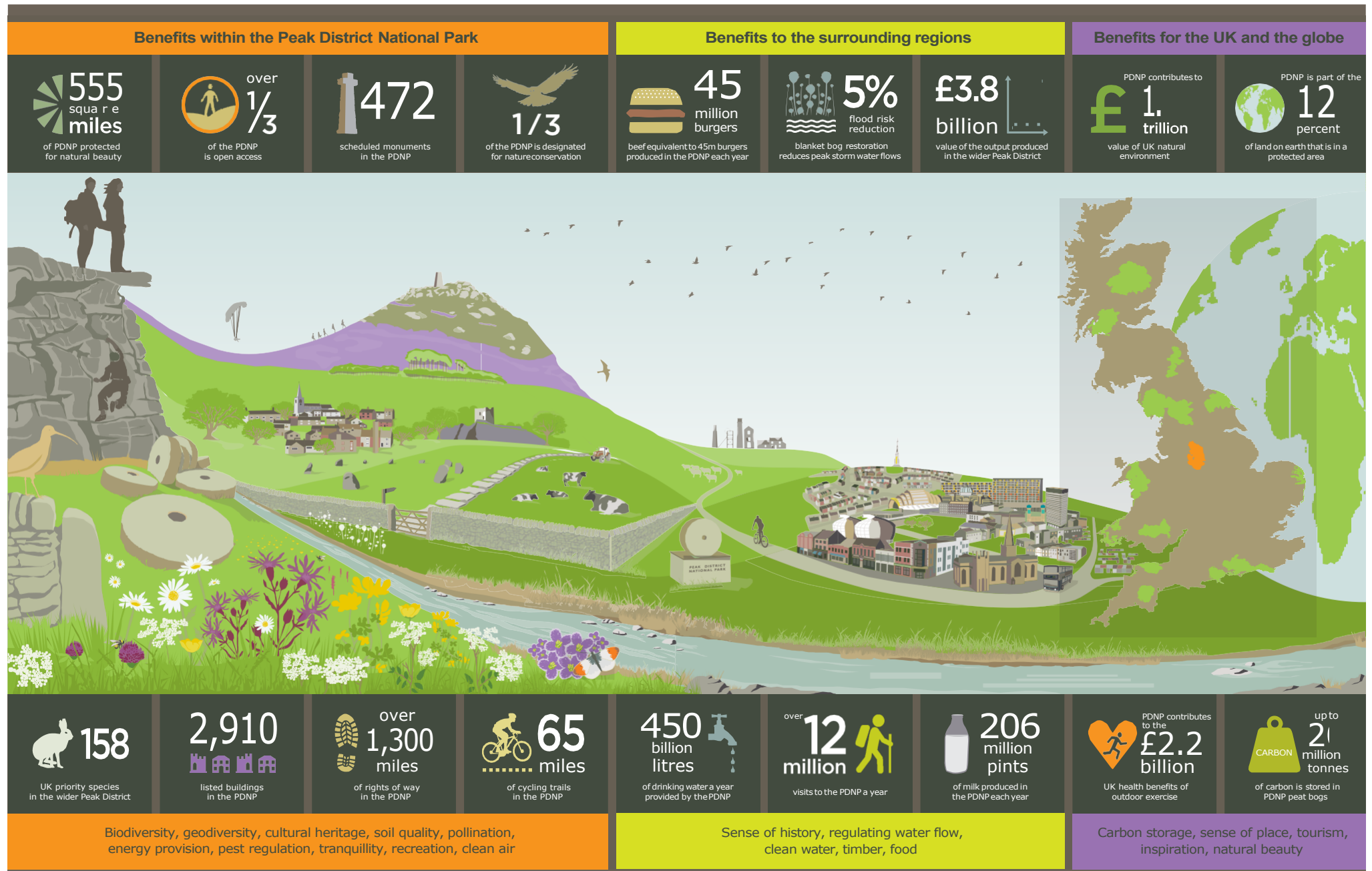
The Peak District National Park



- | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| National Park Boundary | Railway and Station | Pennine Bridleway | Information Centre | Settlement |
| Land over 400 metres | Railway Tunnel | Pennine Way | Information Centre PDNPA Cycle Hire | Youth Hostel |
| Land over 300 metres | A Road | Trail | Country Park | Reservoir |
| Land over 200 metres | B Road | Limestone Way | | Woodland |
| | Minor Road | | | 0 Miles 4
0 Kilometres 5 |

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Figure 1: The Peak District National Park: benefits in numbers





Section 2: The National Park Management Plan

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 strategic document for the Peak District National Park. It shares with everyone what the main issues and priorities are. It then sets out how, together, we are going to tackle those issues over the next five years.

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, to ensure it is relevant and forward looking, be updated at least every five years.

This update of the management plan contains an important difference to previous plans. It is not the intention of the plan to duplicate or 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. It is not the intention of the plan to set specific policies, but provide some principles and priorities for partnership action working into the future. By taking this approach it is intended that the plan will add greater value and make a difference to the Peak District National Park. It will allow us to focus our combined attention on the main priorities for action and monitor them efficiently.

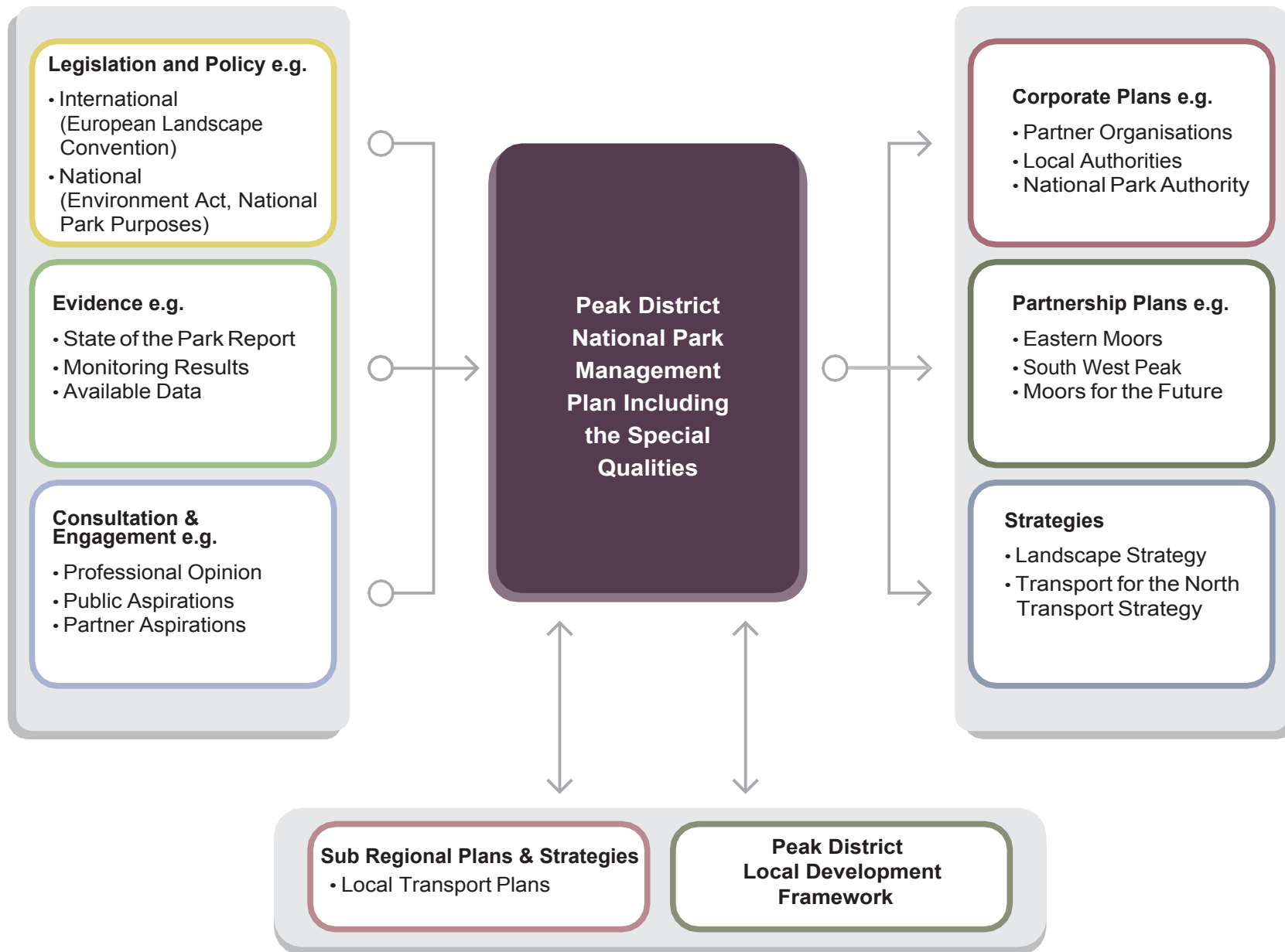
Many organisations care for the Peak District National Park. Therefore, the management plan brings together their work. This avoids confusion and potential conflict and is more efficient in the use of finances and resources.

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

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's 8-Point Plan for England's National Parks. It has also been checked against the Government's 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment.

See Figure 2 for a visual representation of how the National Park Management Plan is informed by and informs other strategies and policies. As part of the update leading to this management plan, we have redefined the special qualities that define what is distinctive and significant about this national park. It is intended that these definitions and assessments of their condition will form the basis of future reviews of the National Park Management Plan and of future 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 adequately care for 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 are many benefits for the surrounding areas too.

Strong partnerships are equally vital to developing a considered, yet dynamic approach to tourism within the National Park and its immediate surroundings. The Peak District is one of the country's most well known and best loved visitor destinations providing enjoyment for countless generations. Our central location means we attract a pattern of high volume, low value tourism. For the tourism economy to remain healthy and sustainable it is important that all interested parties work closely together.

The UK's 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 we 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 vision. 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 new ways to conserve and enhance 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. For examples of great partnership working see the previous National Park Management Plan monitoring reports.

Discussions in the development of this management plan have demonstrated that there is a shared endeavour amongst partners to collectively influence and develop a supportive policy, decision making and funding framework for our national park, both locally and nationally. So that we have supportive policy, legislative and funding frameworks that help meet national park purposes into the future. 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.

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 the UK's first national park, we have always been pioneering and want to continue to be a test bed for new ways of working.

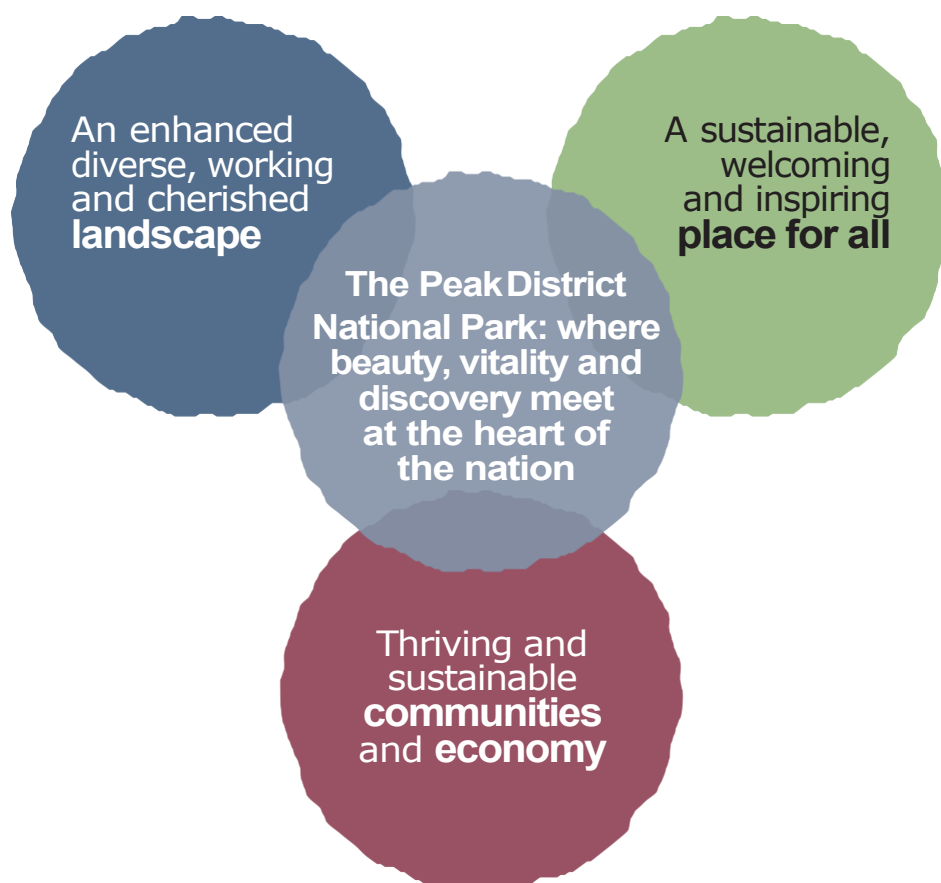
To achieve this, we will need to join or create new partnerships as well as developing our existing partnerships. We need to be smarter in how we work together to take advantage of all opportunities.

Section 4: National Park Management Plan Vision

When developing the management plan, early public consultation revealed support for the management of the Peak District National Park to focus on the first statutory purpose, to conserve and enhance its special qualities. We have refined the vision for the management plan to better reflect our two statutory purposes and our duty. The aspiration for an enhanced diverse, working and cherished landscape delivers the first statutory purpose. The aspiration to provide a welcoming and

inspiring place for all delivers the second statutory purpose. By seeking to have thriving and sustainable communities and economy we will fulfil our duty to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park. Indeed, all three aspirations, when working in harmony, actively support each other creating a virtuous cycle between people and place keeping the Peak District National Park as a living landscape for now and for future generations.

Figure 3: The Peak District National Park Management Plan Vision



To help us to achieve the vision, we have developed six areas of impact and an associated delivery plan. The areas of impact are grouped against the element of the

vision which they most significantly contribute towards. However, in reality many of the areas of impact will be helping to deliver more than one element of the vision.



Section 5: The Special Qualities of the Peak District National Park

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 heart of the country, 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 we will seek to conserve and enhance while promoting opportunities for people to understand and enjoy them.

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 visit and 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' aspect 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. Ultimately, the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities will underpin all of the work across the Peak District National Park.

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.

Many of the contrasting landscapes that give the Peak District National Park its well-known 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 blanket bog, 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 green valley, where the historic railway viaduct spans the gorge. The viaduct is part of the Monsal recreation trail, giving users a bird's-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 expanse of the Cheshire plains to the west.



Ramshaw Rocks
Photo: Chris Gilbert

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.



Dipper at Laithkill Dale
Photo: Chris Gilbert

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 Dark and South West Peak. The iconic 'mountain blackbird', or ring ouzel, is thriving in the Peak District, 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

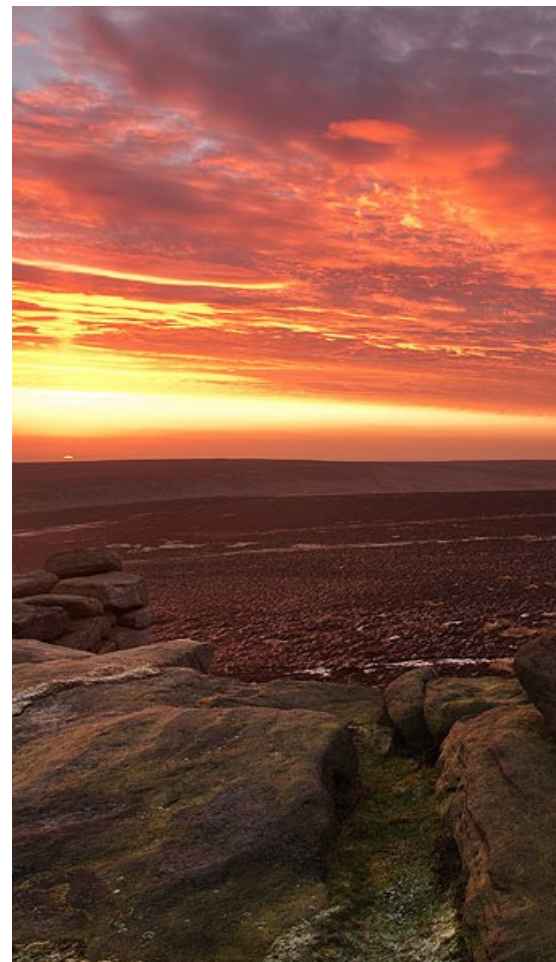
The Peak District National Park is an accessible backdoor wilderness allowing millions of people to find a welcome sense of tranquillity.

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 towns. 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.



Stanage Edge
Photo: Chris Gilbert

Special quality 4: Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry



Millstones at High Neb, Stanage
Photo: Chris Gilbert

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 historic 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 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.



Castleton

Special quality 6: An inspiring space for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet reflection



Climbers at Stanage Edge
Photo: Chris Gilbert

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 public access to the moors and hills of the Peak District National Park for granted, prior to 1949 the majority had no public access. People were passionate about exploring Kinder Scout and the moors in the north and east of the Peak District, so it became the stage for annual protests such as the mass ramblers' demonstrations at Winnats Pass and Cave Dale from 1928 and the famous Kinder Mass Trespass in 1932. These protests and demonstrations lead ultimately to the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act which established national parks 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 breathtaking 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 many species that used to be widespread, 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 to sustaining resilient habitats, 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, especially in the peat on our moorlands, 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.



Howden Reservoir
Photo: Chris Gilbert

Section 6: The Areas of Impact of the Peak District National Park Management Plan

Introduction

The six 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 reflect our current priorities in managing the National Park to achieve our vision. They should be read as an integrated set, rather than in isolation. Each area of impact is implemented through the actions contained in the Delivery Plan, as detailed in section 7. The delivery plan will be reviewed annually to include actions developed throughout the life of the plan and to ensure it remains responsive to the external environment.

Areas of Impact

- 1: Preparing for a future climate
- 2: Ensuring a future for farming and land management
- 3: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale
- 4: A National Park for everyone
- 5: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding
- 6: Supporting thriving and sustainable communities and economy

Area of Impact 1: Preparing for a future climate

Vision element: An enhanced diverse, working and cherished landscape

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.

Although "preparing for a future climate" is an area of impact in its own right, it is recognised that other areas within the plan will make a contribution towards achieving it. For example, preparing for climate change may involve

offering financial incentives to farmers to enable them to assist with the development of more resilient habitats, restoring and managing our moorlands in a way that sequesters carbon, minimises the risk of fire and enables moorland birds to thrive. In this way, the Moors for the Future work contributes very significantly to increasing the storage and new capturing of carbon in the fabric

of the peat. Establishing a landscape monitoring system will help us to understand what change is taking place across the landscape, some of which could be as a result of climate change. Finally, projects in the uplands also help reduce downstream flooding and improve water quality by moderating the rate of storm water run-off and reducing sediment/carbon loads.

What we will do:

1.1 Reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities

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

Traditional Peak District National Park 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 and nurture wildlife. 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 an 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 or public transport instead of driving.



Derwent River Flood in Baslow

Area of Impact 2: Ensuring a future for farming and land management

Vision element: An enhanced diverse, working and cherished landscape

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 inadequate 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 farming and land management. 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 appropriate 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 that 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 purely 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 farm businesses.



Photo: Chris Gilbert

What we will do:

2.1 Secure future land management support schemes

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

We will 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 which care for and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

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 while still delivering 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.

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

We will ensure management of the uplands is 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 and Moors for the Future have made progress over the

past five years but there is further work to be done.

For example, in 2017 there was widespread disappointment at the survey results published by the Peak District Birds of Prey Initiative which showed that peregrine failed to breed in the Dark Peak for the first time since they recolonised the Peak District in 1984 and hen harriers continue to be sparse and sporadic. This partnership initiative was set up to develop collective action to help improve the conditions for birds of prey in this area. Recent steps include working more directly with local landowners, shoot owners, agents and gamekeepers with the intention of achieving healthy and sustainable moorlands and populations of birds of prey on the moorlands. And welcomed is the police's continued support to tackle illegal activity of any type within the Peak District National Park.

Area of Impact 3: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

Vision element: An enhanced diverse, working and cherished landscape

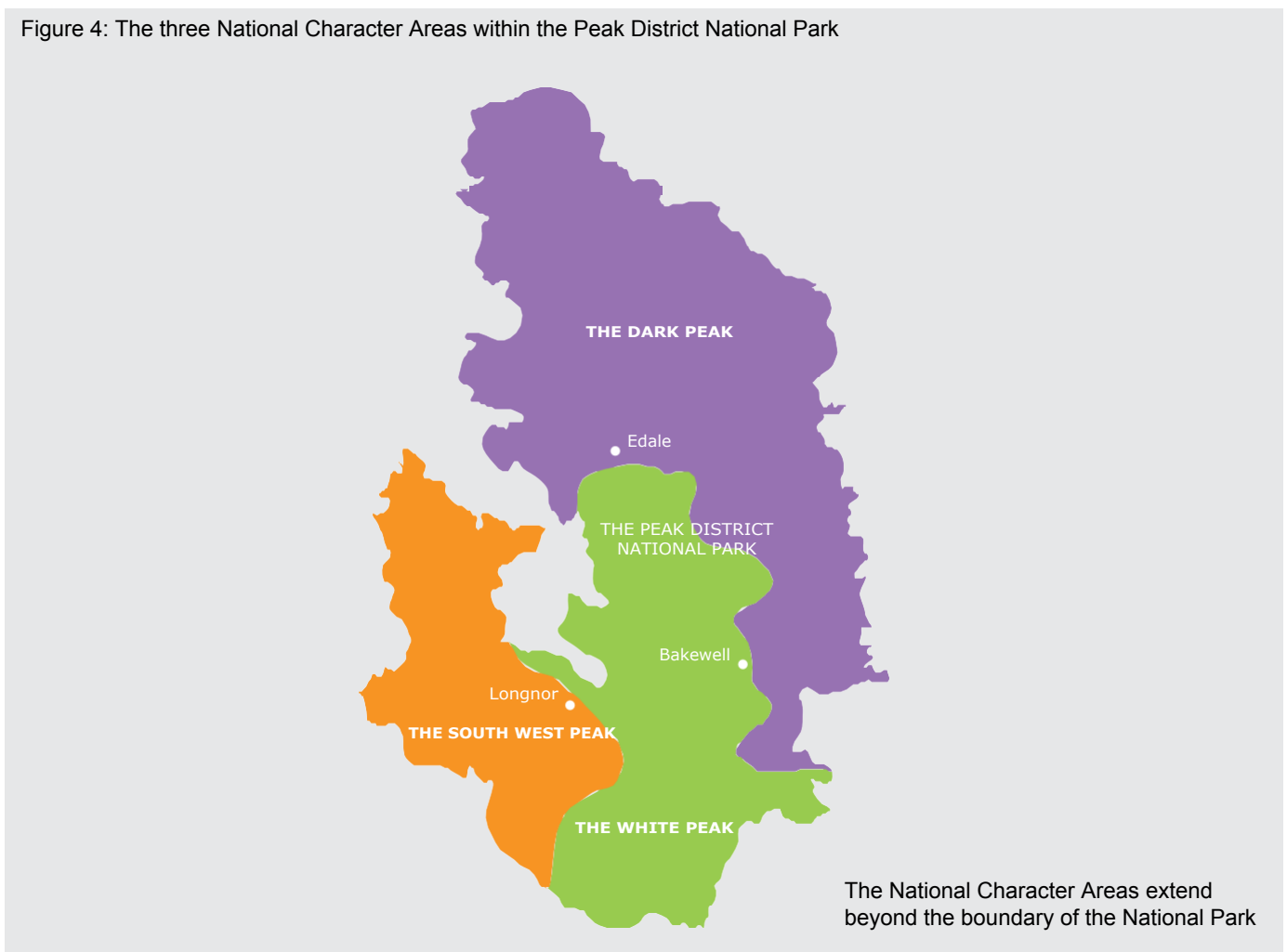
What does this mean and why does it matter?

The Peak District National Park's contrasting landscapes are one of its special qualities. They each require 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. There are established or emerging partnerships that work within the National Character Areas of the National Park – these are the Moors for the Future Partnership, the South West Peak Partnership and the White Peak Partnership. Please see Figure 4 for a diagram of the three National Character Areas as far as they lie within the National Park.

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.

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



What we will do:

3.1 Establish monitoring at a landscape scale

We want to 'join up' and develop our monitoring work. This will deliver a clear picture of any 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?

The Peak District National Park mostly lies within three National 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.

3.2 Establish a White Peak partnership

We will develop a wide-ranging partnership in the White Peak area of the Peak District National Park with a clear vision, plan and delivery actions.

Why?

In the uplands, the Dark Peak and South West Peak both have landscape scale partnerships with a vision and actions. 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 developing landscape partnership, it needs to develop a full strategy and action plan, and start to deliver this.

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. Farmers and landowners need 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.

There is a rich human history in the White Peak, with centuries of farming and industry creating a higher density of settlements compared to the rest of the Peak District National Park. Characteristic dry stone walls, farmsteads, scattered field barns, lead rakes, dew ponds and ridge and furrow field patterns tell the story of how people have interacted with this limestone landscape for generations. There is still more to be discovered, with many opportunities for people to better understand and support these cultural treasures.

3.3 Maintain existing landscape scale delivery

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

Why?

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.

Wild fires and atmospheric pollutants from past coal fired industry have largely destroyed the living surface of blanket bogs, altered species composition and brought about the most degraded upland environment across Europe. The loss of essential Sphagnum bog mosses and the degradation of upland peat have reduced the benefits from all of the vital ecosystem services such as drinking water quality and flood risk management. There is a need to ensure that moorland management delivers sustainable environmental, social and economic outcomes. In addition, there is the continuing absence of healthy breeding populations of birds of prey which needs to be addressed.

The Moors for the Future Partnership has confronted an exceptional challenge over the past 15 years working to bring this entire landscape into good ecological condition, restoring the benefits it delivers. Following

the UK's departure from the European Union, significant funding structures for the partnership are likely to end. We need to secure new funding sources to ensure that these environmental gains can continue. These landscapes will need more work over the next 30 years to ensure their continued recovery.

The South West Peak is a landscape of contrasts comprising a mosaic of habitats that support internationally and regionally important species such as curlew, lapwing and snipe. Despite the best efforts of many these continue to be vulnerable and therefore at risk. Cultural heritage features such as field barns and boundaries are prominent in the landscape but in need of restoration and protection. This fragile landscape provides benefits to people as it collects and filters water, stores carbon and provides a place to live, work and enjoy.

The South West Peak Landscape Partnership has a vision and a comprehensive set of objectives and projects set to deliver the vision over an initial five year period. New sources of funding will need to be secured before current programme funding ends. This will ensure the further development of objectives and projects to continue the delivery of the agreed vision without losing momentum.



Photo: Tom Harman

Area of Impact 4: A National Park foreveryone

Vision element: A sustainable, welcoming and inspiring place for all

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.

We would like to ensure that ease of access to the National Park is a component of an enjoyable visit. 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 can enrich lives. Local people will also benefit. They too, will get a wider range of recreation and access services. We want to ensure that a sustainable tourism industry flourishes in order to sustain a healthy local economy. Increasing awareness of the Peak District National Park to people who do not know it exists and removing barriers for people who do not currently visit is the first step of providing this. If new people feel able to visit, there is a positive impact on the local economy. Once people have an awareness of the National Park and feel they are able to visit, there is an opportunity to increase their understanding of the special qualities of the National Park. This will assist in ensuring that events are at an appropriate scale and that people behave responsibly when visiting, as they understand their impacts on the fragile environment. This is covered in more detail in the next area of impact.

The Peak District National Park is one of the UK's most well-known and best loved visitor destinations. The location means that it receives high volume low spend tourism. For tourism to better support the local economy we want high quality unique experiences to connect people to the National Park's special qualities.



Photo: Chris Gilbert

What we will do:

4.1 Overcome physical barriers to access

We will improve access to the Peak District National Park to enable everyone to enjoy its special qualities.

We will 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 mental wellbeing. This is particularly important 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. The rate of mental ill health is also on the rise in the UK with an estimated one in four people affected by it. With the prescription of anti-depressants at record levels there is now increasing acceptance of the role nature and place can play in determining people's mental health.

4.2 Overcome perceived barriers to access

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

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

Why?

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 or the relevance of the visitor experience to them. 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 5: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

Vision element: A sustainable, welcoming and inspiring place for all

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 and concern for its future is a shared one.

What we will do:

5.1 Balance opportunities for enjoyment with conserving a fragile environment

We want the enjoyment of the Peak District National Park to be at a scale and quality 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. Equally, visitors can put undue pressures on fragile landscapes and these must be guarded against.



Improving understanding
Photo: Chris Gilbert

What we will do:

5.2 Ensure shared responsibility

We want everyone 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 and to support ways to minimise their impacts.

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. We want to encourage visitors to the Peak District National Park to feel they can contribute to its future through a programme of visitor giving and volunteering.

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.

What we will do:

5.3 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.

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.

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 the 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. Building people's connection with the landscape and the products and services it provides can help to sustain the special qualities of the National Park.

Area of Impact 6: Supporting thriving and sustainable communities and economy

Vision element: Thriving and sustainable communities and economy

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 attractive landscape and picturesque villages draw people to settle in the area.

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 with a potential reduction in working age people and an increase in elderly people. In addition, younger people who wish to remain in their communities should feel able to stay. 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 belonging. Yet, with an aging population and fewer people wishing or able 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 will do:

6.1 Improve access to services

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

We will 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 local communities and business.

We will work to deliver a Peak District National Park-wide enhanced broadband service, delivered in innovative ways with communities, that enables communities and businesses 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.

What we will do:

6.2 Support the provision of locally needed housing

We will 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 a continuing need for affordable housing in some parts of the Peak District National Park. Furthermore demographic evidence suggests that there are changes taking place which affect 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.

In the National Park, planning policies must focus on the exceptional release of land in order to conserve the undeveloped rural character of the area. Exceptions housing typically focusses on the most acute issues of housing affordability. However, it does not always address the wider housing needs of a community, which some see as necessary for vibrant and thriving communities. We need to review our policies to consider the changing

demographic pressure and consider whether there are new needs that must be addressed for the best planning of the area and to ensure we continue 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.

6.3 Enable local businesses to thrive in a way that is compatible and, wherever possible, enhances the special qualities of the Peak District National Park

We want to enable and support businesses to thrive especially where they are committed to conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park on which so many livelihoods rely.

We want an environment where new businesses can be established and existing 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?

For many people businesses form an essential part of their experience of the National Park, from large landed estates to small cafes and village shops. We are particularly supportive of businesses which promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public and see this as a vital component of the National Park's performance. We particularly welcome opportunities for high value low impact employment within sustainable locations which supports National Park purposes.

Due to the close proximity of neighbouring towns the Peak District National Park is a net exporter of commuters with about twice as many people regularly leaving the area for work as entering it. Retaining an element of locally based employment is important to the provision of services and the character of local communities. Working with partners we are supportive of efforts to provide appropriate opportunities for local businesses within the National Park.



The Old Cheese Shop - Hartington
Photo: EQM



Section 7: The Delivery Plan

Section 6 of this management plan outlined the areas of impact where we believe we can have the greatest impact. The areas of impact outlined the focus of this management plan and provided some more detailed intentions for each of these – the ‘what we will do’. The ‘what we will do’ is for all collective organisations and partners that have an interest in the Peak District National Park, as the management plan is a plan for the place.

In places it has been impossible to define specific targets; these will emerge as an outcome from preliminary work. It is our intention however, to be ambitious in our achievements, to make a significant difference as far as we can.

This section sets out the actions that partners working together are going to implement in order to help achieve the intentions that are in each of the areas of impact. The same numbering has been used in the delivery plan as in section 6, so that it is easy to cross refer between the areas of impact and the actions that follow.

Although the management plan is a five year document, the delivery plan is not a static element, as we must be able to reflect the changing environment and take advantage of opportunities as they arise over the next five years. We need to ensure that it is up to date, and that we can add in new actions as others are delivered. This will ensure that we maintain the necessary partnership momentum in every area of impact. Therefore, this section of the management plan will be updated as necessary on an annual basis.

It is not the intention of the plan to duplicate or outline what others are already doing but to add value by focusing the partners’ attention on the main priorities for action. Therefore the Delivery Plan does not catalogue all current activity that supports national park purposes and omission should not be seen as negative.

Summary of our Intentions

To reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities, we will know which special qualities are most affected by climate change, and focus action on reducing these impacts.

To secure funding for future land management to benefit all, we will seek to create an ideal future farming and land management payment scheme in the Peak District National Park which helps to conserve and enhance the special qualities.

To ensure that the management of upland moors delivers environmental, social & economic benefits; we will seek to restore populations of birds of prey to at least the levels present in the late 1990s, with the addition of hen harrier as a regularly successful breeding species.

To establish monitoring at a landscape scale we will produce a repeatable and robust survey methodology and undertake monitoring by the end of the plan.

To develop a White Peak partnership we will develop a strategy and start implementing an agreed action plan to deliver a wildlife and cultural heritage rich landscape, which delivers a wide range of public goods and services,

To maintain existing landscape scale delivery we will develop a clear long term vision, plan and have funding in place for the Dark Peak and South Pennines to 2050. We will develop a clear future plan and funding to develop and continue landscape scale delivery on the South West Peak

To overcome physical barriers to access we will create a programme to develop a sustainable visitor economy that encourages the Peak District National Park to be a welcoming place for all. By 2023 we will be encouraging a wider range of people to enjoy the Peak District National Park at an appropriate scale and adding value to the visitor economy.

To overcome perceived barriers to access we will produce a consistent message that all partners use that encourages more under-represented groups to

visit the National Park. To enable all marketing bodies to target the full potential audience and working with and in the local communities to encourage them to visit.

To balance opportunities for enjoyment with conserving a fragile environment we will provide a refreshed Countryside Code underpinning a Peak District brand which all relevant partners promote equally and consistently.

To ensure shared responsibility we will review and develop the current arrangements for events management in the Peak District.

To develop an awareness and understanding of the benefits of the Peak District National Park, we will consider a revised approach to the promotion of the Peak District brand so we establish a provenance which is coherent and effective at promoting the link between business development, the special qualities and the unique offer of the Peak District National Park

To support thriving and sustainable communities and economy, we will first define what is meant by thriving and sustainable communities, in the context of the National Park Management Plan.

To improve access to services we will work with providers to improve broadband and mobile connectivity across the National Park in line with the UK's Next Generation Access (NGA) standards.

To support the provision of locally needed housing we will work through the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group Housing Sub-Group to address the local need for appropriate housing in the National Park

To enable local businesses to thrive in a way that is compatible and, wherever possible, enhances the special qualities of the Peak District National Park we will assist the development of businesses in conjunction with relevant bodies. Linking business support, grant aid, planning and economic development

The Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018 – 2023

Our Delivery Plan

Area of Impact 1: Preparing for a future climate					
Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
Intention 1.1: Reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities	Undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment on the special qualities of the National Park and produce a mitigation/adaption plan setting out priority actions. Seek resources with partners to implement the priority actions.	National Park Authority	National Trust, Derbyshire County Council, Sheffield City Council, Staffordshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Oldham Borough Council, Kirklees Council, Derby City Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Wildlife Trusts, Friends of the Peak District, Natural England, Environment Agency, Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire	Vulnerability assessment produced in 2020. Identify mitigation actions & priorities 2020-2021. Establish / determine delivery partnership 2021. Start implementing mitigation/adaptation plan.	Know which special qualities are most affected by climate change, focus action on reducing these impacts.

Area of Impact 2: Ensuring a future for farming and land management

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
Intention 2.1: Secure funding for future land management to benefit all	<p>The Land Managers Forum to work with key private and public sector partners to build on the work of National Parks England.</p> <p>“Future of Farming in National Parks” and describe a future support system for the Peak District National Park, which will deliver a full range of public goods, using the White Peak as an example.</p>	Land Managers Forum	Land Managers Forum Members, Local Access Forum, Local Nature Partnership.	<p>Develop an acceptable support package proposal by 2019/2020.</p> <p>To have a new support package available from 2023.</p>	To create an ideal future farming and land management payment scheme in the Peak District National Park which helps to conserve and enhance the special qualities..
Intention 2.2: Ensure that the management of upland moors delivers environmental, social & economic benefits	<p>That the proposals from the Moorland Working Group are implemented. These will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visitor engagement 2. Fire risk 3. Resilient sustainable moorland 4. Moorland birds 	Natural England	<p>Significant moorland owners, shooting tenants and game keepers, Moors For The Future, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Local Access Forum, Fire Operations Group, Peak District Land Managers Forum, The National Trust., National Park Authority, The Moorland Association,</p>	<p>Land Managers Forum sub group to be established to focus on resilient sustainable moorland (Sponsor NE).</p> <p>Bird survey in 2018 to confirm population trends.</p> <p>To review the work of the Bird of Prey initiative and implement effective measures to address bird of prey issues. 2019</p>	<p>Restore populations of birds of prey to at least the levels present in the late 1990s, with the addition of hen harrier as a regularly successful breeding species.</p> <p>Further targets and outcomes to be developed as the working groups progress.</p>

Area of Impact 3: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
Intention 3.1: Establish monitoring at a landscape scale	We will have agreed and established a system of monitoring at a landscape scale encompassing landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.	National Park Authority	Wildlife Trusts, Natural England, universities, Historic England, county and district councils, Local Nature Partnership, Moors for the Future Partnership, Friends of the Peak District.	Establish the objectives of monitoring in 2018. Produce a robust methodology for monitoring in 2019. Undertake monitoring from 2019.	A repeatable and robust survey methodology established and monitoring undertaken by the end of the plan. Actions identified where results are available.
Intention 3.2: Develop a White Peak partnership	We will have a White Peak Partnership that is delivering agreed priority actions.	Rotating Chair: Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency, National Park Authority, Historic England & National Trust	Farmers and land managers, Forestry Commission, parish councils	To be set as work progresses through the partnership steering group and wider partners.	To develop a strategy and start implementing an agreed action plan to deliver a wildlife and cultural heritage rich landscape, which delivers a wide range of public goods and services

Area of Impact 3: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale (continued)

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
<p>Intention 3.3: Maintain existing landscape scale delivery</p>	<p>Develop a clear long term vision, plan and have funding in place for the Dark Peak and South Pennines to 2050.</p>	<p>Moors For The Future Partnership: National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, RSPB, Natural England, United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, Severn Trent Water, Environment Agency, Pennine Prospects</p>	<p>Partnership members</p>	<p>Undertake long-term monitoring to inform the vision.</p> <p>2018-19 - Start planning for the water industry's Asset Management Plan 7 delivery in 2020-2025.</p> <p>2027 - Ensure Southern Pennines and Dark Peak meet delivery items of Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>The percentage of blanket bog in the Dark Peak and South Pennines in improved ecological condition;</p> <p>30% of Blanket Bog across the Southern Pennines to be in state 6 by 2050</p> <p>90% of Dark Peak Blanket Bog moved out of state 2 by 2023, (bare peat to be revegetated)</p> <p>25% of the Southern Pennine Blanket bogs to be moved out of state 2 by 2023.</p> <p>(measure used is the 6 states of peat from the Moorland Managers Guidance)</p>
	<p>Develop a clear future plan and funding to develop and continue landscape scale delivery on the South West Peak.</p>	<p>SWP Partnership: Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, The Farming Life Centre, RSPB, Support Staffordshire</p>	<p>Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England, Cheshire East Council, Staffordshire County Council, Nature Peak District, Severn Trent Water, United Utilities</p>	<p>Put in place phase 2 arrangements for the partnership by end of December 2021.</p>	<p>Secure new sources of funding to further deliver on the agreed vision.</p>

Area of Impact 4: A National Park for everyone

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
Intention 4.1: Overcome physical barriers to access	Create a programme to develop a sustainable visitor economy that encourages the Peak District National Park to be a welcoming place for all.	Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire,	Sheffield City Council, Staffordshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Oldham Borough Council, Kirklees Council, Derby City Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, water companies, Local Access Forum, National Trust, RSPB, Chatsworth House, National Park Authority, Derbyshire County Council, Local Nature Partnership, Parishes.	<p>Consolidate the existing data about visitor behaviour and perceptions.</p> <p>Develop a partnership approach to integrated visitor hubs/ gateways to embrace accessibility for all to the National Park whilst supporting responsible visiting and reducing impact of visitors.</p> <p>Produce and adopt Recreation Hubs Supplementary Planning Document Adopted SPD 2020.</p> <p>Develop a brand led approach to the promotion of the Peak District National Park linked to the development of a high quality sustainable tourism industry.</p>	By 2023 we will be encouraging a wider range of people to enjoy the Peak District National Park at an appropriate scale and adding value to the visitor economy.
Intention 4.2: Overcome perceived barriers to access	A consistent message that all partners use that encourages more under-represented groups to visit the National Park. To enable all marketing bodies to target the full potential audience and working with and in the local communities to encourage them to visit.	National Park Authority	MOSAIC, county councils, Visit Peak District, Natural England, Marketing Sheffield, Marketing Manchester, Enjoy Staffordshire, Visit Peak District and Derbyshire, National Trust, Historic England, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Inspiring Generations, John Muir Trust, Parishes.	<p>Establish baseline data on non-visitor profile by 2019.</p> <p>Assess what we offer against the potential optimum demand and amend where sustainable.</p> <p>Promote through engagement with target audiences.</p>	Set targets for the % increase in under-represented audiences to be achieved by 2023.

Area of Impact 5: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
Intention 5.1: Balance opportunities for enjoyment with conserving a fragile environment	As part of a reviewed brand refresh the countryside code in partnership that all partners promote and disseminate consistently and coherently.	Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire, National Trust, Water companies, National Park Authority	National Farmers Union, Country Landowners Association, Moorland Association, Parish Councils, Local Access Forum, Inspiring Generations, Peak District Educators Group, significant land owners, Derbyshire County Council, Sheffield City Council, Staffordshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Oldham Borough Council, Kirklees Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Peak District Land Managers Forum, Natural England, Derbyshire Police	Partner event to analyse issues to be dealt with by the code by 2019. An assessment of the effectiveness of this action.	A refreshed Countryside Code underpinning a Peak District brand which all relevant partners promote equally and consistently.

Area of Impact 5: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding (continued)

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
Intention 5.2: Ensure shared responsibility	Review and develop current arrangements for events management in the Peak District.	National Park Authority	National Trust, Natural England, parish councils, Derbyshire County Council, Sheffield City Council, Staffordshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Oldham Borough Council, Kirklees Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Peak District Local Access Forum, Highways England, event organisers	<p>Convene partner meeting to discuss issues in 2018.</p> <p>An assessment of the effectiveness of changes on the participants, local communities and the environment.</p> <p>Review all the event management systems available.</p>	To effect changes in event management practice.

Area of Impact 5: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding (continued)

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
<p>Intention 5.3: Develop an awareness and understanding of the benefits of the Peak District National Park</p>	<p>Utilising the valuable work of 'Inspired by the Peak District' and the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark (EQM) consider a revised approach to the promotion of the Peak District brand so we establish a provenance which is coherent and effective at promoting the link between business development, the special qualities and the unique offer of the Peak District National Park.</p>	<p>Marketing Peak District</p>	<p>EQM Community Interest Company, Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire, Sheffield City Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Oldham Borough Council, Kirklees Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, National Park Authority, Local Economic Partnership Business Peak District, National Park Authority</p>	<p>Convene a group to explore potential by the end of 2019.</p>	<p>A refreshed branding initiative in place by 2019 that adds value and promotes a quality standard.</p>

Area of Impact 6: Supporting thriving and sustainable communities and economy

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
Supporting thriving and sustainable communities and economy	Define what is meant by thriving and sustainable communities, in the context of the National Park Management Plan.	National Park Authority	Rural Action Derbyshire, Peak Park Parishes Forum, Friends of the Peak District, Derbyshire County Council, Staffordshire County Council, Cheshire East Council, Sheffield City Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Oldham Borough Council	Definition produced and agreed by 2020.	A practical definition of a thriving and sustainable community which can help inform future work.
Intention 6.1: Improve access to services	Work with providers to improve broadband and mobile connectivity across the National Park in line with the UK's Next Generation Access (NGA) standards.	Barnsley MBC, Derbyshire County Council, East Cheshire Council, Kirklees MBC, Staffordshire County Council, Sheffield City Council, Oldham MBC	District councils, National Park Authority, significant land owners, significant businesses, broadband and mobile suppliers, Business Peak District	Obtain data on future predicted gaps in mobile and broadband provision. Work with suppliers to find imaginative solutions for the final 5%. For example, community fibre partnerships.	We have an overall picture of the current state and gaps, plus the future target for broadband provision for the Peak District National Park. We use this to secure better access across the National Park, with an ambition of providing NGA standard services to every property within the Peak District National Park.

Area of Impact 6: Supporting thriving and sustainable communities and economy (continued)

Intention	Action	Sponsoring partner	Supporting partners	Milestones and dates	Target / Outcome
Intention 6.2: Support the provision of locally needed housing	Work through the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group Housing Sub-Group to address the local need for appropriate housing in the National Park.	National Park Authority	Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Peak District Rural Housing Enabler, Parish Councils.	Establish a new estimate of strategic housing need. Define the opportunities for meeting affordable housing need through exception sites, brownfield and enhancement.	A package to deliver against the need for local affordable housing.
Intention 6.3 Enable local businesses to thrive in a way that is compatible and, wherever possible, enhances the special qualities of the Peak District National Park	Assist the development of businesses in conjunction with relevant bodies. Linking business support, grant aid, planning and economic development.	Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire, D2N2, Growth Hub,	National Park Authority, LEADER (EU funding for rural economic development), Local Economic Partnership, Business Peak District, local businesses, Sheffield City Region, Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Derbyshire Dale District Council, Cheshire East Council, Sheffield City Council	Convene a group to explore potential by the end of 2019 and take forward action.	Thriving and sustainable businesses in the National Park.

