

8. **CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT 25 % OF FEATURES (EF)**

1. **Purpose of the report**

The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the top 25% of special quality features for inclusion in the climate change vulnerability assessment.

2. **Key Issues**

- The Authority made a commitment to undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment on approximately 25% of the National Park's features.
- For this climate change vulnerability assessment, it is the degree to which a feature of the special qualities is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes.
- Moors for the Future have been commissioned to undertake the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Authority.
- The special qualities have been broken down into the individual features that make up the special quality.
- The features have been taken through a robust ranking system to provide us with the highest priority 25% of features.
- The ranking system takes into account the data available for the feature and whether specialists think the feature is a priority in relation to climate change.
- The highest priority 25% of features are outlined in appendix 1 to this report.
- Throughout spring and into summer we will be undertaking the vulnerability assessment on the top 25% of features.
- We will engage with Members throughout the development of the vulnerability assessment and seek Members approval for the final vulnerability assessment at an appropriate time.

Recommendations

3. **1. That Members note the top 25% of special quality features for inclusion in the climate change vulnerability assessment.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

4. In 2016, the Authority made a commitment to undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment on approximately 25% of the National Park's features as defined by the special qualities process. This commitment was made in the National Park Climate Change Adaptation Report, the Executive Summary of which was presented to Strategic Advisory Group in July 2016. The commitment was continued in the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23, as the delivery plan action 1.1 is to '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.' Finally, our Corporate Strategy 2019-24 has a strategic intervention to develop the climate change vulnerability assessment and implement the key outcomes.

Background

5. Members were provided with a briefing note at the February 2019 Members Forum on the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.
6. For this climate change vulnerability assessment, it is the degree to which a feature of the special qualities is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change,

including climate variability and extremes. The Peak District National Park special qualities are as follows.

1. Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology.
 2. Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats.
 3. Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions.
 4. Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry.
 5. Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions.
 6. An inspiring space for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet reflection.
 7. Vital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary.
7. The features are components that make up the special quality, for example, a specific habitat, wildlife or dry stone wall.
 8. Moors for the Future have been commissioned to undertake the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Authority, working alongside the Strategy and Performance Team.
 9. The scope of the work was defined and all preparation was completed in summer 2018. This included breaking down the special qualities into categories, for instance, cultural experiences with widespread appeal, landscapes of harmony and detail and characteristic settlements within the landscape. The categories were split further into individual features that are easier to measure, for instance, industrial heritage, stately homes and parkland, limestone village farmland and close links between farmsteads and gradual enclosure of moorland. This process identified approximately 530 features within the 7 special qualities. This stage was undertaken with the cross-Authority special qualities working group so that specialist knowledge was utilised.
 10. The project then identified if data was available for each of the features, and if so, what the data included. This was mainly through consultation with Authority specialists but partner organisations were involved where appropriate. Partner organisations involved so far include Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, and Greater Manchester Resilience/Combined Authority. Other partners will be involved as this work progresses, for instance, the National Trust and Woodland Trust.
 11. A series of workshops were run with Authority specialists and partner organisations to begin to identify the priority 25% of features which will be assessed in the vulnerability assessment. The outputs from the data gathering exercise and workshops were used to develop a robust ranking system to provide us with the highest priority 25% of features. The ranking system takes into account the data available for the feature and whether specialists think the feature is a priority in relation to climate change.

Proposals

Outcomes of the Ranking System

12. The top priority 25% of features are outlined in appendix 1 to this report. These have been put into themes, so that similar features are presented together. The special quality that the feature relates to are presented alongside the feature.
13. Next Steps, Timescales & Member Engagement

Throughout spring and into summer we will be undertaking the vulnerability assessment on the top 25% of features. This includes reviewing current research, looking at climate projections (UKCP18) and consulting with experts on the sensitivity, exposure & adaptive capacity of each feature to provide an overall vulnerability of the feature to climate change. The vulnerability assessment will be drafted in summer and recommendations for adaptation and research will be included. In autumn the content of the vulnerability assessment will be finalised and then the document will be designed.

We will engage with Members throughout the development of the vulnerability assessment. We will continue this informal engagement with Members until the winter, when we will seek Members approval for the final vulnerability assessment.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

14. **Financial:**

Funding for Moors for the Future to undertake the climate change vulnerability assessment is secured. Funding the findings of the assessment will come through the National Park Management Plan partners where a partner initiative is required, or through our corporate strategy when it is something the Authority can undertake on its own.

15. **Risk Management:**

The vulnerability assessment is being undertaken as a project by Moors for the Future, as such, risks are being managed within their standard risk management policy. Therefore, there is a risk log, and these are managed by the project board.

16. **Sustainability:**

The findings of the vulnerability assessment will assist in sustainably conserving and enhancing the National Park.

17. **Equalities:**

There are no implications for equalities.

18. **Background papers** (not previously published) – None

Appendices

1. Appendix 1: Top 25% of special quality features for inclusion in the climate change vulnerability assessment.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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