

5. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT (SLF)**

1. **Purpose of the report**

To up-date members of key items since the previous Authority meeting

2. **Recommendation**

1. **For members to note the report**

3. **Key Items**

Praise for Castleton and Bakewell Visitor Centres: Our Castleton and Bakewell Visitor Centres have been awarded the Trip Advisor 2020 Traveller’s Choice Award. It was previously known as the ‘Certificate of Excellence’ and our Derwent Visitor Centre won that in 2019. We’ve had a number of really positive reviews across all visitor centres about our friendly and helpful staff, our good social distancing measures and on the merchandise ranges and the eco-friendly and sustainability ethos with regard to product sourcing. It is fantastic when customers take the time to provide positive feedback and seek out staff to congratulate them in person. My thanks to the team who have worked hard to help our visitors feel safe and welcome, keep the doors open and provide excellent customer service whilst maintaining centres and displays to an exceptional standard during unprecedented times – and it shows in the excellent customer feedback and sales figures.

Peak District Birds of Prey interim report: In its 2020 Interim Report, the [Peak District Bird of Prey Initiative \(BOPI\)](#) has announced encouraging breeding successes for several raptor species in the moorland areas of the Peak District, thanks to collaboration between landowners, gamekeepers and raptor workers during COVID-19. It has been a year which saw both peregrine falcon nests and numbers of fledged young double from 2019 numbers within the Initiative study area of the Dark Peak uplands. There remains no room for complacency, as occupied territories remain below target for several key species. However, the increase in nesting success by peregrine, goshawk and merlin is an encouraging sign for the future. Several incidents of bird of prey poisoning, egg and chick theft and shooting across the Peak District National Park this year are currently under police investigation. My thanks to the team who have worked hard to support collective action to tackle illegal persecution of birds of prey and restore populations to sustainable levels. There is, of course, still more to be done in this area to achieve the outcomes we want.

Monsal Trail temporary Closure: Sections of the Monsal Trail will be closed from Monday September 28, for two weeks, on Monday to Friday only. The closure is necessary for safety reasons whilst essential work takes place in the old railway cuttings and at the tunnel entrances. The whole of the Monsal Trail will be open at weekends which is when the route receives its highest numbers of visitors. During the weekday works people can still use the Trail as far as the closed sections. The work is an essential part of our asset maintenance along the trail so we avoid any potential long-term damage that would put trail users at risk or risk a much longer closure of the Trail.

Kick start scheme: The government’s [Kickstart](#) scheme has been set up to fund 6 month job placements for young people (aged 16 - 24) currently on universal credit. It is designed to give young people opportunity to develop skills to find long term employment and provides 100% funding for relevant minimum wage for 25 hours per week plus minimum NI and auto enrolment contributions. These roles must be new jobs and individual employers can only apply directly if they are creating more than 30 jobs. We have agreed to work across the UK National Parks to support a potential collection application that reaches the minimum of 30, our element is likely to offer roles for 4-6

ranger experience and engagement posts from March – September 2021. These would be additional posts funded by the KickStart scheme.

Discover England Fund: We have been awarded £158k from the Discover England Fund to continue work with the English National Park Experience Collection between now and 31 March 2021. [HOME: English National Parks Experience Collection](#). This funding will help us: sustain the relationships we've built with the international travel trade to support business contracting their product; reinvigorate the experiences in the Collection and support a more domestic and sustainable offer; and, seek opportunities for revenue generation to maintain the collection through a domestic-ready booking platform. The Peak District National Park Authority is the accountable body and will be working nationally and locally with individual sustainable tourism officers in the National Park Authorities. My thanks to the National Park Authorities supporting the project and offering cash match support.

Working with AONBs and Natural England on nature recovery: National Parks England is working with Natural England and the National Association of AONBs to develop a strategy for nature recovery in national landscapes. This is at the early stages of development and aims to connect the NPE wildlife delivery plan (see appendix 1) with the NAAONB Colchester declaration, with Natural England's National Nature Reserve network to help form the backbone of the nation's Nature Recovery Network.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: National Parks England Wildlife Delivery Plan

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Sarah Fowler, Chief Executive, 24 September 2020