

STANAGE-NORTH LEES MANAGEMENT PLAN– 2021 to 2025

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Abbreviations and glossary

PDNPA - Peak District National Park Authority
CPRE – Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
BMC – British Mountaineering Council
DSC – Derbyshire Soaring Club
CROW Act – Countryside & Rights of Way Act
HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund
PPCV – Peak Park Conservation Volunteers

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INTRODUCTION

About Stanage-North Lees

Stanage - North Lees is owned and managed by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) for the benefit of all. People come here for many reasons including but not limited to walking, climbing, mountain biking, bird watching and to escape from the urban fringes that surround the Peak District National Park (PDNP). This is reflected in Text Box 1, “The Spirit of Stanage-North Lees”, which captures, in quotes, what the Estate means to some of the contributors to this Plan. It also captures some of the challenges of managing this special place.

Text Box 1: Spirit of Stanage-North Lees

Spirit of Stanage-North Lees

“Proud it’s mine
Stanage and North Lees
Escape to reality”

“A place to be at peace, in nature, in a wide open landscape with the sky and air free from clutter.”

“A place for challenge and adventure and freedom for everyone.”

“A place to explore, discover and learn.”

“A place to care for.”

“Stanage is bigger than any of us. It sits in judgement on any who claim the right to manage it.”

“Yet it must be managed in order to do justice to its inheritance, to its wildlife, and to people.”

“It is a public asset which epitomises the value of National Parks and is treasured by its local communities and further afield.”

“It is an important example of synthesis between conservation, recreation and farming, aspiring to a common vision for the whole.”

“But there are challenges: how to enjoy it and how to look after it, how to find common cause with others whose enjoyment is perhaps a bit different from yours, how to reach out to those who have yet to discover all it has to offer, how different organisations can work together.”

“This is a management plan about how to respect Stanage – how to nurture its sense of place progressively, responsibly, sustainably, affordably, for now and for the future, with minimum intervention.”

“It’s your plan because you, the public, helped to formulate it – and it’s yours to make it work.”

Many describe the Estate as a “microcosm” of the entire Peak District National Park (PDNP). This is because the challenges that are faced in managing the Estate are challenges that can be found all over the PDNP. These challenges include managing parking, maintaining rights of way, enhancing wildlife habitat, managing historical buildings and monitoring wildlife populations to name but a few. The management of Stanage can therefore help guide the management of other areas of the PDNP that face similar pressures.

The Stanage Forum

The PDNPA cannot overcome all of these challenges on its own and needs the input of a variety of Stakeholders to help guide its decision making. As a result the Stanage Forum was established in 2000. The Forum enables the voices of the users of Stanage to be heard and to be considered when making management decisions. Each year the Forum appoints a Steering Group to represent its interests and to work in partnership with the PDNPA in managing the Estate. As an advisory body the Steering Group meets regularly and has been influential in undertaking this review and developing the objectives for the next 5 years.

About This Plan

This Plan is a mid-term review of the existing Stanage-North Lees Management Plan 2015 – 2025. Its purpose is to update the text of The Plan and to identify SMART objectives for each of its 4 themes. These objectives will focus resources towards the practical management of the Estate over the next 5 years. In addition new “Aspirational Aims” have been developed. These Aspirational Aims are there to give a longer term focus to The Plan and have the potential to act as the foundation of the 2025 review. They are also included so that should more resources become available before then they can be directed towards achieving one or more of these Aims.

The Vision for Stanage – North Lees

The Plan is driven by the Vision for Stanage – North Lees which was produced in 2014 in partnership with the Stanage Forum and a wider consultative group.

Stanage-North Lees Vision:

‘To care for, enjoy and promote understanding of Stanage-North Lees in a sustainable way which respects and enhances wildlife, heritage and landscape for everyone, forever’.

This management plan is split into four sections reflecting the four quadrants of the Vision: Landscape, People, Connections and Resources. In reality these are artificial distinctions with all elements of the plan inter-related to the extent that it is difficult to set discrete ambitions, aims and targets. We ask that these inter-relationships are recognised and remembered when reading and using this plan.

This Vision was developed in the context of the National Park’s Statutory Purposes (Section 61, Environment Act 1995) namely:

- a) *‘....conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area....’* and
- b) *‘.....promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.’*

and its duty to:

‘.....seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities....’

and to reflect both the National Park Management Plan Vision and the recently updated Mission Statement for the Peak District National Park:

National Park Management Plan Vision:

‘The Peak District: Where beauty, vitality and discovery meet at the heart of the nation’

Mission Statement for the Peak District National Park

By inspiring millions of people, together we will protect and care for our National Park for the enjoyment of all.’

It is also important to recognise that the plan has been developed at a time of increasing financial challenge for the PDNPA as the core grant from Government is reducing and the Authority is having to reduce its direct expenditure and find new ways to generate income to resource and deliver its core purposes.

Guiding Principles for Management

The plan is dependent on a number of simple and yet robust guiding principles, namely:

- Management plan developed by consensus amongst users/stakeholders where all have an equal voice;
- Management of Stanage-North Lees should aim to minimise impacts on the wilderness, peace and tranquillity of the area;
- The aim should be to achieve the highest standards of landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage management, reflecting the first purpose of National Parks;
- Inclusive access and education for all should be pursued reflecting the Authority’s mission to inspire millions, and its commitment to reach disadvantaged and less well represented groups;
- Management should be on a holistic rather than piecemeal basis, reflecting the fact that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts for both people and the landscape;
- Management should always reflect the context of the landscape of the wider Sheffield Moors;
- The plan should look to the future, having a long – term vision rather than focusing on short- term gain.

These principles were established in partnership with the Stanage Forum at an early stage in the plan’s development.

Reflection on the previous 5 years

The first 5 years of the Stanage-North Lees Management Plan 2015 – 2025 have presented new challenges and opportunities. Visitor numbers have continued to rise with a significant increase during 2020 as people looked to the countryside to provide solace from the restrictions placed upon them in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. This has brought pressure on parking facilities and the rights of way network across the Estate and these continue to be dominant themes in this Plan.

Working in partnership with the Tenant Farmer has seen some significant improvements in Biodiversity around the Estate, these include:

- Establishing heather at the Popular End of Stanage Edge as a result of bracken management and heather brash spreading

- Significantly increasing Sundew numbers on White Path Moss as a result of blocking the grips adjacent to the Gas Pipeline
- Maintaining numbers of Ring ouzels successfully breeding on Stanage Edge
- Continued improvements in the species composition of the Estates flower rich Hay Meadows

Other successes include:

- The Establishment of the Stanage North Lees Heritage Action Group (SNLHAG) and their success in applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to undertake further surveys around the Estate.
- Increasing revenue at the campsite so more money can be reinvested back into the Estate

Other successes are highlighted at the beginning of each Section.

Relationship to other plans

The Stanage - North Lees Management Plan details the ambitions for Stanage-North Lees within the context of the National Park Management Plan 2018 -23, which covers the whole of the Peak District National Park and can be found [here](#).

These ambitions also sit within the framework of the Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan which can be found [here](#).

As one of the landholdings which makes up the Sheffield Moors initiative the plan has also been guided by the Sheffield Moors Masterplan which can be found on the Sheffield Moors Partnership website [here](#).

The Management Plan is also compatible with the Local Development Framework Core Strategy which details the Authority's development management policies for the National Park, it can be viewed [here](#).

Other Plans and initiatives that relate to this Plan include:

[Sheffield Lakeland Partnership](#)

[Sheffield Outdoor City](#)

1. LANDSCAPE AND BIODIVERSITY

Achievements since 2015

There have been some significant works undertaken across the Estate since 2015, here is a small sample of some of the success:

1. The removal of a large patch of invasive rhododendron from the Ridgewayside Woodland.
2. Sheepwash Bank has been planted with the aid of a woodland grant.
3. Grip blocking has been completed on the blanket bog habitat which will re-wet the moor and help return the SSSI status of the back into favourable condition.
4. Over 200 bird boxes continue to be monitored and maintained and regular bird surveys undertaken across the Estate. Most of this work is undertaken by volunteers.
5. The Mill Pond dam wall has been cleared of ivy to help protect it and to make it more visible to the public.
6. There has been a successful transition to a new 10 year Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Management Principle

To achieve cost effective management of the landscape at Stanage-North Lees, maximising benefits for natural and cultural heritage whilst enabling greater understanding, involvement and enjoyment.

1.1. Landscape

The varied scenery and stunning views of Stanage-North Lees are at the heart of what makes it special for so many people. Management is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the landscape and the associated tranquillity, which is widely recognised as having important benefits for people and wildlife. Positive landscape management is also critical for water quality, flood control and carbon capture.

Map 2 Landscape Character Areas

The open moors and Stanage Edge all fall within the area of the National Park which is recognised as the 'Natural Zone' because it includes:

- a quality of 'wilderness';
- relatively natural vegetation;
- few obvious signs of human influence such as field boundaries;
- 'open country' which has particular importance for certain types of recreation associated with adventure and contact with nature;
- high wildlife value;
- natural beauty, which is particularly important to conserve.

Within this area there is a presumption against development as laid out in the Local Development Framework. This is echoed in this management plan. Whilst Stanage doesn't fall within any strict definition of wilderness most people perceive it to have a "wilderness quality" which is worthy of protection and enhancement.

The moorland is almost unique within the Dark Peak for being un-fenced at least on one side of the road. This enables visitors to feel part of the landscape rather than separate from it even within their cars. This is particularly important given the location of the property at the entrance to the National Park for many people from Sheffield.

Stanage Edge is also unique within the Sheffield Moors being largely un-wooded. This creates dramatic views from Hathersage and the Hope Valley. Similarly White Path Moss behind the

Edge is very open creating a wide, open, uncluttered landscape of skies and moorland.

In-by pastures and hay meadows bounded by drystone walls, and woodland make up the remainder of the property and have a landscape value that is different but no less valuable. Taken as a whole together with the Natural Zone, the property is recognised as being of very high landscape value.

In 2020 Phytophthora ramorum was identified within Stanage Plantation and a Statutory Plant Health Notice is expected to be served during the lifetime of this plan requiring all larch trees to be felled within this plantation. Larch makes up approximately 50% of this plantation and its felling (and likely removal) will have a significant ecological impact around the immediate area as well as a much wider visual impact. Although this represents a significant short term problem it does provide the opportunity to plan for long term woodland resilience across the Estate. It is proposed to apply to the Forestry Commission for funding to help create A “Woodland Creation Plan” for the Estate. Such a plan would look at the Estate as a whole and identify appropriate areas for creating suitable woodland that would be resilient to climate change.

Farming is a critical element in the management of the landscape. Since 2013 there has been a resident farmer with a flock of mainly Swaledale sheep and a small herd of cattle including pedigree Red Polls and Belted Galloways.

Management Aims

- 1. Maintain the sense of wilderness of the open moor and edge ensuring the landscape remains free from man-made intrusions, and control over-night parking, wild-camping, litter and fly-tipping.**
- 2. Bring together the best of traditional farming practices and a modern farming to manage the grassland and moorland habitats to benefit the natural and historic landscape.**
- 3. Encourage the woodlands to develop into semi-natural features that sit within and complement the landscape.**

1.2. GEOLOGY

Geology underpins the landscape, the wildlife, the cultural heritage and the huge recreational importance of Stanage-North Lees. The hard resistant nature of the millstone grit creates both the dramatic edge features and the moorland plateau behind whilst the softer shales interbedded with sandstones from the farmland and woodland below. The gritstone has been used over the centuries in many different ways – for querns and millstones in the past and for climbing and bouldering today - whilst the topography which has been influenced by the geology has enabled the development of water-powered industries.

The 4 mile long Stanage Edge is recognised as a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). As described in the 1993 RIGS description it is a ‘fine escarpment of coarse millstone grit’ with the main points of interest being:

1. Sedimentary structures with false and cross bedding
2. A gritstone edge
3. A coarse sandstone petrology

In 2010 the site was assessed as not at risk as part of a Peak District wide assessment of geological sites.

Management Aims

- 1. Increase understanding of and enthusiasm for geology recognising it as the foundation of the landscape**
- 2. Work with partners to foster and encourage the strong climber ethic on safeguarding**

the rock from damage or fixed protection, in particular helping the BMC to promote its “Respect the Rock” campaign.

1.3. WILDLIFE

A wide variety of habitats are found at Stanage from flower rich hay meadows and pastures to National and European designated moorland, including extensive peat bog, dry heath, rough grazing and rock edges. Native broadleaved and coniferous woodlands are also present, with ancient woodland indicators extensive in some areas. Notable breeding birds include the iconic ring ouzel that breeds on the edge and boulder habitats. Other breeding moorland birds include golden plover, curlew, snipe, and whinchat, with historic breeding records of merlin and shorteared owl. The woodlands support long-eared owls, pied flycatchers, spotted flycatchers, redstart and linnet. In addition there are populations of water voles, various bats, grassland fungi and recent records for adder and the golden-ringed dragonfly although the insect life is largely unrecorded.

Stanage-North Lees is particularly important in a Sheffield Moors context for the area of blanket bog on White Path Moss, for the hay meadows on Ridgewayside and as the link between the Eastern Moors to the south and the bulk of the Dark Peak to the north. This is considered particularly important for the less common species, for example the Golden-ringed dragonfly and the Ring Ouzel, and is also likely to become increasingly significant as a corridor in the face of climate change.

Many of the highest quality habitats including the peat bog on White Path Moss and the meadows at Ridgewayside are in, or approaching, good condition (although there is still room for improvement). Elsewhere there are issues particularly with bracken, and in some of the woodlands, a lack of light reaching the ground flora. The grasslands in front of the Hall are in a process of restoration to a flower-rich hay meadow. Existing agri-environment and woodland grant schemes are designed to deliver maintenance and enhancement across the Estate.

Whilst there is extensive knowledge of the habitats and species amongst staff and local people/natural history groups, little of this is collated into a form that enables effective monitoring, or is usable by the public.

There is widespread consensus that ‘if we can teach people about wildlife they will be touched ... (and) we want to save things that we love’. (Steve Irwin, Australian conservationist.) This principle lies behind all elements of our management plan.

Wilder Stanage – At the time of writing the concept of a “Wilder Stanage” is beginning to emerge. This reflects the idea that Stanage is viewed by many as a “wild” place and that nature also thrives in “wilder” environments. The term “Wilder Stanage” has the potential to reflect both of these aspects of the Estate and visitors to it will hopefully come prepared to experience a wilder landscape full of abundant wildlife. This concept may develop further during the lifetime of this plan.

Map 3 Wildlife Habitats and Species

Management Aims

- 1. Collate and update the wildlife records to ensure our management is appropriately targeted and make available in a publically accessible format**
- 2. Conserve and enhance the quality and diversity of the inter-related wildlife habitats and populations of important species in the context of both climate change and the wider landscape of the Sheffield Moors**
- 3. Enthuse and engage people in the wildlife of Stanage-North Lees through guided walks, appropriate interpretation and social media, aiming to extend**

- understanding, broaden interests and develop care for the countryside
- 4. **Involve a wide range of people (including individuals, community and local naturalist groups, schools and universities) in survey, monitoring, conservation and restoration projects.**
- 5. **Engender pride amongst recreational users and the farm tenant in the role that they play in the conservation of important species and habitats**

1.4. CULTURAL HERITAGE

Stanage-North Lees supports a continuity of archaeological sites from Bronze Age through to the industrial period and the modern day, that is almost without parallel in the National Park and merits considerable further investigation, interpretation and celebration. Our present knowledge of the historic environment is informed in the main by a detailed field survey carried out in 1991 and information on the four scheduled monuments and the listed North Lees Hall and out-buildings. All of this needs up-dating and/or is incomplete. In addition there is a wealth of knowledge held by the Property Ranger on features on the ground and as a result of archival research. Many of the historic features on the holding are in relatively good condition although there are issues with bracken infestation, the stability of some of the built features and trees and scrub.

Alongside the historic features Stanage is also significant in the access movement of the early 20th century, and in 19th and 20th century literature and poetry.

Map 4 Cultural Heritage Features

Management Aims

1. **Gain a more thorough understanding of the range and time-depth of historical and archaeological features at Stanage - North Lees through archaeological survey and recording; documentary and other research; excavation and other forms of investigation.**
2. **Manage the cultural heritage resource to ensure its conservation into the future, not least by bringing together the best of traditional farming and modern farm practices to deliver benefits for the historic landscape.**
3. **Enthuse and engage people in enjoying the cultural heritage of Stanage - North Lees through guided walks; social media and appropriate interpretation - including a range of popular publications.**
4. **Involve a wide range of people (e.g. community groups; local and regional societies) in survey, monitoring, conservation, restoration and research projects, providing appropriate training.**
5. **In achieving these aims, ensure active engagement with local and regional universities and other providers of tertiary education, and with schools.**

SMART Objectives 2021-25

Objective	Timescale	Notes	Responsible for Delivery
Help return White Path Moss Blanket Bog area to "Good SSSI Condition" by undertaking sphagnum translocation with the help of volunteers.	By September 2022	Volunteer resource includes BMC, PPCV and PDNP volunteers	Frances Horsford (Estate Ecologist)

Help return White Path Moss Blanket Bog area to “Good Condition” by enhancing existing gully blocks on White Path Moss with the help of volunteers.	By December 2022	Volunteer resource includes BMC, PPCV and PDNP volunteers	Frances Horsford (Estate Ecologist)
Plant 1000 trees below on North Less Estate, with locations guided by the Woodland Management Plan.	By March 2022	Volunteer resource includes BMC, PPCV and PDNP volunteers	Mark Anderson (Estate Ranger)
Apply to the Forestry Commission for a “Woodland Creation Planning Grant” to help increase woodland cover across the Estate which takes into account features of interest from all disciplines.	By March 2024		Mark Anderson (Estate Ranger)
Build upon the work completed in the NIA by undertaking woodland restructuring work in the plantation woodlands to benefit key bird species and archaeology.	By March 2023		Mark Anderson (Estate Ranger)
Undertake research to identify potential solutions to protect roadside verges from vehicles.	By December 2021		Neil Porter with help from Mark Anderson

Undertake 50m of Hedge laying on an annual basis where appropriate across North Lees Farm	Annual Target	Look to train up a volunteer element who can help with this.	Mark Anderson and Tennant Farmer
Investigate the potential of developing a sustainable feeding area for birds at Hollin Bank car park	By September 2021, implement by December 2021 if appropriate		Mark Anderson

Aspirational Objectives

These objectives are aspirational as at the time of writing no resource was available to begin their implementation.

1. Reduce the amount of bracken cover on the North Lees Estate, fulfilling the goals in the bracken management plan.
2. Reduce verge parking across the Estate to zero by 2030.

2. PEOPLE

This section of the plan covers recreation and access, the visitor and farming infrastructure, education, interpretation and volunteering.

Achievements since 2010

1. **Hathersage Forest School have established a fantastic site to facilitate outdoor learning for children.**
2. **Campsite signage has been updated and includes an interpretation panel and the re-naming of camping fields after local birds species.**
3. **A strong network of volunteers has been established to help monitor the Ring ouzel population across Stanage and the wider Sheffield Moors.**
4. **The Cowper Stone path has been stone pitched.**
5. **The path above Hooks Carr has been surfaced.**
6. **A permissive footpath through Ridgewayside Meadows has been approved and is in use.**

Management Principles

To encourage a broad range of user groups and individuals to access and enjoy Stanage-North Lees, to increase their understanding, and to develop a sense of belonging and ownership through care for and involvement in, the National Park.

2.1. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

As well as being well-used by people who live nearby within the Peak District, Stanage is only 6 miles (9.5km) from the centre of Sheffield (the UK's fifth largest city) and is central to one of the busiest National Parks in the world with over 10 million visitors a year. It is estimated that the property receives over 250,000 visitors per year, making it one of the most visited areas of countryside in the UK. Following the COVID 19 pandemic of 20/21 these figures have increased significantly with normal weekend visitor numbers now regularly exceeding those traditionally witnessed only on Bank Holidays.

People come to enjoy a whole range of activities, including:

- Climbing and bouldering
- Hang and para-gliding
- Mountain-biking and road cycling
- Walking and running
- Horse-riding
- Family trips and picnicking
- Enjoying the view, peace and tranquillity, including at the Scenic layby and the laybys above Sheepwash Bank
- Photography
- Bird watching, Wildlife watching, geology and cultural heritage visits
- Camping and staying at North Lees Hall

Stanage is particularly important for climbing and regarded as one of the birthplaces of the sport. It remains internationally famous for both climbing and bouldering, attracting many national and international visitors. It is also important for walkers and runners and as an important area of open access.

The 2002-2012 management plan resolved the majority of conflicts and agreed the principles of the way forward for recreational use.

Relevant clubs including the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), Ride Sheffield, Derbyshire Soaring Club and the Sheffield Bird Study Group, at appropriate times of the year, actively promote codes of good practice and these are generally well-respected by users.

Management Aims

- 1. Welcome a broad range of recreational users enabling them to increase their physical well-being and enjoy the inherent tranquillity of the landscape.**
- 2. Ensure that conflicts between user groups and between the recreational use and the landscape (including its geology, wildlife and cultural heritage) are minimised recognising that whilst conflicts may not be resolved the Stanage Forum provides us with a process for seeking consensus and common values.**
- 3. Ensure that those who have only recently discovered Stanage-North Lees come to understand the importance of its natural and cultural heritage.**
- 4. Encourage and support local communities and disadvantaged groups and individuals to access the recreational opportunities at Stanage.**

2.2. ACCESS TO STANAGE NORTH LEES

The vast majority of visitors access Stanage-North Lees and the surrounding Sheffield Moors by car. This brings with it issues of safety on the roads and parking in addition to the impact on tranquillity. With the exception of Birley Lane and Coggers Lane below Dennis Knoll, livestock have access to the roads throughout the property whilst walkers, cyclists and horse riders regularly share the roads with cars.

A traffic/visitor management plan was developed as one of the outcomes of the previous management plan and involved the designation of Birley Lane and Coggers Lane as 'Quiet Lanes' and the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on the unnamed road below Stanage Edge from the cattle grid east of Burbage Bridge to Dennis Knoll. (See Map 1.)

Sustainable and public transport options have long been an aspiration although the latter is unlikely to be financially viable in the foreseeable future. It is a 2 mile uphill walk from Hathersage to Stanage Edge and a greater distance from the bus termini in Sheffield.

Many road and mountain cyclists do cycle to Stanage from Sheffield, the Hope Valley and further afield. Stanage is on Sustrans route 66 and the Long Causeway and the bridleway through Stanage Plantation facilitate access for all kinds of off-road cycles. In addition a few local people access Stanage-North Lees on horse-back.

The campsite promotes sustainable travel offering a discount to visitors arriving by public transport or on foot/by bike.

2.3. ACCESS AT STANAGE-NORTH LEES

Most of Stanage-North Lees is designated as open access land and many informal paths have developed over the years, the majority of these provide access to the base of the edge and are used by climbers. The bridle paths on the Estate include the Long Causeway and the Golden Car Bridleway that runs through Stanage Plantation and these are well used by Mountain Bikers. Public footpaths run through the Ridgeway Meadows and through the Hood Brook valley meaning visitors to the Estate can explore a variety of habitats all in one visit quite easily.

Maps 6 and 7 show existing and proposed areas of open access, footpaths and bridleways.

Management Aims

- 1. Continue with the on-going programme of improvements to the footpaths to Stanage Edge aimed at reducing erosion, footpath braiding and landscape impact whilst retaining wilderness characteristics.**
- 2. Enable and encourage access by less able visitors throughout the property where sustainable and practical and particularly on Long Causeway.**
- 3. Reduce the scope for conflicts on the Golden Car bridleway through Stanage Plantation through surface works and education.**
- 4. Encourage access by horse-riders and mountain bikes, upgrading access points and formalising a bridleway link from Hollin Bank.**
- 5. Minimise on-site signage but maximise its use to aid in the delivery of our management ambitions.**
- 6. Promote responsible access and recreational opportunities encouraging visitors to explore all parts of Stanage- North Lees, using signage at Hollin bank, the website and leaflets.**

2.4. INFRASTRUCTURE

MUCH OF THIS SECTION WILL BE INFLUENCED BY THE PROPOSALS TO BE PUT TO MEMBERS AT THE END OF APRIL 2021. THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING WILL INFORM AN UPDATE OF THIS SECTION BUT IN THE MEANTIME THE BULK OF THE INFORMATION IS STILL RELEVANT AND CONTAINS IMPORTANT CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUILT ELEMENTS OF THE ESTATE.

Aim

To manage and maintain the infrastructure of Stanage-North Lees (the buildings and

facilities) to help us deliver the Vision for Stanage-North Lees and the National Park

North Lees Hall including the East Wing farmhouse, the traditional farm buildings and to a lesser extent Cattisside Cottage all contribute to the special qualities of Stanage-North Lees and merit conservation in their own right. This falls under the Cultural Heritage section of the plan. In addition they provide opportunities for supporting recreation, farming and site management which is addressed in this section.

2.4.1. North Lees Campsite

The campsite is located in an idyllic setting at the southern end of Tain wood, sheltered (and screened) by trees in all directions, and adjacent to a small stream. It is spread over three small fields and is a short walk both from Stanage Edge and Hathersage.

Management Principle

Operate a campsite as an integral part of Stanage-North Lees delivering benefits for the landscape and people, facilitating valuable connections at a local, regional, national and international scale and making a positive contribution to the income of the property.

North Lees is a high quality but basic campsite which:

- meets demand from recreational users of the Estate and the wider Peak District,
- provides an alternative to wild camping on the Sheffield Moors at a reasonable cost
- provides a National Park camping experience for low income families and special needs groups
- contributes to the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in Derbyshire in addition to providing a base for other youth groups.

The campsite requires respect from its customers for other users and its neighbours; it encourages re-cycling and sustainable transport, and contributes to the local economy. Through the ethos of the campsite and the provision of information the campsite promotes understanding of the values of the National Park.

Feedback informally and on forums and websites is generally very complimentary. The general consensus is that the site has a spirit that reflects both this special landscape and the principle of public service.

The campsite is restricted by space, fire regulations and its water supply and sewage system to approximately 60 small tents/100 campers. It is open every day except Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The un-heated campsite amenity block is functional but dated and includes toilets, showers, hot water, under-cover washing up facilities and a drying room. On sunny spring and summer weekends the campsite is at capacity and during school holidays it is busy. 2020 had a limited season due to COVID 19 but when open between July and the end of September the site was fully booked almost every day. It remains to be seen if this trend will continue for future seasons but 2021 is likely to be similar with ongoing restrictions likely to be in place around foreign travel meaning more people looking to holiday in the UK.

Management Aims

1. Maintain a low impact, basic site that sits within the landscape and is well-respected by its neighbours.
2. Meet the needs of recreational users of the Sheffield Moors including passing custom (single night stays), those preferring to wild-camp (by providing a relatively cheap, value for money experience) and those that are less able.
3. Promote sustainability including recycling, green energy, woodland and grassland conservation (no fires or barbecues), local economy (promoting local products and services), and public transport, cycling and walking as alternatives to the car.
4. Diversify the camping experience with the aim of increasing mid-week and off-season bookings.
5. Upgrade the facilities including a switch to (at least partial) renewable energy source. In addition to the obvious outcomes a renewable energy source could provide a marketing bonus for those visitors seeking a 'green holiday destination' in addition to offering opportunities for promoting renewables more widely.
6. Enhance the opportunities for increasing understanding of Stanage and the wider National Park.
7. Enhance the opportunities for involvement by groups and individuals in the management of the property.
8. Increase opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged groups and individuals to benefit from a National Park experience
9. Work with key partners to implement an effective marketing plan, targeting climbers, cyclists, walkers, D of E and Scout & Guide groups in addition to more general visitors to the National Park.

2.4.2. Hollin Bank Building

The building at Hollin Bank includes both public toilets (including disabled facilities) and a storage room. There is an associated disabled parking bay. The toilets are well-used both by people using Stanage-North Lees and by others passing through (by bicycle and car). The building is functional rather than attractive or in-keeping with this sensitive landscape setting on the fringe of the Natural Zone.

Management Aims:

1. Maintain Hollin Bank toilets as an essential facility for the property and the wider area.
2. Explore external funding opportunities for a multi-purpose replacement building which better reflects the sensitive landscape setting whilst maximising opportunities for both serving and engaging with the public.

2.4.3. Parking

Car Parks

At the time of writing the National Park Authority was undertaking a Park wide review of its Pay and Display car parks which may have an effect on this section of the plan. Parking pressure continues to be an issue across the whole National Park and Stanage is no exception and the information below is still pertinent.

<u>Location</u>	<u>No of parking spaces</u>	<u>Payment options</u>
Hollin Bank / Plantation	150	Pay & Display

Hook's Car / Popular End	58	Donation Boxes
Upper Burbage Bridge Car Park	38	
Dennis Knoll / High Neb (surfaced area only)	14	
Total	260	

Lay-bys

Upper Burbage Bridge Lay-by	15
Cabin Track (Scenic) Lay-bys	30
Lay-bys between Hollin Bank & Dennis Knoll	10
Total	55

Car Park provision serves a dual purpose providing opportunities for people to access Stanage and reducing the negative landscape impacts of strung-out parking at the roadside. In addition the design of the layby and adjacent wall at Hook's Car channel people onto the access land along preferred and sustainable access routes and away from ecologically sensitive areas, in subtle ways and without signage or other detriment to the landscape.

At the majority of times the parking provision is adequate. However at busy weekends there aren't sufficient places and up to 100 (or more) additional cars find places to park at the side of the road leading to both landscape and safety issues. In addition the reluctance to pay at Hollin Bank car park results in verge parking even at quiet times.

Refreshment concessions operate out of Hollin Bank, Burbage Bridge and Surprise View car parks.

Management Aims:

1. **Actively manage car parking to minimise landscape impacts and improve road safety.**
2. **Review the arrangements for car parking at Dennis Knoll.**
3. **Take opportunities (financial and practical) to enhance the road verges at Hook's Car and Dennis Knoll.**
4. **Increase opportunities for less able and disabled people to park.**
5. **Support refreshment concessions to provide for recreational users, promote understanding of the National Park where possible and increase income into Stanage-North Lees.**

Improvements to parking will need to be assessed within the context of the Local Development Plan.

2.4.4. The Farmhouse and Farm Buildings

The East Wing of North Lees Hall is now used as a farmhouse with the historic Cruck barn and adjacent 20th century farm building used to house animals, machinery, feed etc. The

Cruck Barn includes a very basic classroom and toilets which is only very rarely used owing to its location within a working farmyard and distance from the road.

Management Aims

- 1. Support a farm business tasked with the delivery of grassland and moorland management.**
- 2. Manage the historic Cruck Barn and East Wing of North Lees Hall as part of a working farm at least in the medium term.**
- 3. Support the farm tenants in diversification enterprises.**

2.4.5. Bells Box

Bell's Box is owned by 79th Sheffield (St. Timothy's) Scout Group and provides basic bunk bed accommodation for seven people in the main area and a further three bunk beds in a separate area. There is a sink unit with running water, and the building is equipped with a chemical toilet. There is no electricity. It is located just up-hill of the farmyard with access only on foot.

In 2014/15 only two groups used Bell's Box although through upgrading their promotion and carrying out improvements to the building they aim to increase this use by 2016. The site is available for hire by any Scout or Guide group.

Management Aim:

- 1. Support St Timothy's Scouts in facilitating access to Stannage by Scout and Guide groups and involvement by them in the National Park.**

2.4.6. North Lees Hall

For the past few years the Hall has been let as a residential letting and will continue as such at least for the next 18 months. Longer term management of the Hall will be guided by the decisions made by Members at the end of April 2021.

Objective

- 1. Secure a future for North Lees Hall that maximises opportunities for the delivery of National Park purposes.**

2.4.7. Cattisside Cottage

Cattisside Cottage is a two bedroomed cottage with associated work-shop on Birley Lane. The cottage has been empty since November 2018 when the previous Estate Ranger vacated it. Currently the property is in need of major refurbishment. There is a proposal to renovate the cottage and manage it as a holiday let to increase revenue for the Estate. Members are due to make a decision on this proposal at the end of April 2021 and that decision will influence the future of this property.

Objective

- 1. Use Cattisside Cottage to support the vision for Stannage-North Lees.**

2.5. VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are core to the delivery of the Vision for Stannage-North Lees embedded in the management of the property from the development of the management principles through to practical conservation tasks. In addition to the specific groups listed below volunteers connected to the Learning & Discovery Team are involved in the delivery of events and activities.

Management Aim:

For volunteers to be an integral part of the management of Stanage-North Lees in mutually beneficial relationships, and to forge a strong feeling of 'belonging' towards the Stanage North Lees Estate through specific roles.

2.5.1. Stanage Forum

Volunteers advise on the development of the management plan primarily through Stanage Forum (see Introduction and Appendix I). The Forum meets once a year and it is an opportunity for the PDNPA to inform the Forum of the success and challenges of managing the Estate over the previous 12 months and highlighting the opportunities for the future. During this meeting the Forum elects a Steering Group to represent user groups for the next 12 months. The Steering Group meets regularly throughout the year and their commitment to Stanage-North Lees is played out in feedback to the groups they represent, promotion of the property and very often action on the ground. For example Forum members have been critical to the promotion of the Stanage Sticker, in off-site events and in the practical delivery on the ground of conservation/access projects. The Steering Group is very active and has recently seen the appointment of a new Chair and Secretary which illustrates it is a dynamic, relevant and valued group.

Objectives

- 1. To undertake a review of the Stanage Forum Steering Groups Terms of Reference and Membership by the end of 2021.**

2.5.2. Volunteer Rangers

The PDNPA volunteers managed through Brunf's Barn Ranger Centre cover the Stanage area and are involved in regular patrolling at weekends, in the delivery of guided walks and in supporting various events and activities, along with initiatives to enhance the fabric of the property as a whole. For example they have been active in the promotion of the Stanage area and influencing visitor behaviour, and promoting the National Park and Stanage-North Lees at events and in wildlife and interpretation projects.

Objective

- 1. To establish a core of dedicated volunteers with roles including practical estate skills (dry-stone walling, hedge-laying, boundary and access point repairs), hot-spot roles to alleviate problems such as littering, fires and anti-social behaviour through initiatives such as Peak District Proud, and event/walk leaders to target audience work and promotion with reference to the Diverse Audience Plan by December 2022.**

2.5.3. Practical Conservation Volunteers

Practical conservation tasks are regularly delivered by volunteers primarily with support from the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers (PPCV). In addition, although less regularly, volunteers from user groups are involved in access works. For example BMC volunteers have surfaced under the Deliverance Boulder.

Objectives

- 1. Work with PPCV to provide at least twenty days of practical conservation volunteering per year.**

2.5.4. Wildlife Survey and Monitoring

Bird surveys, bird ringing and the ring ouzel conservation project are supported by volunteers. Opportunities exist for extending volunteer involvement in survey and monitoring of other species and habitats. This will contribute essential and valuable information to inform and support conservation management.

Objectives

- 1. Investigate the potential of providing volunteer opportunities to utilise iNaturalist around the Estate by the end of 2021.**
- 2. Continue to support annual bird surveys around the Estate.**
- 3. Continue to support the maintenance of 200 bird boxes around the Estate and the ringing of pied flycatchers, nuthatches and redstarts.**

2.6. **EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Stanage-North Lees is used by school and university groups for formal education, in addition to informally by groups and individuals learning for themselves about the landscape, cultural heritage and wildlife and about how people use and interact with one of the busiest countryside locations in the Peak District.

Management Aim

To develop understanding of the National Park and specifically Stanage-North Lees by maximising the educational and interpretative value of Stanage-North Lees, supporting formal educational visits and developing enhanced opportunities for informal learning and increased understanding.

2.6.1. Guided walks and events

An annual programme of walks and events takes place at the Property concentrating on guided walks, the Heritage Open Day at North Lees Hall, and Open Farm Sunday. In 2015 six half day kids club activities were based at the campsite during the school holidays designed to involve children in activities which encourage engagement in the natural world.

Objective

- 1. Design an innovative annual programme of walks and events designed to enable groups and individuals to learn about and celebrate the landscape by the end of 2021. The groups targeted should match those identified in the Diverse Audience Plan 2021 (DAP).**
- 2. Design a bespoke walk to celebrate the management of the Estate and the interaction between the Stanage Forum and Heritage Group by the end of 2021.**
- 3. Design an annual programme of walks and events based on the outcome of the first 2 objectives by March 2022.**

2.6.2. Interpretation

The majority of interpretation was developed in 1997 as part of the Local Interpretation Plan 1995 and included a number of on-site panels, a leaflet pack (now very out-dated) and an oral history book, 'An Accessible Wilderness' produced in 2003, a few copies of which are still available. In addition the Hunter Society produced a leaflet and audio trail in 2012 on the history of Stanage-North Lees with the title 'North Lees Through Time'. Few hard copies of this are still available but both the leaflet and audio trail are available as a download from the Hunter Society website [here](#). This is widely recognised as an excellent publication albeit with a few errors. An additional panel produced by Moors for the Future has also been produced.

On-site Interpretation Zoning

On-site interpretation is only considered to have a place at Stanage-North Lees in particular and specific locations. A suite of rules have been developed to guide the location and type of interpretation and to inform the approach and way forward for existing on-site interpretation and the development of new projects.

1. No on-site interpretation should be present on the Open Moors or Stanage Edge reflecting the wilderness elements in these landscapes.
2. Interpretation panels are only acceptable and appropriate in areas of high visitor numbers and where the human element in the landscape is already well developed. Four possible sites have been identified:
 - Hollin Bank Car Park
 - Hollin Bank Toilets
 - North Lees Hall
3. At a range of other sites of particular interest small signs are acceptable to enable visitors to find out more about the interest features. These small signs could take the form of just a site name and should be located if at all possible on existing site furniture, for example existing gate posts. A number of possible sites include:
 - Ridgewayside Meadows
 - The Paper Mill
 - The Chapel
 - The Romano-British site

Objectives

1. **Design and install a modern interpretation Panel for Hollin Bank Car Park by the end of 2022. (2022 because by then the forestry works at Stanage Plantation should be completed).**
2. **Design and install a modern interpretation panel for North Lees Hall by May 2022.**

SMART Objectives 2021-25

Objective	Timescale	Notes	Responsible for Delivery
1. To undertake a review of the Stanage Forum Steering Groups Terms of Reference and Membership.	By December 2021		Louise Hawson (Steering Group Secretary)

2. To establish a core of dedicated volunteers with roles including practical estate skills (dry-stone walling, hedge-laying, boundary and access point repairs), hot-spot roles to alleviate problems such as littering, fires and anti-social behaviour through initiatives such as Peak District Proud, and event/walk leaders to target audience work and promotion with reference to the Diverse Audience Plan.	By December 2022	Volunteer resource includes BMC, PPCV and PDNP volunteers	Tom Lewis (Area Ranger North) With assistance from Mark Anderson
3. Work with PPCV to provide at least twenty days of practical conservation volunteering per year.	Each year		Mark Anderson (Estate Ranger) With Assistance from Dave Cramp (PPCV Manager)
4. Investigate the potential of providing volunteer opportunities to utilise iNaturalist around the Estate by the end of 2021.	December 2021		Tom Lewis
5. Continue to support annual bird surveys around the Estate.	Each Year		Frances Horsford (PDNPA Ecologist)
6. Continue to support the maintenance of 200 bird boxes around the Estate and the ringing of pied flycatchers, nuthatches and redstarts.	Each Year		Mark Anderson
7. Design an innovative annual programme of walks and events designed to enable groups and individuals to learn about and celebrate the landscape. The groups targeted should match those identified in the Diverse Audience Plan 2021 (DAP).	December 2021		Tom Lewis
8. Design a bespoke walk to celebrate the management of the Estate and the interaction between the Stanage Forum and Heritage Group by the end of 2021.	December 2021		Tom Lewis
9. Design an annual programme of walks and events based on the outcome of objectives 7 and 8.	March 2022		Tom Lewis

10. Design and install a modern interpretation Panel for Hollin Bank Car Park.	December 2022		Mark Anderson
11. Design and install a modern interpretation panel for North Lees Hall.	May 2022		Stanage North Lees Heritage Group

3. CONNECTIONS

Achievements since 2010

1. The Ring Ouzel project has grown in strength and is now a working collaboration involving the Sheffield Moors Partnership and many volunteers.
2. The Stanage North Lees Heritage Action has been established and is busy raising the profile of the cultural heritage to be found across the Estate.

Management Principle

For Stanage-North Lees to play a significant role in the landscape for people, wildlife and cultural heritage, at a local, Sheffield Moors, and regional scale, as well as nationally and internationally.

3.1. LOCAL COMMUNITY (see Map 6)

Diagram 1 illustrates that we are not attempting to manage North Lees Estate in isolation but are committed to working with our partners to provide a space where both people and wildlife can thrive.

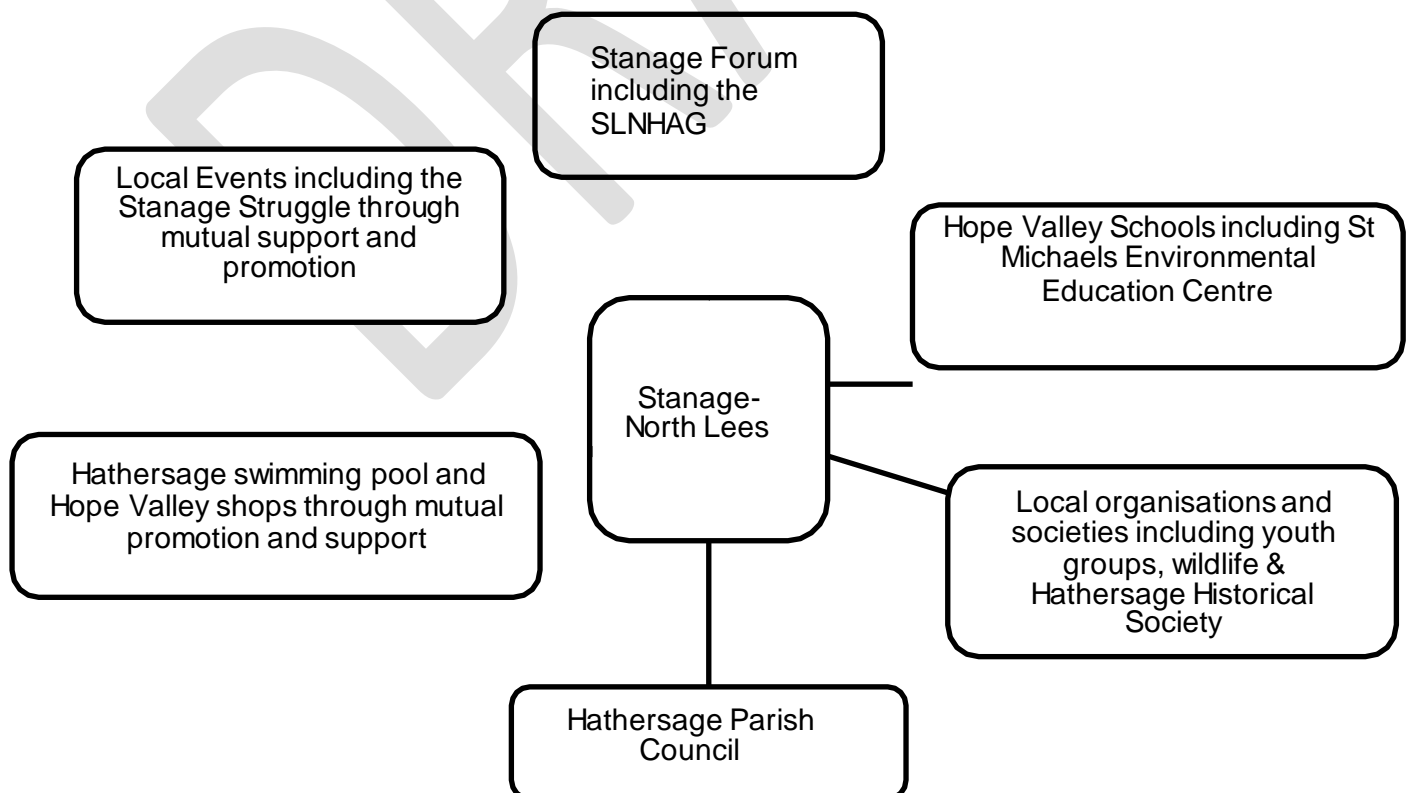


Diagram 1 Our Ambitions for Local Community Links

Management Aims

1. To embed Stanage-North Lees in the local community as a valued and valuable part of the landscape and of peoples' lives across the generations.
2. To encourage a sense of responsible ownership of Stanage-North Lees amongst local people.
3. To maintain existing links with the local community and create new ones including links with youth groups, schools including Hope Valley College and neighbouring groups in Sheffield.
4. To work with our partners across the wider landscape to facilitate biodiversity gains and improve visitor experiences.
5. To promote the message that North Lees Estate includes an upland sheep and beef farm.

3.2. SHEFFIELD MOORS (see Map 7)

The Sheffield Moors Partnership (SMP) includes approximately 56 square kilometres of upland landscape in public sector or charitable ownership on the western edge of Sheffield. The area contains habitats of both national and international importance, providing some of the most popular destinations for outdoor recreation in the Peak District National Park as well as historic environment features also of national and international importance. The partnership developed in spring 2010 out of recognition from the various land owners and managers in the area of the benefit of increased collaborative working. The partners are:

- National Trust
- Eastern Moors Partnership including the National Trust (NT) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Sheffield City Council (SCC)
- Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust (SRWT)
- Peak District National Park Authority

Natural England is also a partner as most of the SMP area has national and international designations because of its important habitats and wildlife.

The vision for the Sheffield Moors is set out in the Masterplan – see <http://www.sheffieldmoors.co.uk> - and concentrates on the principles of connection, collaboration and involvement across the various land-holdings. The benefits from collaborative working include:

- Linked rights of way across boundaries
- Targeting land management to maximise benefits and reduce impacts of infrastructure (eg fencing)
- Deer management
- Predator control
- Shared resource – financial and volunteer resource

Management Aims

1. Together with the other organisations involved in the Sheffield Moors Partnership to deliver the vision of the Sheffield Moors as the UK's leading model on how the uplands should be managed into the future for people, landscape, wildlife and the historic environment.
2. Explore joint working and the sharing of resources across the Sheffield Moors where it offers mutually beneficial and cost effective solutions.
3. Support and enable joint working between the Partnership and stakeholder groups
4. Encourage adjacent landowners and land-managers (outside of the core Sheffield Moors Partnership) to sign up to the vision for the moors.

Objectives

1. To host an annual Sheffield Moors Operational Group (SMOG) meeting or work day on Stanage to help foster links between operational staff across the Sheffield Moors Partnership Area.
2. To support the Estates Tenant Farmer to host an Open Farm event each year.

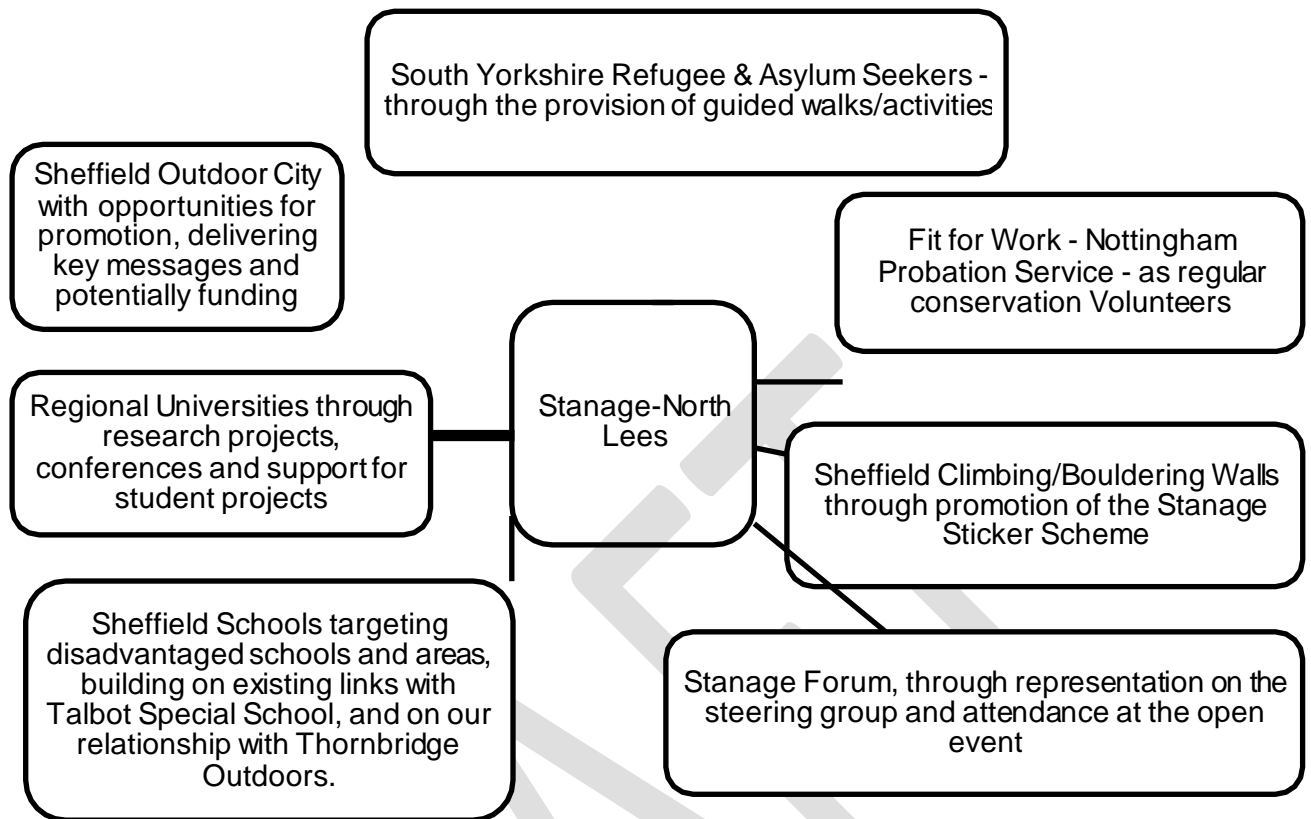
3.3. SHEFFIELD AND THE WIDER REGION (see Map 8)

Stanage-North Lees is just 6 miles (9.5km) from the centre of Sheffield (the UK's fifth largest city) and is central to one of the busiest National Park in the world. The statistics relating to visitor home locations vary dependant on season and the survey location. However student-led surveys in Summer 2015 indicate that 60% of visitors are from Sheffield and in winter this is considerably higher. Many of these people visit regularly and like the residents of the local villages treat it as the backdrop to their lives rather than as a visitor destination. Making this distinction is important in our understanding of the use of Stanage-North Lees for recreation. It is the reason why a sunny weekend in winter can be as busy as a summer's day, why the Edge is used for climbing in the evenings and why many visitors will come for just an hour or two. It is also one of the contributory factors in people's reluctance to pay for parking. Stanage is also a day-visit destination for people from other towns and cities within and close-to the National Park including Bakewell, Chesterfield and Nottingham. The 2015 Authority visitor survey which concentrated on visitors to the area close to the hall found that 31% of visitors came from South Yorkshire with a further 29% from the East Midlands, including the Derbyshire Dales area, Chesterfield, Derby and surrounding areas.

The visitor survey also shows that the majority of visitors are from relatively affluent backgrounds whilst the non-visitor survey carried out in Sheffield by the National Park Authority in 2014 shows that the barriers to people accessing the National Park relate to ease of accessibility, lack of knowledge and the location of Stanage so close to Sheffield and to other towns and cities means that we are well placed to deliver the National Park Authority's ambitions to inspire millions and to reach out to everyone.

The COVID 19 pandemic of 2020 and 2021 significantly increased visitors to the countryside nationwide and North Lees was no exception. Although there is no hard data to hand at the time of writing car parking data across the wider Sheffield Moors Area indicates that regular weekends were attracting visitor numbers above and beyond what would only normally be anticipated on a sunny Bank Holiday. The majority of these visitors would have been local given the restrictions on travel during the pandemic period. Anecdotal evidence also suggests an increasing number of visitors from The Greater Manchester area.

Diagram 2 Our Ambitions for Regional Links



Management Aims

1. Encourage a sense of responsible ownership of Stanage-North Lees in Sheffield and across the wider region.
2. Establish links with disadvantaged and under-represented groups and individuals from Sheffield and other neighbouring areas to encourage and enable them to access and become involved in Stanage-North Lees.
3. Establish links with one or more local universities for mutual benefit
4. Enhance and extend the links we have with local and regional natural history, cultural heritage and other specialist interest groups for mutual benefit
5. Together with partners in the Sheffield Moors enhance the flow of people from Sheffield across the landscape looking particularly at issues of sustainable transport and linking rights of way.
6. To work with the Peak District National Park Authority Engagement and Area Rangers to fulfil the ambitions of the Diverse Audience Plan (DAP).

3.4. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

The 2015 Authority visitor survey indicates that 29% of visitors come from outside the immediate region with a further 7% from abroad. Stanage has a national and international profile as an iconic location within a National Park and owing to its reputation for climbing.

Management Aims

1. Act as an ambassador for the National Park with respect to national and international climbing, walking, fell running and mountain biking clubs, promoting the National Park as a destination for sustainable recreation.
2. Work with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at a national level to promote the National Park and the campsite as an affordable part of a D of E expedition.

Objective

1. To trial a QR sign at the Chapel to obtain data on potentially using more of this kind of signage across the Estate. Trail Sign to be installed by March 2022.

SMART Objectives 2021 - 2025

Objective	Timescale	Notes	Responsible for Delivery
To host an annual Sheffield Moors Operational Group (SMOG) meeting or work day on Stanage to help foster links between operational staff across the Sheffield Moors Partnership Area.	Annully		Mark Anderson (Estate ranger)
To support the Estates Tenant Farmer to host an Open Farm event each year.	Annually		Nick and Will Deniff with support from Mark Anerson
To trial a QR sign at the Chapel to obtain data on potentially using more of this kind of signage across the Estate.	Installed by March 2022	Develop a pdf webpage which the QR code can link to.	SNHAG (Person to be decided) with Help from Mark Anderson

4. RESOURCES

Achievements since 2010

1. A new Countryside Stewardship Scheme has been signed which concludes in 2027.
2. Stanage North Lees Heritage Action Group (SNLHAG) successfully acquired £10k funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
3. The Campsite revenue and popularity continues to grow.
4. The 2019/20 financial year saw the first ever year where the Estate had a budget surplus (£12k).
5. Sheepwash Bank was planted as part of a Woodland Grant Scheme.

Management Principle

Manage Stanage-North Lees so that it is cost neutral to the Peak District National Park Authority including the support costs. This includes applying to external funding bodies to

help realise the objectives and aims of this Management Plan.

This section of the plan outlines the opportunities for income generation at Stanage-North Lees and the actions that will be implemented to maximise these. Income generation is set against the backdrop of the landscape of Stanage-North Lees and the multiple users of the property.

Rory Stewart (MP and Environment Minister) said in June 2015 when commenting on the report 'So Much More Than The View':

"Our British landscapes are among the most beautiful and precious in the world. And such land remains central to the British imagination, to our souls and to our identity.

"We would miss such landscapes profoundly if they were gone. We have a deep obligation to protect this land, its farms and its communities.....

However, while we celebrate the fact that they have also the potential to bring prosperity, we must never reduce such places simply to their economic value – they are so much more than that."

(Reference)

Julian Glover in his Landscapes Review 2020 noted:

Our landscapes, and their natural beauty, matter in themselves.

They shape who we are, how we feel about each other and they make us happy. They are about people as well as place.

[Landscapes Review 2020 p65](#)

Many of the income generating opportunities are linked to management on the ground. Funding our core costs is likely to remain a challenge.

Volunteering is also a significant resource but is addressed in the People section.

The property also makes a significant contribution to the local economy directly with regard to outdoor shops, cafes and pubs in Hathersage and other local villages, and indirectly in its contribution to the landscape of the National Park and the part this plays in the economy of the wider region particularly Sheffield. This has been recognised by Sheffield City Council who have branded Sheffield as the 'Outdoor City'.

4.1. Agri-environment and Woodland Grant Schemes

Agri-Environment - The Higher Level Stewardship Scheme has been replaced with a Countryside Stewardship Scheme and runs through to 2027 and the Tenant Farmer has taken on the responsibility of implementing it. The Scheme makes a significant contribution towards maintaining the viability of the farm. The UK left the EU on the 1st January 2020 and with it the Common Agricultural Policy. Trials are currently taking place to establish a new kind of Agro Environment Scheme which proposes to provide "public money for public goods". Details are yet to be released but it is anticipated that North Lees Farm will transition to this new scheme in 2027.

Woodland Grant Scheme – This scheme has provided funds to establish wooded areas across the Estate, most recently on Sheepwash Bank. As noted in Section 1 Stanage Plantation is infected with phytophthora ramorum and all Larch is planned to be felled and removed from this plantation in late 2021. It is proposed that over the next few years a comprehensive Woodland Creation Plan is developed with the aid of a Woodland Creation Planning Grant from the Forestry Commission.

Management Principle

1. Continue to enhance biodiversity across the Estate by maximising the opportunities available through Agri-Environment and Woodland Grant Schemes.

4.2. The campsite, rents, car park charges and commercial opportunities

We aim to ensure that the campsite makes a positive contribution to the income of the property, alongside its core objectives of delivering National Park purposes, through a programme of improvements and an enhanced marketing strategy.

Annual rents are currently received from the Hall and farm tenants (for the farmhouse and the farmland separately), and St Timothy's Scouts (the ground rent for Bell's Box).

The future of all built assets on the Estate is currently pending a decision by Members at the end of April 2021.

Car Park Charging across the NPS's car park portfolio has just been reviewed and Members are due to make a decision on the recommendation of that report at the end of April 2021.

Commercial activities include filming, refreshment concessions and businesses leading outdoor activities. The 2002 Management Plan identifies the limits to commercial use of the property suggesting it is allowed so long as it does not:

- Detract from the landscape/sense of wilderness
- Disturb or damage wildlife or ecology, landscape or cultural heritage
- Cause disturbance to local residents and farmers
- Cause conflict with other users of the Estate
- Increase recreational pressure on the area

This list is still considered relevant.

Refreshment concessions are regularly let for Burbage Bridge and Surprise View car parks (in recent years ice cream vans) and Hollin Bank car park (vacant in 2014, a Pizza oven in 2015).

Management Aims

- 1. Manage the campsite, rented properties and commercial activities to maximise benefits for the property, both financial and in relation to National Park purposes.**
- 2. Upgrade the 'branding' at the car parks and the delivery of key messages around the positive use of car park income for people and the landscape**
- 3. Implement changes to the car park payment periods, payment options and rates in line with National Park-wide proposals.**

4.3. Donations and Sponsorship

The Peak District National Park Foundation was established in 2019 to raise funds to care for The Peak District National Park and make it more inclusive. Stanage North Lees is a priority for the Foundation in its fundraising efforts and work on the Estate funded by the Foundation can be used to promote the Foundations work and profile. It is early days but it is hoped that during the lifetime of this Management Plan the Foundation will become an increasingly important vehicle for raising funds to undertake important biodiversity and recreational work across the Estate.

Management Principles

1. Encourage donations to the Estate by as many means as possible.
2. Encourage corporate sponsorship and individual donations connected to particular appeals.

4.4. External Funding

External funding is likely to be critical to the successful realisation of the objectives outlined in this plan. However, there is a danger that management of the Estate could be driven by requirements of funders rather than the objectives within this plan. The goal therefore is to target specific external funding opportunities that are funding work already identified within this Management Plan. The Plan will act as evidence to funders that a need has already been identified which meets their funding criteria and thus add weight to any application.

Management Principle

1. Attract external funding to support our ambitions for high standards of environmental site management, involvement by local people and visitors and outreach to disadvantaged groups and individuals.

Objective

1. Identify a sustainable use for the Cruck Barn by the end of 2023.
2. Develop a Phase 2 of the SNLHAG HLF funded project by ?????

Objective	Timescale	Notes	Responsible for Delivery
Identify a sustainable use for the Cruck Barn	December 2023		??
Develop a Phase 2 of the SNLHAG HLF funded project	???		Stanage North Lees Heritage Group