

5. **PEAK DISTRICT NATURE RECOVERY PLAN**

1. **Purpose of the report**

To seek approval for the Peak District Nature Recovery Plan 2024. This document sets out the nature recovery aims for the place.

Key Issues

- Fulfilling the target under Objective 4 of the National Park Management Plan.
- Inform and influence the six county Local Nature Recovery Strategies delivered by Responsible Authorities.

2. **Recommendations**

1. To adopt the [Peak District Nature Recovery Plan](#).
2. **Approval for any material updates or changes delegated to the Head of Landscape & Engagement, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. **National Park Management Plan** Aim two: Landscape and nature recovery (The Peak District National Park is a resilient landscape in which nature, beauty, and cultural heritage are significantly enhanced). Objective 4: To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity flourishes. Target: Implement the one Peak District Nature Recovery plan.
4. **Biodiversity duty** Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended), Section 40 A public authority must ‘determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate to further the general biodiversity objective’.
5. **Local Plan** The Peak District Nature Recovery Plan can guide and inform the Local Plan review, and ensure consistency between planning policy and the National Park Management Plan. The Peak District Nature Recovery Plan can also fulfil the National Planning Policy Framework 185 ecological mapping requirement: ‘Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation’.

Background Information

6. From 2000 until 2020, the Peak District has had a Biodiversity Action Plan. Following the publication of the 25 Year Environment Plan in 2018, and the end of the Biodiversity Action Plan in 2020, in 2021 the decision was taken to write a nature recovery plan for the Peak District.
7. In October 2021 an inaugural Steering Group meeting was held with partners, and a Local Authorities supporting group was set up to try and ensure synergy with the county Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Since this date there have been 11 Steering Group meetings and four Local Authorities meetings.
8. A number of iterations of the structure have been tested, including a habitat-based approach and a National Character Area approach, supported by some initial trial

opportunity mapping.

9. Following a series of farmer workshops, and taking learnings from the Peak District Environmental Land Management Test 2019-2021, the decision was taken by the Steering Group to support a themed approach based on the challenges and barriers to delivering nature recovery. The aims and content were then written with input from internal colleagues and external partners and experts.
10. The structure of the Plan is as follows:
 - Theme
 - Aims
 - Peak district context
 - For nature
 - Other benefits/ ecosystem services
 - In practice
 - Case studies
11. Following consultation with wider stakeholders in June/ July 2023, a final draft of the Nature Recovery Plan was produced and sent to the Steering Group for final comment in January 2024.
12. The final draft Nature Recovery Plan was presented to the Members Forum on 15 March 2024.
13. Whilst the plan doesn't currently include a mapping element, there is the intention to produce 'guidance maps' for each Landscape Character Type, incorporating the Landscape Strategy (and Wooded Landscapes Plan), National Park Management Plan, Nature Recovery Plan and Local Plan. The Plan will also include interactive maps that will show progress against some of the aims, for example new woodland creation.
14. The plan will also be supported by a SMART objective delivery plan, that will outline the action needed to overcome some of the identified challenges and barriers to achieving the aims. The action set out will be ambitious, and will include an analysis of required resource where appropriate, with clear consideration of potential future impacts. A reporting template integrated into the National Park Management Plan reporting process is also being explored, in an effort to minimise the reporting burden for ourselves and partners.

Proposals

15. The proposal is that the Authority adopts the Peak District Nature Recovery Plan as per the link provided.
16. The plan sets out a clear message that we must be ambitious in our aims to recover nature in the Peak District, whilst also being pragmatic and realistic and maintaining a forward look.
17. The proposal therefore also incorporates an (at least) annual review to ensure the Plan (and accompanying documents and maps) are fit for purpose.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

18. Whilst this is a strategic document aimed at achieving nature recovery in the National Park, there is a desire from partners both locally and within the Protected Landscapes family to continue with a strategic nature recovery group to ensure a joined up approach. This will require resource from the National Park Authority to provide Secretariat and coordination, which is currently being provided by the Nature Recovery Officer.

Risk Management:

19. There is a risk that partners do not take account of the Nature Recovery Plan. This risk has been mitigated by past and ongoing work to build relationships with partners, and partners have put considerable input into the Plan which should help to achieve buy-in.
20. There is a risk that the six Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) that will cover the Peak District do not align with the Nature Recovery Plan. This risk is being mitigated by continued attendance and input at LNRS meetings, an initial letter sent by CEO Phil Mulligan before LNRSs began. Consideration is being given to a standardised approach to incorporating the National Park into the priorities and opportunity mapping processes.

Sustainability:

21. Sustainability issues such as carbon and climate change, water quality and soil management have been considered throughout the document, particularly in the other benefits/ ecosystem services section of each aim.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

22. The document is online only and designed to comply with all accessibility legislation. This provides the most accessible and updatable way of hosting the Plan. There will also be a hard copy summary document available.

23. Climate Change

1. How does this decision contribute to the Authority's role in climate change set out in the UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks?
 - a) Educators in climate change
 - b) Exemplars of sustainability
 - c) Protecting the National Park
 - d) Leading the way in sustainable land management
 - e) Exemplars in renewable energy
 - f) Working with communities

The Plan sets out a clear strategic direction for nature recovery, highlighting where this can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The delivery plan builds on the pioneering work of, for example, the Moors for the Future Partnership, whilst also bringing a new perspective from the background work and structure of the Plan. The

aims set out best practice, and the delivery plan will set out how exemplars can be promoted or used by the Authority and partners, including farmers, land managers and owners, as well as leading the way in research.

Close working with the Strategy and Performance team, and Planning Policy team has enabled the Plan to align with other work around development and education.

2. How does this decision contribute to the Authority meeting its carbon net zero target?

This is a plan for the place, with many actions being undertaken or proposed that achieve the aims of the Nature Recovery Plan whilst contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation across the National Park.

3. How does this decision contribute to the National Park meeting carbon net zero by 2050?

The Plan highlights challenges and barriers to achieving nature recovery, and the contribution this plays in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The delivery plan will highlight time-sensitive action that can contribute to the National Park being net zero by 2050.

4. Are there any other Climate Change related issues that are relevant to this decision that should be brought to the attention of Members?

None

24. Background papers (not previously published)

None

25. Appendices

Appendix 1 - [Peak District Nature Recovery Plan](#)

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Sarah Bird, Nature Recovery Officer, 03 April 2024