

Appendix 3: Cultural Heritage Projects Summary

An Archaeological Research Framework for the Peak District – ‘living with landscape change’

This Historic England-funded project started in July 2026, and will last for two years. It will create an Archaeological Framework for the Peak District. The project recognises our special landscape qualities, and the drivers of potential landscape change that will affect the historic environment now and in the future. The research framework will be useful for researchers, land managers and advisers and local communities alike. It will summarise what we know about the historic environment, and identify new research questions to help us prioritise our effort and resources in the future.

The finished Research Framework will be hosted on the publicly-accessible website, hosted by Historic England.

Aims

- to produce an archaeological research framework that will support the PDNPA, heritage organisations and communities to better understand, engage with and protect the historic environment of the National Park across development management, environmental land management, nature recovery and other climate action, volunteering and community research
- to develop an innovative ‘living with landscape change’ approach that recognizes the unique current and future challenges of Peak District landscapes
- to foster and grow supportive, diverse, inclusive and collaborative networks of people and organisations to better research, champion and celebrate our heritage
- to grow historic environment research interest in the Peak District and establish it as a primary destination for high quality historic environment research
- to help our local communities engage with, and contribute to, the research framework
- to make the framework relevant to those outside the heritage sector (e.g. Wildlife Trusts)

Delivery

The framework is broken down into **18 time periods or themes**. Through the autumn and winter 2025/26 we have been interrogating our historic environment datasets and synthesizing the data to produce information packs for our external specialist authors who are creating drafts texts for each period and theme. We are starting to receive drafts text now. This work will continue through 2026/27.

We will be trialing a new spatial element to our framework so that we can identify **research questions and opportunities by landscape character type** – we hope this will be particularly useful for those working in other sectors (e.g. natural environment, nature recovery etc). This will promote the important contribution that the historic environment can make to nature recovery and climate change adaptation.

Natalie Ward gave a presentation at Derbyshire Archaeology Day (audience c.460) to promote the project and gain community group interest and involvement. We have started a list of local heritage groups, **35 local groups so far**, most of which we have never engaged with before. We hope to forge a strong network with these groups to support future research and activities.



Presenting the project at Derbyshire Archaeology Day

Introduction to Research Frameworks How to use the Research Framework site Guides for RF Managers Register/Sign in

The Research Frameworks Network

Here you can access directly the different research frameworks or cross search across the frameworks for research questions and strategies associated with different places, periods or themes. NB Page under construction!

EXPLORE FRAMEWORKS EXPLORE BY MAP

All Regions

People of the Peak: Past, Present and Future



Field walking at Minninglow by volunteers, before the spreading of green hay for meadow restoration

CATHERINE PARKER HEATH describes a new chapter for cultural heritage volunteering in the Peak District National Park

The past year has marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter for cultural heritage volunteering in the Peak District National Park. In March 2025, we were delighted to learn that we had secured initial funding of £204,376 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the development phase of our project *People of the Peak: Past, Present, Future*, jointly with the Peak District National Park Foundation. This project has our volunteers, along with our historic sites, at its heart – even the project name was chosen by one of our dedicated volunteers.

The project aims to enhance the monitoring and conservation of historic monuments and buildings, grow our volunteer community, and create more inclusive opportunities for people to get involved – whether through regular volunteering, one-off activities, or other forms of engagement.

In the initial phase, a small team has been recruited to lead the project and test a range of different approaches to increase volunteer and community involvement in protecting the Peak District’s unique cultural heritage. Based on what they learn, they will also progress plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant of around £775,000 at a later date.

Roisin Joyce, director of the Peak District National Park Foundation said: “We’re thrilled to be awarded this funding, made possible by National Lottery players, to



Volunteers carrying out repairs to the bank leading from Arbor Low, funded by a Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) grant

allow development of the first stage of the *People of the Peak* project.

“The task of caring for heritage sites across a landscape of this scale is vast and existing monitoring and conservation is not enough. This project will create an inclusive volunteering programme so more people can get directly involved in monitoring and conserving our national heritage.

Anna Badcock, the National Park Authority’s cultural heritage team manager, said: “The Authority has faced significant funding cuts over the last 10 years, across all services. A well-trained volunteer cohort is vital to help the Authority monitor and care for the heritage of the National Park, through its own work and in partnership with others.

“If we don’t have a clear picture of the state of heritage in the National Park, risks go unidentified and opportunities for early intervention are missed.



“The natural and cultural aspects of all our landscapes are tightly interlinked. This project will also help us develop our approach to landscape conservation, which may need to adapt in the face of a changing climate.”

This work is much needed. The National Park covers 555 square miles and is home to 473 Scheduled Monuments, 2,848 Listed Buildings, and numerous other heritage features. Monitoring and protecting this vast cultural landscape is a significant challenge, and volunteers play a crucial role in helping us meet it.

The development phase, which began in July 2025 and runs until November 2026, is focused on consultation, collaboration, and testing new ideas. Our goal is to ensure that the delivery phase of the project is meaningful, inclusive, and sustainable. Key activities include:

- Working with landowners to better understand and protect heritage features on their land. We’re also developing a £200,000 Community Heritage Grant Fund to support conservation efforts.

- Gathering insights from residents and visitors about their awareness of cultural heritage – what they know, what they’d like to learn, and how they’d prefer to engage.
- Consulting with volunteers, both current and potential, to understand their experiences, their expectations, and identify opportunities for training and support.
- Piloting new approaches to conservation and condition monitoring, including enhanced training and using digital tools.
- Exploring collaboration across teams and with external partners, with a focus on engaging young people (aged 18–30) and individuals from ethnically diverse communities.

- Investigating the relationship between cultural heritage and biodiversity, particularly how protecting cultural heritage can support natural habitats in the face of a changing climate.

All of this work is helping us shape a delivery phase that will be inclusive, sustainable, and impactful. We want to ensure that our heritage is protected for future generations, that volunteers now feel valued and supported, and that communities across the region have meaningful opportunities to engage with the history of the Peak District.

We hope that the *People of the Peak* will be a collective effort to celebrate and safeguard the monuments, structures, landscapes and their stories – all that defines this unique place.

As we move forward, we look forward to welcoming new voices, building new partnerships, and continuing to explore the deep connections between the people of the past, present and future.

The Heritage Open Day in 2025 at the newly-restored limekiln at Butterton. Picture: Richard Knisely-Marpole

Left: Alport Moor pye kiln under reconstruction. Picture: Richard Knisely-Marpole



Formerly unrestricted car parking in the Winnats Pass, Castleton

Unlocking the Peak's past

ANNA BADCOCK and FIONA STUBBS reveal the discovery of an extraordinary pictorial archive

Working on basement shelves and cramped attic spaces of the National Park head office, a unique and extraordinary archive has been quietly waiting to be rediscovered. After Covid interrupted our plans, finally the Peak District National Park Foundation, the Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) and the Peak District National Park Authority have been able to secure a grant of £45,000 from the Archives Revealed fund. Thanks to this funding, our historic archive – made up of over 44,000 images – is to be catalogued and made available to the public.

This unique collection documents the people, places and landscapes of the Peak District, revealing a fascinating history throughout the 20th century to the present day. It is particularly timely as 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the Peak District's designation as the UK's first national park.

The images offer insights into all aspects of life in the National Park. As well as classic views and stunning scenery, the collection documents special events and the cultural



Right: An archive picture of rope making

heritage, rural customs, craft skills and traditions of local communities. It also sheds light on everyday life, showing that many of the issues that challenge our landscapes today, such as litter, car parking and people pressure, have been ongoing for many decades.

This incredibly rich and varied collection will help us



The former mobile information centre, which attended many local events such as well dressings



to explore and share the stories of our cultural landscapes. Importantly, the collection also documents changes to people and nature in our national park, and has huge potential to help us better understand and communicate landscape change, a vital research area in the face of climate change.

The collection will allow us to engage with residents, visitors, volunteers, academics, children and young people in new ways, both within and well beyond the boundaries of the National Park. The project will create volunteer opportunities, develop a learning resource for schools and a display for National Park visitor centres in the summer of 2026.

'Archives Revealed' is a funding partnership of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust, the Wolfson Foundation and The National Archives. When the image archive has been catalogued, a curated online collection of around 3,000 images will be available to the



Far right: Petalling underway at a Bakewell well dressing in 1963; right: The former Prisoner of War camp at Biggin; below: Inside the former Stilton cheese making factory at Hartington



public on the DRO's online image library, Picture the Past. The whole of the collection will be available for research, secured in archival conditions at the Derbyshire Record Office for long-term curation.