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## MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 27 March 2026 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: K Smith

Present: Prof J Dugdale, N Adams, M Beer, R Bennett, M Buckler, M Chaplin, H Corran, C Farrell, C Greaves, B Hanley, L Hartshorne, A Martin, A Nash, C O'Leary, K Potter, V Priestley, K Richardson, K Rustidge, Dr R Swetnam and S Thompson

Apologies for absence: P Brady, I Huddleston, C Kelly, M Smith, J Wharmby and Y Witter.

### **17/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2026**

The following amendment was made to Minute 6/26 which was corrected to read Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 27 February 2026, with the above amendment, were approved as a correct record.

### **18/26 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

### **19/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present to make representations to the Committee.

### **20/26 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

### **21/26 CHAIR'S BRIEFING - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Chair provided the following verbal update to Members.

- Attended 4 x Local Plan Steering Group meetings
- Attended 4 x weekly meetings with CEO and Deputy Chair
- Attended the March Planning Committee and the associated Site Visits
- Attended the meeting of the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee

- On 9 March attended, along with the CEO, the introductory meeting with Debbie Stockwell (who is the new CEO of National Parks England).
- On 11 March, along with the CEO, attended the National Parks England Board Meeting in Kendal.

## 22/26 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT - VERBAL UPDATE

The Chief Executive delivered a presentation to Members which included the following:

- Campaign for National Parks are producing a governance health report, looking at structure issues and at board size and composition which are slimmer, better and more representative
- DEFRA have completed their own review where the focus has been on soft governance
- National Parks are seen to be key to critical to governments objectives
- NPUK Communication unit has a new leader
- Each NP shall receive a budget for a photo library
- There is some money available from a sponsorship and the focus of this funding shall be a YouTube channel for national parks
- The government are looking at a national campaign fundraising campaign the focus will be "Love Landscapes" and will include a week of fundraising
- The communications unit has done work on the brand proposition over the last year "Where nature inspires action"
- Meeting Planning targets have been reviewed by the Planning Magazine and are now in Silver category (which is the top 65 English Local Authorities) and the PDNPA is the only protected landscape in this category
- National Land Use Framework have produced a set of principles to inform how decisions are made and a set of actions to support land use change.
- The CEO attended the Derbyshire Tourism Awards
- Also attended the Environmental Quality Mark Awards
- Attended the Chatsworth House Summer exhibition
- National Highways strategic funding partnership with Moors for the Future
- National Lottery Heritage Fund lasting legacy event
- CEO Roadshow – Peak Forest
- Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust CEO meeting
- Meeting at Haddon Hall Lord and Lady Edward
- Stoney Middleton Parish Council housing meeting
- Welcome to Rob Roddy the new Head of Assets and Enterprise
- Outlined the launch of the 75<sup>th</sup> Report scheduled for around the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at Aldern House
- Partnership with the Buxton International Festival, there was coverage of the PDNPA in the Festival Brochure, there will be talks and the Archive Unlocked Exhibition will be on display in the Pump Room for the festival
- Visitor Tube Map in the centre of the welcome guide was shown to Members, there will be an on-line version which provides links and more data and information, produced for free
- East Midlands Railway installed and funded the promotion of the signs at Chesterfield railway station.

### Comments and questions from Members:

- Members complimented the Planning Service on their achievement
- Derbyshire Life forward and the activity around the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is also getting the message out
- Countryfile are filming in the Peak Park and this shall be broadcast on Sunday 19 April 2026 and the Peak District National Park shall also be featured in the May Countryfile magazine
- Land use framework is interesting, there is an expectation in there on land use change within the peak district
- Congratulations to the Landscape Observatory for being mentioned by the government for their work in being part of the digitising project.

## CEO updates



- National Parks England (NPE) highlights:
  - Increasing profile
  - From 'special' to 'critical' – providing solutions and national security
  - More focused approach to nature
  - Seen as key to delivery
  - Better than expected grant settlement
- Campaign for National Parks (CNP):
  - Governance health report
    - Structural issues
    - Slimmer, better, more representative
- Defra governance review:
  - Soft governance
    - Values, culture, behaviour

## CEO updates



- National Land Use Framework:
  - a set of principles to inform how decisions are made
  - a set of actions to support land use change
  - Digitising data and building on the Landscape Observatory
- Principles
  1. Multifunctionality
  2. Right use, right place
  3. Future-ready decisions
  4. Adaptive by design

A framework for smarter and more informed decisions, which is separate to the planning process.

## CEO updates



- UK National Parks Communications Unit
  - Now hosted by National Parks Partnership
  - Creating an updated photo library
  - Considering a new YouTube channel
  - Considering a national fundraising campaign – ‘Love Landscapes’
  - Launching our brand proposition: ‘Where nature inspires action’
  - Commemorating Sycamore Gap anniversary
- Planning performance
  - Planning Magazine ‘Silver’ category (top 65 English Local Authorities)
  - Peak District NPA only protected landscape in this category

## CEO updates



- Derbyshire Tourism Awards
- Environmental Quality Mark Awards
- Chatsworth House summer exhibition
  - House of Stories – tales from the Chatsworth Library
- National Highways strategic funding partnership with Moors for the Future
- National Lottery Heritage Fund lasting legacy event
- CEO Roadshow – Peak Forest
- Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust CEO meeting
- Lord and Lady Edward meeting at Haddon Hall
- Stoney Middleton Parish Council housing meeting
- Rob Roddy new Head of Assets and Enterprise



The 75<sup>th</sup> Report & Launch -15<sup>th</sup> July

# 75 Years of National Parks

## Report Launch 2026



Marks 75 years since the creation of the UK's first National Park – Peak District NP

- Joint Report with Lake District / Dartmoor and Eryri (Snowdonia)
- Reflects on achievements, gaps in progress and future challenges
- Sets out policy and funding needs for the next phase

### OBJECTIVES OF THE LAUNCH

- 🌱 Raise national awareness of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries
- 🌍 Position national parks as leaders in nature, climate, access and wellbeing
- 🗣️ Stimulate national policy debate
- 💰 Support the case for increased funding

### STRATEGIC AUDIENCE

- Ministers / Senior Civil Servants / MPs & Mayors
- Governments bodies / NGOs / Farming & Land Management Leaders
- Corporate Partners / National Funding Bodies / Media

# Buxton International Festival



**SOMETHING SPECIAL**

**THIS YEAR THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK IS CELEBRATING ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY!**

The Peak District became the UK's first national park, designated on 17 April, 1951. With the foundations set by a group of pioneering rangers some 20 years earlier and the work of campaigners, the Peak District eventually paved the way for what would become a UK network of 15 national parks enjoyed today.

Located at the heart of the UK, featuring rolling green hills and dark moorlands, the amazing national park is a living landscape of ecological, historic and cultural significance. Mythic burial grounds and reminders of Roman invasion coexist amongst woodlands, wetlands, and visitor-free meadows which provide vital habitats for nature, medicinal herbs and sheep with the 3,000 farms that help feed the nation!

If you love the Peak District as a place to live, work or visit, support our National Park for the future. Find out more: [peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk](http://peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk)

**LANDSCAPES UNLOCKED: AN HISTORIC IMAGE ARCHIVE OF THE PEAK DISTRICT**

10-15 July  
Pump Room  
FREE exhibition

This expansive and previously unseen collection of unique images reveals the people, places, and landscapes of the Peak District throughout the 200+ years to the present day.

Once the exhibition closes in Buxton it will move to our National Park Centre in Balmuccia where it will remain for 12 months.

See p14 for more information on their Pump Room talks

**BIT** Buxton International Festival

**TALKS**

**PHIL MULLIGAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**CELEBRATING THE UK'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK – ACHIEVEMENTS, REALITIES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

15 JUL 2026

**TALKS**

**MATT SCOTT-CAMPBELL, PARTNERSHIP MANAGER, MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP**

**A DEEP DIVE INTO PEATLAND RESTORATION – WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO CREATE RESILIENT MOORLANDS AT LANDSCAPE SCALE**

22 JUL 2026



**23/26 INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Finance Manager presented their report which explains to Members the Internal Auditors recommendations for block two of the 2025/26 audit and the agreed actions for consideration.

There were no updates since the report was circulated.

The following areas were discussed by Members:

- The Finance team were thanked for their report and the work involved.
- On Page 17 of the report it states that there was a problem in documentation regarding the VAT not being properly recorded. The Finance Manager confirmed that all the recommendations were implemented within a week of the report being published and there is a new form in use to prevent this happening in the future.
- Members asked if the level of control referred to on page 17 of the report is an amount of money or process? The Finance Manager and Monitoring Officer explained that the financial thresholds which ran through the entire Standing Orders were quite low and had not been increased for many years; this is a current focus of the Governance Review Working Group, to benchmark and consider the correct thresholds in order to ensure sufficient control for the Authority but also to allow operational freedom for officers.
- The Findings paragraph of the report on Page 18 were discussed. It was confirmed that every exemption was scrutinised by the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, and approval was only given when the justification for the exemption was legitimate. It was the sequence of officers placing orders before the official approval had been given in a few of the exemptions that had been highlighted by the auditors and resulted in the recommended actions.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the internal Audit reports for the two areas covered under Block 2 for 2025/26 Contract Procedural Rules and New Starters and Casual Workers (in appendices 1 and 2 respectively) be received and the proposed actions agreed.**

*10:31 Nick Adams arrived at the meeting.*

**24/26 EXTERNAL AUDIT NEXT YEAR STRATEGY**

The Finance Manager presented their report which asks Members to consider the 2025/26 External Audit Strategy memorandum from the External Auditors, Mazars. Jennie Norman, Audit Manager at Mazars was present at the Authority meeting to present the memorandum and to answer any questions. There were no updates since the report was circulated.

The following areas were discussed:

- Jennie Norman mentioned that this is a standard report that is brought every year to Authority
- This year the timeline is different from previous years and the deadline for publishing the audited statement of accounts has been brought forward to the end of January from the end of February. This will continue to be brought forward and the audit plan is now in March. Value For Money reporting has stayed the same and conclusions have to be brought by end of November to Authority
- Risks – Last year these were at “enhanced risk” on IFRS16 leases, as there was no significant issues identified, this year these are now “standard risks”
- Pensions will be in a tri-annual year for the Local Government Derbyshire Pensions Fund which means there will be more work and procedures involved this year
- Materiality has increased – gross operating expenditure is the benchmark – no significant issues found in the prior year

Member questions:

- Members asked about Audit fees. The tri-annual review of pensions may possibly be an increase in cost – fees are based on PSA hourly fee so potentially there may be additional fees but there is a contingency fee in the budget to cover this.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the 2025/26 External Audit Strategy memorandum for the 2025/26 Statement of Financial Accounts be noted.**

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## 25/26 RISK POLICY

The Data Strategy and Performance Officer presented the report which was asking for Member approval for the updated Risk Management Policy at Appendix 1.

Member questions and comments:

- Paragraph 3A was clarified and it was explained that the committee terms of reference would determine whether an item is brought to full Authority or Resources Committee.

No other comments or questions

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

### RESOLVED:

1. **That the updated Risk Management Policy at Appendix 1 is approved.**

*Meeting adjourned at 10:45 and recommenced at 10:55am*

## 26/26 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AIM UPDATE - LANDSCAPE AND NATURE RECOVERY

The Head of Landscape and Engagement presented the report, which was to inform Members about the Authority's progress in Landscape and Nature Recovery since March 2025 and what this means for the future.

There were no updates to the report.

The Members discussed the following points:

- There are significant issues in going from development to implementation of the Landscape Recovery Schemes. Have been looking at different models for funding and if the Authority could run it in house, or alternatively it could be run as an independent company, other national parks use a whole mix of methods to run this programme. Do need to evidence that exploring private finance.
- 3.2.8 of report mentions European Diploma for Protected Areas Award, and members asked what do we get out of this as a National Park Authority? - How much does it cost to achieve, is it worth it and what is the value of it? It involves submitting one report a year and there is a visit once every 10 years to endorse the award. The PDNPA has held this award for 60 years and is the only UK national park that has this award. Given the amount of input required then fairly small for something important, the reward goes beyond the UK boundaries and establishes our position in Europe and across the world.
- This National Park has 6 different local authorities and the creation of the "One Nature Recovery Plan" for the Peak District is very resource intensive, it has been developed with a co-ordinated approach and still trying to streamline the processes. The Nature Recovery Plan is not a statutory document but the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is a statutory document.

- There were comments about vulnerability and volatility of farming and the risks that are taken and the impact of the war on fuel prices and the weather. Farming a landscape should be land-sharing, e.g. environmental goals along with producing food.
- Green Finance is a big opportunity and there is a need to explore as an Authority how Green Finance can be tapped into. Much has been done with MFFP, and Morridge Hill is the next opportunity. The Authority needs to use its' own assets to implement and show what can be done on its' own land.
- The National Park Authority should congratulate itself at being at the forefront of Green Finance. The MoorLife 2020 project was funding with no public investment (through the water companies and the EU). The National Highways project is all funded through green finance. National Park Partnership have done some excellent work with accessing funding which is not from public finance.

The recommendation as set out in the report was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. To note progress in delivering to the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28 and Authority Plan Landscape and Nature Recovery aim and targets.**

### **27/26 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AIM UPDATE - WELCOMING PLACE**

The Head of Landscape and Engagement presented the report which was to inform Members about the Authority's progress in the Welcoming Place aim since March 2025 and what this means for the future.

In para 3.10 of the report the Environmental Quality Mark was detailed. Since then the Bakewell Award Panel on 19 March 2026 awarded 7 successful awards to local businesses.

The Members discussed the following points:

- Members asked if there is an App for reporting anti-social issues within the National Park – This is just being developed and is being used by the Rangers on mobile phones and is a quick way of recording the problem. The App allows Rangers to take a photo and record the issues and this information goes straight onto the mapping system. So far it can record littering, parked cars and fires, camping etc. Members wondered if it is possible to roll this App out to the general public. The next step is to extend the App to the Volunteer Rangers.
- What further can be done with regard to wild-fires? There is a public space protection order but no resources to implement the order. Re-wetting on the moorland is an option along with better co-ordination amongst the Fire Operations Group, more importantly it is about influencing peoples' behaviour.
- The Youth Impact Collective (YIC) meets monthly and met with People of The Peaks Projects – provided feedback on thoughts so far and how they are looking to progress the project, The YIC is getting involved in different projects in the National Park, and the group feel there is a need to expand the group and include more people. There is no formal report back from the Youth Impact Collective and as terms of reference are further developed, it might be worth considering an annual report from the YIC to the Authority to learn about levels of work, engagement and involvement.

- Thanks were extended to Yvonne Witter for the amount of work she has input into the Championing National Park for Everyone initiative and Peak District Mosaic.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED**

1. **To note progress in delivering to the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28 and Authority Plan Welcoming Place aim and targets.**

**28/26 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the business of the last Planning Committees held on 13 March 2026.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the report.**

**29/26 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

No reports had been submitted.

**30/26 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 16, 17 and 18 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

**31/16 PART B - Landscape Discovery Centre Project**

The recommendations as set out in the report were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**32/16 PART B - Landscape Observatory Accelerator Funding**

The recommendations as set out in the report were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**33/16 PART B - Exempt minutes from previous meeting - 27 February 2026**

The Exempt Part B minutes of the meeting on 27 February 2026 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 12.08 pm