

16. PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

1. Purpose

To provide Members with the annual financial and operational report on the Peak District National Park Foundation (the Foundation) for 2025-26.

2. Context

2.1 The Foundation was established by the Authority to help generate sustainable income and was registered as a separate entity with the Charity Commission in February 2019. The current Memorandum of Understanding and Grant Agreement between the Authority and Foundation began on 17 May 2023 and are for five years.

2.2 The Memorandum of Understanding requires an annual report and accounts from the Foundation to be provided to Members. The Grant Agreement states that the Foundation shall provide the Authority with an annual financial and operational report that outlines the following.

1. Financial – the use of the grant provided by the Authority to the Foundation.
2. Financial – the additional funding the Foundation has secured from third parties, including the amounts and sources, and how the funding has been used.
3. Operational – what the Foundation has delivered.

The remainder of this report sets this information out for the financial year 2025-26. It then outlines what the Foundation is seeking to fundraise for in 2026-27.

3. Proposals

1. Financial – the use of the grant provided from the Authority to the Foundation

3.1 The table below outlines the overall financial position of the Foundation in 2025-26.

Grant provided by Authority	£145,792
Operating costs of the Foundation	£143,263
Funds raised by the Foundation	£926,315
Grants provided by the Foundation to the Authority	£630,000
Grants provided by the Foundation to others (community groups, schools, parish councils, National Trust, Derby Record Office)	£148,538

2. Financial – the additional funding the Foundation has secured from third parties, including the amounts and sources, and how the funding has been used

3.2 In 2025-26 the Foundation raised £926,315 from third parties. The major sources of funding were as follows.

- Grants: £283,246, including £25,000 from the TARMAC Community Fund for a Changing Places at Parsley Hay, £102,188 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for People of the Peak: Past, Present, Future, £75,000 from the Postcode Lottery and £45,000 from the John Swire Charitable Trust towards Landscape Trees and £22,500 from The National Archives towards Landscapes Unlocked (see paragraph 3.5).
- Corporate Partnerships & Donations: £156,339, including £115,666 from climate action platform Ecologi towards moorland restoration (see paragraph 3.7).
- Donations from Individuals: £407,148 including £237,500 received from the anonymous donor funding the Visitor Centres project, £81,000 from a major donor towards littering and footpath repair projects and £21,000 from The Big Give towards Landscape Trees (see paragraph 3.5 and 3.7).

- Royalties: £42,805 generated through the Foundation's partnership with Cafedirect.
- Gift Aid: £30,307 of Gift Aid claimed on donations across the year.

3.3 These funds were used in the following three ways.

- The majority were used to make grant payments to the Authority and other organisations, which totalled £778,538 in 2025-26. These are detailed in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7.
- Some have been designated for use in delivering future projects, including those detailed in paragraph 3.8.
- The remainder, a relatively small amount, forms part of the Foundation's unrestricted reserve, used for the following two purposes: 1. to be held back to cover winding-down costs for the charity and 2. to enable future, as yet unidentified, projects.

3. Operational – what the Foundation has delivered

3.4 The following activity was delivered by the Foundation in 2025-2026.

- Developing the model of how the Foundation and Authority work together, including identifying and approving projects.
- Developing a strong governance and management framework for the Foundation, ensuring it is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice and Charity Commission guidelines.
- Working with Authority staff and other organisations who protect the Peak District to identify fundable projects or areas of work (ambitious outcomes for nature/people, value for money).
- Stewarding existing donor/supporter base, ensuring they feel valued.
- Increasing the donor/supporter base through funding applications, corporate partnership pitches, meetings with possible individual donors and appeals.
- Raising the profile of the Foundation in the National Park, Sheffield and Manchester.

3.5 The following grants were made to the Authority in 2025-2026.

- Visitor centres – grant of £237,500. Creating a sustainable visitor centre function for the Peak District National Park Authority.
- People of the Peak: Past, Present, Future – grant of £83,611. First instalment for an 18-month Development Phase to establish the foundations for a large-scale volunteering programme to protect the Park's cultural heritage and diversify cultural heritage volunteering.
- Longdendale Environmental Centre - £68,658. Three year grant to support the education service in Longdendale to reach more young people and under-represented communities.
- Landscape Trees – grant of £55,000. Launching a new programme to plant more stand-alone trees and small copses in White Peak farmland.
- Goyt Valley moorland restoration – grant of £56,250. Repair work following the 2025 wildfire and increased planting in the Goyt Valley.
- PPCV trainee – grant of £30,000. Funding a new trainee in the Peak District Volunteer team.

- Changing Places facility at Parsley Hay – grant of £26,000. Opening up the Monsal Trail to those with complex support needs through the creation of a fully accessible toilet facility.
- Limestone Way improvements – grant of £18,199. Funding waymarking and path furniture improvements along the Limestone Way.
- Pick it up for the Peak – grant of £15,200. A new litter project working with young people across the Park to increase littering awareness and response.
- Paths and Trails Appeal - £8,000. Accessibility improvements at Surprise View and Crowden, as well as trails repair on Authority-owned traffic-free trails.
- Green Futures – grant of £6,350. Training and support for young people looking at green careers.
- Wildfire rangers – grant of £6,300. Contracting casual wildfire rangers to help identify and mitigate wildfire risk in the Derwent area.
- Protect our Peatlands Appeal - £5,000.
- Community Project Officer – grant of £5,000. Support for the Authority’s community outreach work.
- Dane Valley Way path repair – grant of £3,344. Second payment to cover much needed repairs to this well used path.
- Landscapes Unlocked – grant of £3,000. Additional grant to help improve the production value of the exhibition.
- Nature prescriptions – grant of £450. Small grant to help cover the printing costs relating to the nature prescriptions guide.

3.6 The following grants were made to other organisations in 2025-2026. These were provided following consultation with relevant teams at the Authority, and they respond to gaps in provision and/or funding.

- Community Nature Fund – grants of £39,263. Beneficiaries include Wilder Cressbrook – pond restoration and bird/bat boxes to support struggling species; National Trust – supporting the nature value of three areas of land at Ilam: the Italian gardens, village meadow and a parkland pond.
- Connect Fund – grants of £13,000. Grants provided to remove barriers for disadvantaged and marginalised communities to access, understand and enjoy the National Park, including schools, community groups and associations.
- Footpath repair – grant of £60,993 to the National Trust to carry out repair works on the Kinder Reservoir Concession Path and around the summit of Lantern Pike.
- Landscapes Unlocked – grant of £32,500 to Derby Record Office to contribute to employment costs relating to the Archivist leading on Landscapes Unlocked. This project is protecting and opening up the Authority’s image archive to the public.

4. Foundation plans for 2026-27

3.7 The Foundation has the following plans for projects in 2026-27.

- People of the Peak: Past, Present, Future. The Foundation has been successful in securing £198,500 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver the Development Phase of this project (July 2025 – February 2027). The Foundation has also contributed £7500 match funding to the project.

- Landscapes Unlocked. The Foundation has been successful in securing £45,000 from The National Archives to catalogue and digitise the extensive image collection of the Authority and open it up to the public (activity delivered October 25-September 26). The Foundation has also contributed £13,000 match funding to the project.
- Landscape Trees. Now underway and will plant 2500 trees by March 2027. A new programme to increase the planting of stand-alone trees and small copses into the farmed landscape of the White Peak. £21,000 was raised through crowd funding (The Big Give), as well as an additional £92,507 from a range of other grant-making and corporate funders.
- Moorland restoration. This continues to be an attractive area for investment, particularly amongst regional businesses. Following the launch of our new partnership with Ecologi (UK climate action platform), we have been able to channel £115,666 into moorland restoration in the National Park, with more contracted in 2026-2027.
- Public grants. We will continue to offer our two popular public grants. The Connect Fund will distribute up to £17,000 in grants of up to £500 to help schools and community groups remove barriers they may face visiting the National Park. The Community Nature Fund will distribute £30,000 in grants of up to £5000 to parish councils, community groups, schools and smallholders to improve spaces for nature in the Peak District.
- Peak Park Conservation Volunteers (PPCV). We have committed £15,000 to contribute to a post help PPCV expand their activities.
- Engagement. We will continue to support targeted support for underrepresented communities at the Longdendale Environmental Centre, and will be exploring how else the Foundation can support nature connection for children and young people following the significant scaling back of education/engagement work at the Authority.
- Visitor centre project. We will continue to work closely with the donor to ensure that they feel involved in the project and to ensure the project is a success over the remainder of the grant period (Autumn 2026). We are also working with the Authority to present some options to the donor for possible projects into the future.

4. Recommendations

- 1. To note the annual financial and operational report on the Peak District National Park Foundation for 2025-26 and the Foundation's plans for 2026-27.**

5. Corporate Implications

a. Legal

The Authority has a long-term ambition and need to diversify and increase income. As a statutory body, the Authority is restricted in some forms of fundraising and there is some limitation in attracting charitable donations. Hence the Authority took the decision in 2018 to establish a charity to harness fundraising opportunities and create a special purpose vehicle for fundraising. There is some natural overlap in the statutory purposes of the Authority and the charitable objectives of the Peak District National Park Foundation. However, it must always be noted that both are entirely separate legal entities that must operate independently in their own respective best interests.

b. Financial

The Authority provided the Foundation with £3,863 as an in-kind contribution and £145,792 as a direct grant in 2025-26.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

The Foundation projects contribute to delivering the National Park Management Plan aims. In the grants that the Foundation provides to the Authority, it can help to deliver to the financial resilience of the Authority – Authority Plan objective D.

d. Risk Management

The report doesn't give rise to any corporate risks as any Foundation funds the Authority accepts are subject to controls within Standing Orders to ensure financial viability and protect against any reputational harm to the Authority.

e. Net Zero

Some of the Foundation projects will contribute to delivering net zero for the place.

6. Background papers (not previously published)

None

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Phill Mulligan, Chief Executive, 14 May 2026

Responsible Officer, Job Title

Phill Mulligan, Chief Executive