

INCORPORATING BIODIVERSITY DUTY INTO THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2028

1. Purpose

1.1 For Members to approve the incorporation of the biodiversity duty and reporting into the 2023-2028 Peak District National Park Management Plan. The incorporation meets the Defra requirement that National Park Authorities include information about compliance with the Biodiversity Duty in their statutory Management Plans instead of making a separate report.

2. Context

2.1 The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened '[Biodiversity Duty](#)' requiring all public authorities operating in England to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK](#). Public authorities are defined as government departments, public bodies and agencies, local authorities and local planning authorities, and statutory undertakers.

2.2 Each public authority must:

- Consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on its consideration.
- Act to deliver the policies and achieve these objectives.

2.3 Under the same legislation (Environment Act 2021), all planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) in England (with some exemptions), have been required to deliver at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from 12 February 2024. BNG became mandatory for small sites from 2 April 2024. All off-site and significant on-site habitats must be secured for at least 30 years.

2.4 Members have been provided with an update on the Biodiversity Duty and in particular the biodiversity net gain and relationship to habitat landbanks, green finance and Responsible Body status at the 11th July 2025 Members Forum.

2.5 Further work has progressed by officers in respect to the necessary financial and legal frameworks required for habitat landbanks in readiness for a report to full Authority in July 2026.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Biodiversity Duty Statement at Appendix 1 provides the required information to document how we, as the Peak District National Park Authority, comply with the 3 points above and to highlight that the First Purpose of the National Park to undertake activities to enhance biodiversity and bio abundance is an intrinsic remit for the National Park Authority.

3.2 The Biodiversity Net Gain Report at Appendix 2 provides the data on all applicable planning applications and is produced via the specialist software system Mycelia in order to support the assessment and monitoring of BNG.

3.3 This is the first report. Future reports must be within 5 years of the previous reporting date and so it is proposed that a full and comprehensive report is produced in line with each Management Plan cycle.

4. Recommendations

1. To note the Biodiversity Duty Statement, as set out in appendix 1, as incorporated into the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28.
2. To note the Biodiversity Net Gain Report, as set out in appendix 2, as incorporated into the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28.

5. Corporate Implications

a. Legal

Pursuant to sections 5 and 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the Authority must deliver to the statutory purposes and statutory duty, respectively, when carrying out its work. Monitoring progress against the aims and objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan will enable appropriate scrutiny and safeguard legal compliance.

The National Park Management Plan is compliant with the Authority's duties in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion. Specific projects undertaken in pursuance of delivery of the aims and objectives will individually identify and address any adverse equality impacts on a case-by-case basis for consideration prior to approval.

b. Financial

There are no financial implications associated with the proposals outlined in this report. All expenditure associated with the National Park Management Plan is allocated through setting the 2026-27 budget and specific approvals outside of this report.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

The proposals will ensure that the National Park Management Plan is compliant with the Defra requirement that National Park Authorities incorporate the Biodiversity Duty into their statutory Management Plans.

d. Risk Management

There is a risk of not fulfilling the statutory duties with respect to biodiversity duty monitoring, particularly in the context of the enhanced expectations on protected landscapes in respect to monitoring of the National Park Management Plan actions and the associated Targets and Outcomes framework. The proposals will ensure that the National Park Authority demonstrates good practice and high competency in this area as we seek to enable further landscape scale delivery towards our nature recovery objectives.

e. Net Zero

This report doesn't directly contribute to meeting net zero. However, Climate Change is one of the four aims of the National Park Management Plan, so delivering the Plan would contribute to meeting net zero for the place.

6. Background papers (not previously published)

None

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Biodiversity Duty Statement

Appendix 2 - Biodiversity Net Gain Report

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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