



**Peak District National Park
Authority**

**Local Plan 2026-2045
(Regulation 19)**

**Equalities Impact Assessment
June 2026**

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1 Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) on the Publication Draft Peak District National Park Local Plan (2025-40).

1.2 The Publication draft Local Plan sets out how the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) will plan for and manage development in the National Park over the 20 years 2025-2045. Once adopted, it will be used to guide day-to-day decisions on planning applications.

2 Need for Equalities Impact Assessment

2.1 As a public sector organisation, the PDNPA has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the associated Public Sector Equality Duty to ensure that in the exercise of its functions it has regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

2.2 The duty covers the following nine protected characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Religion or Belief
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

2.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not always required but is a useful analytical tool which identifies any discriminatory or negative effects or impacts of policy or activity might have on a particular group or sector of the community in respect of their protected characteristics. It highlights opportunities to promote equality including any that may have previously been missed or could be better used, as well as identifying any adverse or negative impacts that can be mitigated or removed where possible.

3 The Publication Draft Peak District National Park Local Plan 2026-45

3.1 The Publication Draft Local Plan (2026-45) sets out both strategic and detailed (development management) policies to manage the pattern/location and types of development in the Peak District National Park up to 2045. The policies have been developed in response to the key challenges and opportunities facing the National Park. The Draft Local Plan also includes a vision which guides the Plan's policies and proposals.

3.2 Both the Draft Local Plan and this EqIA are written in the context of the statutory purposes of National Parks which are:

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park, and
2. To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.

3.3 The National Park Authority also has a statutory duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of communities within the National Park.

3.4 The Draft Local Plan is therefore relevant to a range of stakeholders including:

- Residents (current and future)
- Visitors
- Businesses/business owners
- Landowners
- Partner organisations who deliver services in the National Park
- Interest groups
- Developers

3.5 The preparation of the Draft Local Plan has been informed by a robust evidence base, which

includes:

- Active Travel and Green Infrastructure
- Affordable Housing Need and Housing Size Update
- Derbyshire Spatial Energy Study
- Economic Viability Assessment
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Habitats Regulation Assessment
- Housing Need Assessment (Standard Method 3)
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessments by constituent Local Authorities
- Population Projection and Housing Needs Assessment
- Review of the PDNPA Design Policies, Supplementary Planning Documents and Technical Guidance
- Rural Economy - Employment Development Needs Assessment

- Settlement Character Analysis & Landscape Sensitivity Assessment
- Topic Papers
- Thriving and Sustainable Communities definition

3.6 Engagement has been an essential part of the Local Plan preparation process; each stage involving a wide range of local organisations, stakeholders and residents in line with the Statement of Community Involvement. The feedback at each stage helped to shape the issues, objectives and policies.

3.7 A final stage of consultation will take place on the Publication Draft Local Plan 2026-45 before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by a Planning Inspector.

3.8 In addition to this EqIA, the Draft Local Plan is supported by a Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that issues of economic, social and environmental sustainability have been considered as part of its development.

4 Protected Groups

4.1 The protected groups as defined by the Equality Act 2010 are:

Protected Characteristic Group	PDNP Profile
Age	Where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30-year-olds).
Disability	A person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day to-day activities.
Gender Reassignment	The process of transitioning from one gender to another.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Marriage is defined as a 'union between a man and a woman'. Same-sex couples can have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must be treated the same as married couples on a wide range of legal matters.
Religion or belief	Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.
Pregnancy and maternity	Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.
Race	This refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.
Sex	A biological man or a woman
Sexual orientation	Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

5 Publication Draft Local Plan – Assessment

5.1 In this section, the vision and policy areas in the Publication Draft Local Plan 2026-45 are assessed to consider their potential impact on the characteristic groups listed in paragraph 2.2. The assessment is shown in the table below and indicates whether the draft policy areas are likely to have a positive or negative impact upon each of the groups and whether this impact is likely to be high, medium or low depending upon the number of people that could be affected and/or the potential for adverse impact.

Impact Levels

Low Impact	L
Medium Impact	M
High Impact	H

Policy theme	Potential impact upon people based on their Protected Characteristic									Assessment / Commentary (How will the policy impact the protected characteristics)
	Positive or Negative High (H) / Medium (M) / Low (L) impact									
	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage & Civil Partnership	Religion or belief	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Sex	Sexual orientation	
Vision and Spatial Objectives	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.
Core Policies & Development Strategy	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	Policy C11 requires development to have regard to Appendix 2: Peak District Design Vision and Principles and for new housing to be built to M4(2) standards. This change to policy seeks to provide increased housing

										accessibility for all.
Biodiversity & Nature Recovery	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.
Cultural Heritage	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.
Recreation and Tourism	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.
Climate Change	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.
Housing	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of

										this policy theme.
Rural Economy	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.
Shops and Services	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.
Minerals & Waste	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.
Travel & Transport	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	Policy T7 pays regard to ensuring active travel proposals must be accessible to widest possible user-base. This change to policy seeks to provide increased

										accessibility for all.
Utilities	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	No clear impact on any protected characteristic as a result of this policy theme.

5.2 Vision and Spatial Objectives

5.3 This Chapter sets out the National Park Vision and the Local Plan Outcomes, Spatial Objectives and Strategic Housing Provision that provide the framework for the planning policies that will deliver the Vision. There is focus on ensuring the National Park is a welcoming place that can be enjoyed by all. There are no specific policies in this chapter so there are no potential impacts to assess.

5.4 Core Policies & Development Strategy

5.5 Core Policies provide the overarching principles for spatial planning in the National Park to deliver sustainable development in the context of pursuing national park purposes. Core Policies clarify the principles for conserving and enhancing the Peak District's natural beauty, diverse and special landscapes, historic settlements, assets of cultural heritage significance and extensive ecosystems and biodiversity. The plan also addresses community and business needs where this is compatible with the pursuit of national park purposes. Policy C11 is concerned with Design, siting, layout and landscaping and requires all new development to accord with Appendix 2: Peak District Design Vision and Principles, in which there is a requirement for all new dwellings to be built to M4(2) Standards. This change to policy seeks to provide increased accessibility for all.

5.6 The other policies in this chapter are not considered to have significant associated equality concerns.

5.7 Biodiversity & Nature Recovery

5.8 Policies in this chapter address protecting areas of nature within the national park as well as delivering nature recovery. None of the policies in this section have significant associated equality concerns.

5.9 Cultural Heritage

5.10 There are around 49 Grade I, 105 Grade II* and 2,745 Grade II Listed Buildings in the National Park. A local planning authority must have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any of its features of special architectural or historic interest. The policies within this chapter are concerned with the preservation of the character and built environment of the Peak District National Park. None of the policies in this section have significant associated equality concerns.

5.11 Recreation and Tourism

5.12 National Parks are treasured, beautiful landscapes, rich in cultural heritage and wildlife. They were born of a post-war consensus that holds true today; that they should be conserved and enhanced and that they are for all to visit and enjoy. The Authority must promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the Peak District's Special Qualities. Whilst this chapter does look to promote the opportunity for public enjoyment, there is nothing unique to any protected characteristic within the policy.

5.13 Climate Change

5.14 Climate change will affect the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. The Special Quality most vulnerable to climate change is 'internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats'. The effects of climate change have become increasingly apparent with severe weather events, flooding, drought and an increase in average annual temperatures. The policies within this chapter focus on reducing carbon, sustainable design, renewable energy, flood risk and sustainable drainage. None of the policies in this chapter have significant associated equality concerns.

5.15 Housing

5.16 Housing policies aim to support the conservation and enhancement of the National Park and the social and economic wellbeing of its communities. The chapter focuses on the provision of affordable housing. None of the policies in this chapter have significant associated equality concerns.

5.17 Rural Economy

5.18 Ensuring a healthy rural economy is an important aspect to achieving thriving and sustainable communities. In rural areas, national policy and guidance require Local Plans to be positive towards economic development that can occur in sustainable locations. Plans are required to provide suitable and appropriate land for economic development to meet current and future needs. The Local Plan supports economic

development on brownfield sites in or on the edge of settlements. In the open countryside the focus of economic development is in support of farm diversification through the reuse of existing buildings, in particular heritage assets, in accessible location that deliver enhancement opportunities and where the scale and impact is acceptable within its rural location. None of the policies in this chapter have significant associated equality concerns.

5.19 Shops and Community Services

5.20 This chapter focuses on shops, town centre uses, community services and facilities. It is important that community facilities are protected to ensure that they remain accessible. Loss of facilities risks having adverse effects on those that are less able to travel. None of the policies in this chapter have significant associated equality concerns.

5.21 Minerals

5.22 Mineral policies are aim to ensure the sustainable provision of minerals to meet local, regional and national need while ensuring that all development is compatible with National Park Purposes. Restoration schemes that provide amenity benefit should consider the needs and accessibility requirements of all. None of the policies in this chapter have significant associated equality concerns.

5.23 Travel & Transport

5.24 Access to transport plays a vital role in allowing residents and users of the Peak District to travel to, from and around the National Park. It allows residents and visitors to experience the Special Qualities of the National Park and enables access to employment, education, shops and a range of leisure activities. Large amounts of traffic negatively affect the National Park's landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage and the amenity of residents and visitors. Impacts include visual, severance, noise and pollution. One policy that is relevant to a protected characteristic is Policy T7 which pays regard to ensuring active travel proposals must be accessible to widest possible user-base. This change to policy seeks to provide increased accessibility for all.

5.25 The other policies in this chapter are not considered to have significant associated equality concerns.

5.26 Utilities

5.27 Access to clean water, mains sewerage, electricity, gas and communications such as mobile and broadband, is usual in the urban areas surrounding the Peak District National Park. Most of the National Park has electricity and mains water supplies however, coverage is not

comprehensive. Mains gas supplies and mains sewerage are available in larger settlements but are less widespread in small villages and beyond village limits. None of the policies in this chapter have significant associated equality concerns.

6 Summary and Conclusions

6.1 The Equality Impact Assessment demonstrates that the Draft Local Plan 2026-45 vision and policies do not have a negative impact on any specific characteristic group and two policies have a positive impact on people with a disability. No modifications are required at this stage.

6.2 The EIA will be reviewed in light of any amendments made to the Local Plan prior to its adoption.