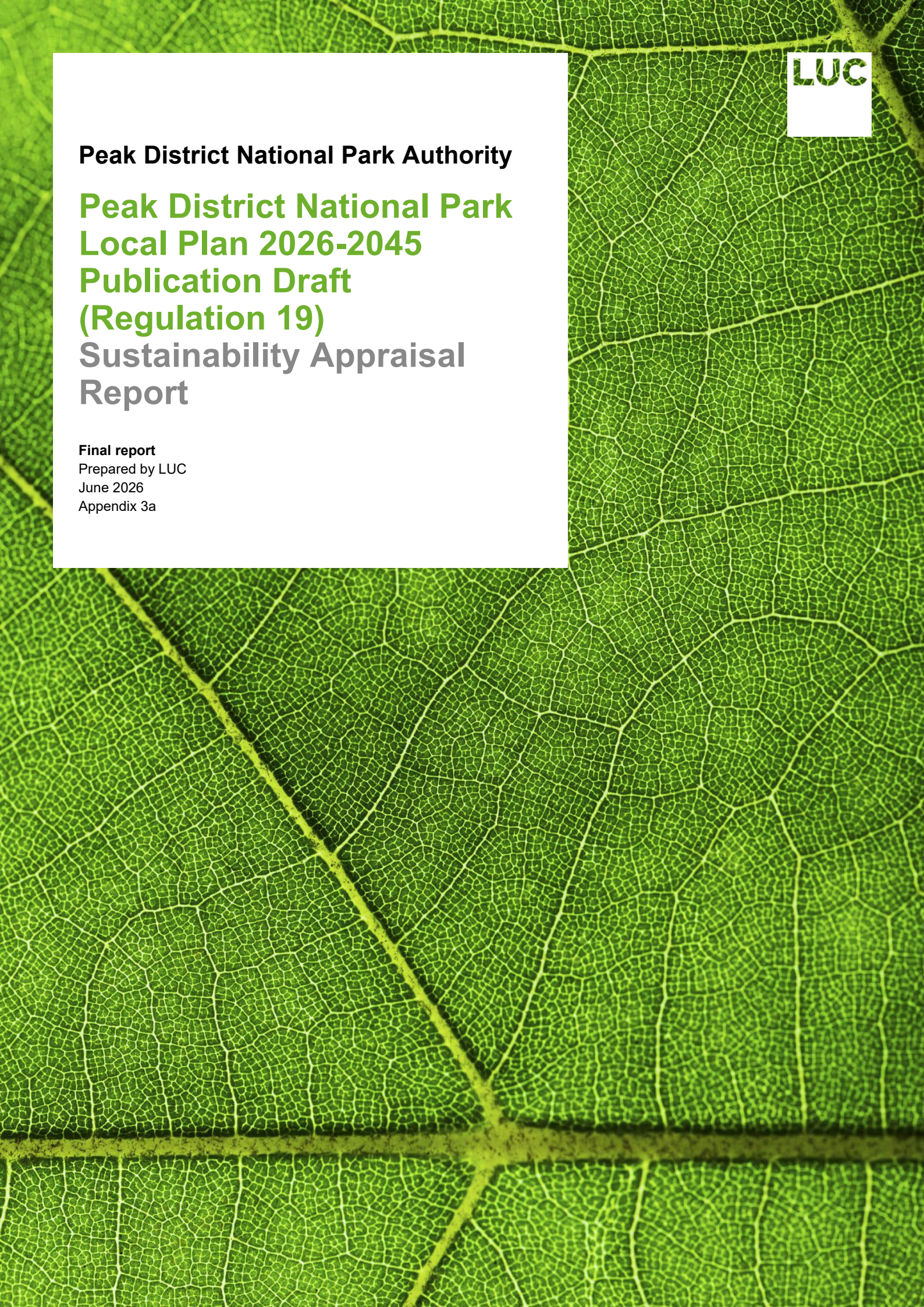

Peak District National Park Authority

Peak District National Park Local Plan 2026-2045 Publication Draft (Regulation 19)

Sustainability Appraisal Report

Final report
Prepared by LUC
June 2026
Appendix 3a

Peak District National Park Authority

Peak District National Park Local Plan 2026-2045
Publication Draft (Regulation 19)
Sustainability Appraisal Report

Project Number
16140

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1.	Draft SA Report	O Dunham A Jennings M Ngemoh	O Dunham	K Nicholls	12.06.2026
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Contents

Contents

Chapter 1
Introduction

1.1 The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) commissioned LUC in April 2024 to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the emerging Local Plan for the Peak District National Park. The Local Plan will shape future development in the National Park up to 2045, setting out the vision, spatial strategy and planning policies used to guide decisions on development proposals and planning applications in the face of economic, social and environmental issues. Once adopted, the Local Plan will replace the existing Core Strategy (2011) and Development Management Policies Document (2019). This SA report relates to the Peak District National Park Local Plan 2026-2045 Publication Draft (Regulation 19) consultation (July 2026) and it should be read in conjunction with that document.

The Plan Area

1.2 The Peak District National Park is an asset of national, regional, and local importance spanning an area of over 1.4 thousand km^2. The National Park lies mostly within the county of Derbyshire, but crosses into Staffordshire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, and South/West Yorkshire (see **Figure 1.1**). The resident population of the area is around 35,832, with 16,200 households[1]. The National Park is considered the most accessible of the UK's National Parks and sees approximately 13.25 million visitors every year, with 20 million people living within one hour's journey.

1.3 The Peak District National Park is a vibrant landscape with over 200 square miles of open access land and 1,600 miles of public rights of way. In 1951, it was the first of the UK's 15 National Parks to be designated and it is rich in heritage, with approximately 2,143 listed buildings and 450 scheduled monuments[2].

1.4 The National Park is defined by its contrasting landscape consisting of gritstone edges (the Dark Peak); limestone dates (White Peak); near 200 square miles of moorland; rolling hills and farmland (south west Peak); 5,440 miles of dry stone wall caverns; and 55 reservoirs. Amongst this, there are several notable villages of interest including Castleton, Eyam, Hathersage, Tideswell, and Ilam, as well as the famous town of Bakewell.

1.5 The area's main industries are tourism, quarrying (with 70 active and disused quarry sites this is more than all other

[1] Population estimate for England and Wales: mid-2024

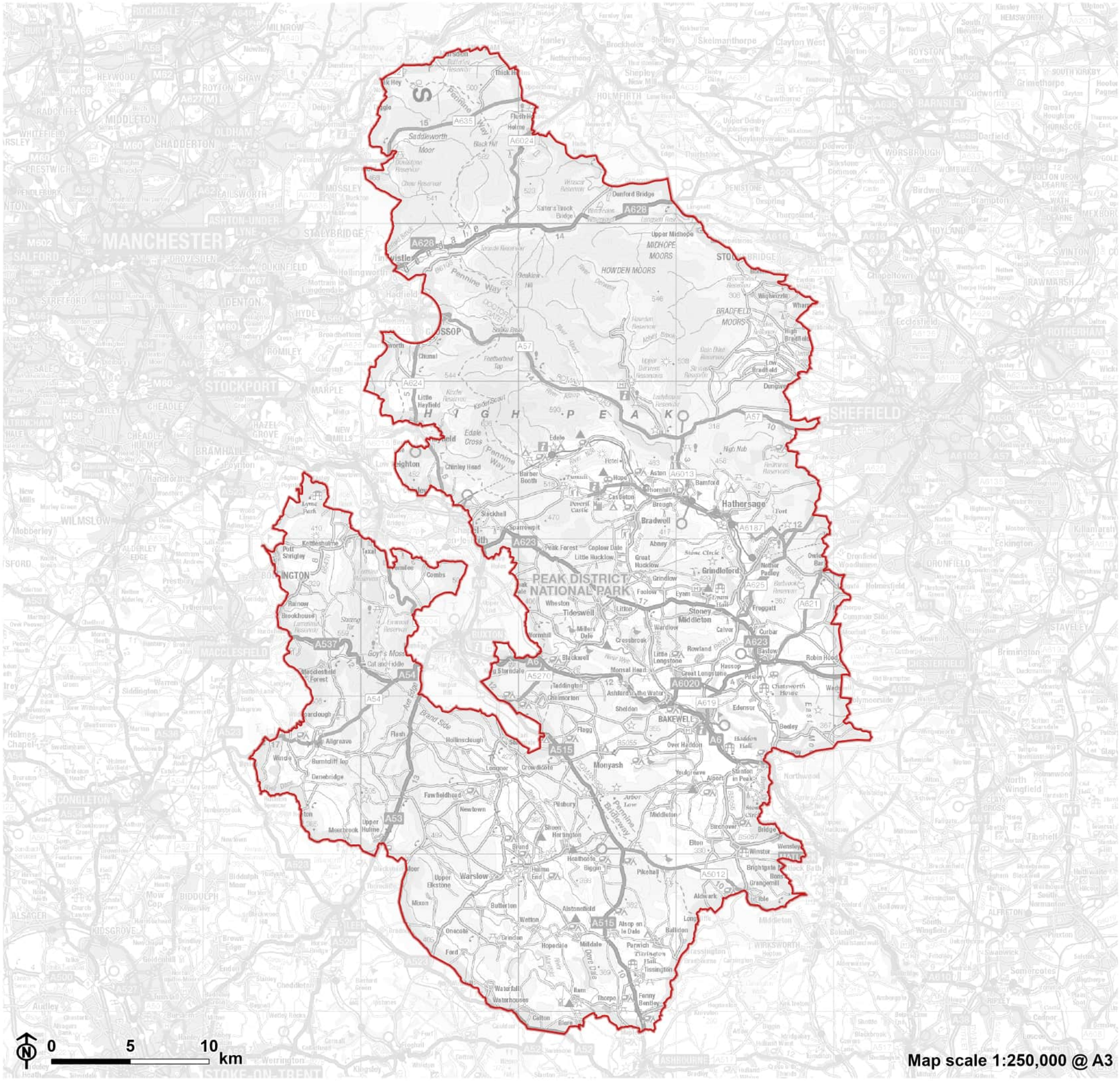
[2] History of our National Park. Peak District National Park.

UK National Parks put together), farming (with almost 90% of the National Park being farmland) and manufacturing. Over 35% of the National Park is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

1.6 All National Parks have a distinct set of 'Special Qualities' derived from National Park legislation. The Peak District's special qualities are:

- Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology.
- Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats.
- Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies with reach of millions.
- Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry.
- Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions.
- An inspiring space for escape, adventure, exploring and quiet reflection.
- Vital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary.

Figure 1.1: Peak District National Park Authority



Scope of the New Local Plan

1.7 The National Park Authority is preparing a new Local Plan which, once adopted, will replace the existing Core Strategy and Development Management Policies. The new Local Plan will set out the planning framework for the National Park up to 2045, setting the strategic direction for development and including policies to address affordable housing needs and other economic, social, and environmental issues.

1.8 Underpinning the preparation of the Local Plan is the requirement set out in law to respond to the National Park purposes. These are:

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

1.9 If there is any conflict between these two purposes, conservation takes priority. The National Park Authority also has a duty to foster the economic and social well-being of communities living within the Peak District.

1.10 The Local Plan will help to deliver the aims and objectives for the National Park which are detailed in the separate Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-2028.

1.11 The new Local Plan is currently at Regulation 19 stage. Consultation will take place on the Regulation 19 Local Plan during Summer 2026.

Outline of the Regulation 19 Local Plan

1.12 The Pre-Submission Local Plan sets out a long-term Vision for the National Park:

> *"By 2045 the Peak District National Park is exemplary in its response to climate change and nature recovery. Its Special Qualities and resilience as a living landscape have been significantly enhanced. It is a welcoming place where all are inspired to care and communities thrive."*

1.13 The Regulation 19 Local Plan then sets out spatial objectives, core policies and development strategy and strategic and development management policies. The strategic and development management policies are grouped into the following topics:

- Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Geodiversity
- Cultural Heritage
- Recreation and Tourism
- Climate Change, Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage
- Housing
- Rural Economy
- Shops, Town Centre Uses, Community Services and Facilities
- Minerals and Waste
- Travel and Transport
- Utilities

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.14 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations (as amended)[3]. The SEA Regulations remain in force post-Brexit, and it is a legal requirement for the PDNPA Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

1.15 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) received royal assent in October 2023 and sets out the direction for planning, making provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. As part of this, it seeks to streamline the planning process, including through a reform of existing EU-generated systems of SA/SEA, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'. However, secondary legislation is required to introduce the new regime and at present the requirement to undertake SEA remains in force.

1.16 SA and SEA are tools used at the plan-making stage to assess the likely effects of the plan when judged against reasonable alternatives. SEA considers only the environmental effects of a plan, while SA considers the plan's wider economic and social effects in addition to its potential environmental impacts. SA should meet all of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, so a separate SEA should not be required. An approach which satisfies the requirements for both SA and SEA is advocated in the Government's Planning

[3] The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1633) as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1531).

Practice Guidance (PPG)[4]. Practitioners can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken for the PDNPA Local Plan. From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations'.

1.17 The SA process comprises a number of stages, as shown below.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Stage D: Consulting on the plan and the SA Report.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan.

Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

1.18 **Table 1.1** below signposts the relevant sections of this SA Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements.

Table 1.1 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

SEA Regulations Requirements	Covered in this Report?
Environmental Report	
Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible Authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of: ■ Implementing the plan or programme; and ■ Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2	This SA Report has been produced to accompany consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan and constitutes the 'environmental report'.
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	**Chapter 1**, **Chapter 3**, **Appendix B** and **Appendix C.**
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild bird and the Habitats Directive.	
The environment protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during it preparation.	
The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as: ■ Biodiversity;	**Chapters 4, 5 and 6.**

[4] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2015, updated 2020) Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal

SEA Regulations Requirements	Covered in this Report?
■ Population; ■ Human health; ■ Fauna; ■ Flora; ■ Soil; ■ Water; ■ Air; ■ Climatic factors; ■ Material assets; ■ Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; ■ Landscape; and ■ The interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).	
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	**Chapters 4, 5 and 6.**
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	**Chapter 2.**
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Regulation 17.	**Chapter 7.**
A non-technical summary of the information is provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A separate non-technical summary document has been prepared to accompany this SA report.
The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of: ■ Current knowledge and methods of assessment; ■ The contents and level of detail in the plan or programme; ■ The stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and ■ The extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment. Regulation 12(3)	The Environmental Report at each stage of the SA will adhere to this requirement.
Consultation	
When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible Authority shall consult the consultation bodies. Regulation 12(5)	The SA Scoping Report was produced by the Peak District National Park Authority and consulted on between 25th August 2023 and 6th October 2023. The responses received are summarised in **Appendix A**.

SEA Regulations Requirements	Covered in this Report?
Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme. Regulation 13	Consultation on the Issues and Options took place during Autumn 2024. The responses received are summarised in **Appendix A**. Consultation on the Preferred Options took place from November to December 2025. The responses received are summarised in **Appendix A**. Consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan is taking place during Summer 2026 and is accompanied by this SA Report.
Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country. Regulation 14	The Peak District National Park Local Plan is not expected to have significant effects on other EU Member States.
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)	
Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Regulation 14 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed: ■ The plan or programme as adopted; ■ A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report, the opinions expressed, and the results of consultations entered into have been taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and ■ The measures decided concerning monitoring.	To be addressed after the Local Plan is adopted.
Monitoring	
The responsible Authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Regulation 17(1)	**Chapter 7** describes the measures that should be taken towards monitoring the likely significant effects of the Local Plan.

Structure of this SA Report

1.19 This chapter has described the background to the production of the Regulation 19 Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA. The remainder of this SA Report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2: Methodology** describes the approach that is being taken to the SA of the Local Plan.
- **Chapter 3: Sustainability Context** describes the relationship between the PDNPA Local Plan and other relevant plans, policies and programmes, summarises the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of the National Park, and identifies the key sustainability issues it faces.
- **Chapter 4: Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Options** presents the SA findings for the options that have been considered for the Local Plan.
- **Chapter 5: Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Regulation 19 Local Plan** presents the SA findings for the current Local Plan consultation.

- **Chapter 6: Cumulative Effects** describes the potential cumulative effects of the Local Plan.
- **Chapter 7: Monitoring** suggests indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the Local Plan.
- **Chapter 8: Next Steps** summarises the conclusions of the SA of the Regulation 19 Local Plan and describes the next steps to be undertaken.
- **Appendix A: Consultation Comments** presents a record of the consultation comments received during earlier stages of the SA and explains how they have been addressed.
- **Appendix B: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes** presents a review of international, national, and local plans, policies, and programmes of relevance to the Local Plan and the SA.
- **Appendix C: Baseline Information** presents baseline information for the Peak District National Park.

Chapter 2
Methodology

2.1 In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the SA of the emerging PDNPA Local Plan is based on current good practice and guidance on SA / SEA set out in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This calls for SA to be carried out as an integral part of the plan making process. **Table 2.1** overleaf sets out the main stages of the plan making process and shows how these correspond to the SA process.

Table 2.1 Corresponding stages in plan-making and SA

Local Plan	SA
Step 1: Evidence Gathering and engagement	**Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope** 1: Reviewing other relevant policies, plans and programmes 2: Collecting baseline information 3: Identifying sustainability issues 4: Developing the SA Framework 5: Consulting on the scope and level of detail of the SA
Step 2: Production	**Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects** 1: Testing the Plan objectives against the SA Framework 2: Developing the Plan options 3: Evaluating the effects of the Plan 4: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects 5: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plans **Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report** 1: Preparing the SA Report **Stage D: Seek representations on the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report** 1: Public participation on Plan and the SA Report 2(i): Appraising significant changes
Step 3: Examination	2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
Step 4 & 5: Adoption and Monitoring	3: Making decisions and providing information **Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan** 1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring 2: Responding to adverse effects

2.2 The sections below describe the approach that has been taken to the SA of the PDNPA Local Plan.

SA Stage A: Scoping

2.3 The Scoping stage of SA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area (in this case the Peak District National Park) as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues and using these to inform the appraisal framework as follows.

Review other relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes to establish policy context

2.4 A Local Plan is not prepared in isolation; rather it is prepared within the context of other policies, plans and programmes. The SEA Regulations require the Environmental Report to describe the relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes. It should also be consistent with environmental protection legislation and support the attainment of sustainability objectives that have been established at the international, national, and regional/sub-regional levels.

2.5 A review was therefore undertaken of other policies, plans, and programmes at the international, national, regional and sub-regional levels that were considered to be relevant to the scope of the PDNPA Local Plan. This review was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report (February 2024) and has been revised and updated as part of the preparation of the SA reports produced since then. The latest version is presented in full in **Appendix B** and is summarised in **Chapter 3**.

Collect Baseline Information to establish sustainability context

2.6 Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the SA and monitored during the plan's implementation.

2.7 Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the plan.

2.8 The SEA Regulations require the Environmental Report to describe relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and how they are likely to evolve without the plan. An understanding of this likely future, together with the assessed effects of the plan itself, allows the SA to report on the likely cumulative effects of the plan, which is another requirement of the SEA Regulations.

2.9 The SEA Regulations require an assessment of effects in relation to the following 'SEA topics': biodiversity, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape, and the inter-relationship between these. Baseline information was therefore collected and presented in the Scoping Report in relation to these SEA topics as well as additional sustainability topics covering broader socio-economic issues such as housing, access to services, crime and safety, education and employment. This reflects the integrated approach that is being taken to the SA and SEA processes. As part of the preparation of the Issues and Options and Preferred Approach SA Reports, the baseline information for the Peak District National Park was reviewed and updated, and it has again been reviewed and updated as part of the preparation of this report. The updated baseline information is presented in **Appendix C**.

Identify Key Sustainability Issues

2.10 The baseline information allows for the identification of existing sustainability issues, including problems as required by the SEA Regulations.

2.11 Key sustainability issues facing the Peak District National Park and an analysis of their likely evolution without the Local Plan are detailed in **Chapter 3**. The key sustainability issues were originally identified in the SA Scoping Report and have been kept under review since then, in light of the updated policy review and baseline information.

Develop the SA Framework

2.12 The relevant sustainability objectives identified through the review of other policies, plans, and programmes, together with the key sustainability issues facing the National Park identified by the collection and review of baseline information, helped to inform the development of a set of sustainability objectives (the 'SA framework') against which the effects of the Local Plan would be assessed.

2.13 Development of the SA framework is not a requirement of the SEA Regulations but is a recognised way in which the likely sustainability effects of a plan can be transparently and consistently described, analysed and compared. The SA framework comprises a series of sustainability objectives and supporting criteria that are used to guide the appraisal of options and policies within a plan.

2.14 The SA framework for the PDNPA Local Plan is presented in **Chapter 3**. The SA objectives reflect the analysis of international, national and local policy objectives, the baseline information and the key sustainability issues identified for the National Park. The SA framework was originally presented in the Scoping Report and a number of amendments were made prior to the SA of the Issues and Options Local Plan, partly as a result of consultation comments received (see **Appendix A**) and partly as a result of a review of the Scoping Report carried out by LUC after being commissioned to carry out that stage of the SA. A specific SA objective addressing health was added to the SA

framework and other objectives and sub-objectives were amended and reordered. No further changes have been made to the SA framework since the Issues and Options stage of plan-making.

Consult on the scope and level of detail of the SA

2.15 Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the SA Report is robust and has due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development.

2.16 The SEA Regulations require the statutory consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England) to be consulted "when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included" in the SA Report. The scope and level of detail of the SA is governed by the SA framework. The consultation undertaken on the Scoping Report has therefore incorporated consultation with the statutory consultees on the SA framework. This consultation on the SA Scoping Report was undertaken between August and October 2023.

2.17 **Appendix A** lists the comments that were received on the scope of the SA during this period of consultation and describes how each one was addressed in the preparation of the Issues and Options SA report. These amendments have been carried through into the subsequent SA reports where they remain relevant.

SA Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

2.18 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.

2.19 In relation to the SA report, Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12 (2) requires that:

> *"The report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—*
>
> *(a) implementing the plan or programme; and*
>
> *(b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme."*

2.20 Schedule 2 (h) of the SEA Regulations requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of:

> *"(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with."*

2.21 The SEA Regulations require that the alternative policies considered for inclusion in a plan that must be subject to SA are 'reasonable', therefore alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples of unreasonable alternatives could include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)).

2.22 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified by the SA for each option, such that it is not possible to rank them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.

Issues and Options (Regulation 18A)

2.23 The Peak District National Park Authority identified and considered a range of policy options within the 2024 Issues and Options Consultation Document. Some of these were not of a format appropriate for SA, for example because they comprised open ended consultation questions. A total of 28 policy options of a format suitable for appraisal were presented in the Issues and Options Consultation Document and were appraised in the Issues and Options SA report. Those options fell under the following themes:

- Spatial Strategy
- Climate Change and Sustainable Building
- Housing
- Travel and Transport
- Utilities
- Minerals and Waste

2.24 The appraisal of the policy options undertaken in 2024 can be found in Chapter 4 of this SA report. At this stage of plan-making, no development site options were identified or appraised. This remains the case at the current plan-making stage.

Preferred Approach (Regulation 18B)

2.25 Building on the first Regulation 18 consultation, a second Regulation 18 consultation was undertaken between November and December 2025. The Preferred Approach Consultation Document set out 71 draft policies and 26 draft policy directions. These were developed from the initial

options, and no further options were subject to SA at that stage.

Quantum Options

2.26 Following consultation on the Preferred Approach, PDNPA identified a number of alternative options for the amount of housing to be delivered, which were subject to SA in April 2026 and the findings reported to PDNPA in an internal summary note, so that the appraisal could be taken into account when preparing the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

2.27 The five options are:

- Option 1: Standard Method Housing Figure – 270-362 dwellings per annum (dpa)
- Option 2: Affordable Housing Need (prescribed methodology) – 99-125 dpa
- Option 3: Locally derived housing need figure (medium population increase by around 4,247 during plan period) – 95 dpa
- Option 4: Locally derived housing need figure (low population increase by around 1,1731 during plan period) – 48 dpa
- Option 5: Locally derived housing need figure (maintain stable population around 35,897 during plan period) – 16 dpa

2.28 The appraisal of the five options undertaken in April 2026 can be found in Chapter 4 of this SA Report.

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

2.29 This SA Report describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the new PDNPA Local Plan and sets out the SA findings for the Regulation 19 Local Plan. Likely significant effects, both positive and negative, have been considered, taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects where relevant.

2.30 The SA findings for the Regulation 19 Local Plan are set out in **Chapters 5 and 6** of this SA Report, along with recommendations for improvements and clarifications that may help to mitigate negative effects and maximise the benefits of the PDNPA Local Plan.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Local Plan and the SA Report

2.31 PDNPA is inviting comments on the Regulation 19 Local Plan between 27 July 2026 and 18 September 2026. This SA Report is being published on PDNPA's website at the same time as the consultation on the Pre- Submission Local Plan so that the two documents can be read in parallel. Consultation comments received on this SA Report will be taken into account before the Local Plan is submitted for Examination.

SA Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the Local Plan

2.32 Recommendations for monitoring the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the new Local Plan are included in **Chapter 7** of this SA Report.

Appraisal Methodology

2.33 The policies in the Regulation 19 Local Plan and their reasonable alternatives have been appraised against the SA objectives in the SA framework (see **Chapter 3**), with symbols being attributed to each option to indicate their likely effects on each SA objective as shown in **Table 2.2**. Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant symbol (e.g. +? or -?) and the symbol was colour coded in line with the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (e.g. green, yellow, orange, etc.).

2.34 The likely effects of options need to be determined, and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. The appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown in **Table 2.2**. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option or policy on the SA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

Table 2.2 Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA

Symbol and colour coding	Type of effect
++	Significant positive effect.
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects.
+	Minor positive effect.
+/-	Mixed minor positive and minor negative effect.
--/++	Mixed significant positive and significant negative effect.
-	Minor negative effect.

Symbol and colour coding	Type of effect
--/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects.
--	Significant negative effect.
0	Negligible effect.
?	Uncertain effect.

Difficulties and Data Limitations

2.35 The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(8) require the Environmental Report to include:

> *"…a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information."*

2.36 The high-level nature of many of the options in the Issues and Options document meant that, at that early stage in the SA process, it was difficult to appraise their likely effects in detail or draw distinct differences between some of the options in relation to many of the SA objectives. Therefore, the appraisal of the options at this stage was undertaken on a narrative basis, rather than attempting to identify specific effects for every option against all SA objectives. The narrative appraisal focussed on identifying the key differences between the options. At the current stage of plan-making, now that policies have been worked up in full, a more detailed appraisal against each SA objective has been able to be undertaken.

Chapter 3
Sustainability Context

3.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires information on the following (numbering relates to the specific numbered list in Schedule 2):

> **1.** *"an outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan and its relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"*, and
>
> **5.** *"the environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"*.

3.2 An outline of the Regulation 19 Local Plan was provided in **Chapter 1**. The other reporting requirements are met in this chapter.

Relationship with Other Relevant Plans or Programmes

3.3 The PDNPA Local Plan will not be prepared in isolation and must be in conformity with a range of international and national plans and programmes as shown below in **Figure 3.1**[5]. The emerging Local Plan will replace the existing Core Strategy (Adopted October 2011) and the Development Management Policies Document (Adopted May 2019). The Local Plan will be supported by other documents, such as a Statement of Community Involvement, a Local Development Scheme, an Annual Monitoring Report and Supplementary Planning Documents.

[5] It should be noted that Figure 3.1 illustrates the context for and content of a typical Local Plan and therefore includes reference to 'strategic allocations', which are not relevant in the National Park context.

Figure 3.1 Relationship between the PDNPA Local Plan and other relevant plans or programmes

Policy Context

The policy context in which the PDNPA Local Plan is being prepared informs considerations of what constitute reasonable alternative policy options for that document as well as the framework of sustainability objectives against which it will be appraised.

International

3.4 Former EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') were transposed into the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations[6] and Habitats Regulations[7]. Following the UK's departure from the EU, these Regulations still apply and require environmental assessment processes to be undertaken in relation to the PDNPA Local Plan. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.

3.5 There were also a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality. Since the UK has now left the EU these EU Directives no longer have direct effect in the UK but most of them were transposed into UK law through Acts, Regulations and national-level policy that is still extant. The relevant Regulations are outlined in **Appendix B**.

National

3.6 There is an extensive range of national policies, places and programmes that are of relevance to the emerging PDNPA Local Plan and the SA process. A pragmatic and proportionate approach has been taken with regards to the identification of key national policies, plans and programmes, focusing on those that are of most relevance. Key legislation which sets the context for planning in the National Park is summarised below, along with a summary of the main objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) of relevance to the Local Plan and the SA. In addition, the sustainability objectives of other national plans and programmes which are of most relevance to the PDNPA Local Plan and the SA are summarised in **Appendix B**.

National Parks and Countryside Act 1949

3.7 The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 established the legal framework for England and Wales's 13 National Parks. The Act established National Parks to conserve and enhance their natural beauty and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Environment Act 1995

3.8 The Environment Act 1995 set out in law the two purposes of National Parks:

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

3.9 If there is any conflict between the purposes, it is specified that greater weight should be attached to the first. The Act also places the duty on National Park Authorities to seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of these purposes.

Environment Act 2021

3.10 The Environment Act 2021 is a UK law that aims to improve environmental protection and governance. The Act has two main functions: to give a legal framework for environmental governance in the UK and to bring in measures for improvement of the environment in relation to nature and biodiversity and conservation among other things. The Act sets clear targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water and waste and includes an important target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030.

Levelling-up and Regeneration Act

3.11 Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 ('the LURA') sets out a strengthened statutory duty on Relevant Authorities, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in protected landscapes in England, to seek to further the purpose(s) of designation of the protected landscape (the 'seek to further' duty). The duty is intended to facilitate better outcomes for England's Protected Landscapes, which are in line with their statutory purposes.

[6] The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1633) as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1531)

[7] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI No. 2017/1012), as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/579). TSO (The Stationery Office), London.

The 25 Year Environment Plan

3.12 The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) sets out the country's vision to help protect the natural world and improve human health. The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 (the first revision of the 25YEP) reinforced the intent of the 25YEP and set out the plan on how to improve nature through ten environmental goals. On 31 January 2024, Defra published the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)[8], which defines how Protected Landscapes (National Parks and National Landscapes) should contribute to three of the goals outlined in the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023:

- Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife
- Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural landscape

3.13 Protected Landscape Partnerships will need to embed targets for their Protected Landscape area in their future Management Plans. Where possible, data supplied as part of the PLTOF has been incorporated into this SA report.

The Landscapes (Glover) Review

3.14 The Landscapes (Glover) Review from 2019 is also an important document for National Parks as it pushed for changes to the legislative framework of Protected Landscapes, their role in environmental land management schemes and the planning system. The main proposal was to bring National Parks and National Landscapes together as part of a shared National Landscapes Service (NLS).

The National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

3.15 The NPPF is the overarching planning framework that provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England. The NPPF was originally published in March 2012 and has been revised several times since then, with the most recent update being December 2024 (some minor updates were made in February 2025). The updated NPPF contains some changes to mandatory housing targets, emphasises the use of 'grey belt' land and promotes renewable energy through acknowledgment of net-zero targets. At the time of writing, consultation has recently ended on an amended version of the NPPF, with the final version likely to be published in Summer 2026. As such, the 2024 NPPF is valid until then.

3.16 The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which states:

> *"Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for meeting housing needs and addressing other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings."*

3.17 The PPG provides guidance for how the Government's planning policies for England are expected to be applied. Sitting alongside the NPPF, it provides an online resource that is updated on a regular basis for the benefit of planning practitioners.

3.18 The overarching nature of the NPPF means that its implications for the SA relate to multiple topics which this report seeks to address. Considering the importance of the NPPF to the English planning system, the relevance of the Framework and its implications for the plan making process and the SA is provided in more detail below.

3.19 Climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and waste minimisation measures for new development including through the promotion of renewable energy schemes are also supported through the NPPF. One of the core planning principles is to *"support the transition to net zero by 2050 and take full account of all climate impacts including overheating, water scarcity, storm and flood risks and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure"*. Furthermore, local planning authorities should adopt a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating and drought from rising temperatures.

3.20 Although Local Plans can no longer set requirements for house building in the context of the Code for Sustainable Homes, they can promote the Home Quality Mark to support residents in understanding the quality and performance of new build homes and can also set targets for developers to provide for a given percentage of energy used by a new development to come from on-site renewable or low carbon technologies. Local Plan policies can further support the development of

[8] Defra (2024) Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework

renewable energy technologies where appropriate, in line with climate change mitigation strategies and targets.

3.21 The SA can consider the contribution the alternatives make in terms of contribution to climate change mitigation as well as climate change adaptation.

3.22 In relation to **health and wellbeing**, healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social integration, are safe and accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles are supported through the Framework.

3.23 One of the core planning principles is to *"take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community"*. It is identified in the document that *"access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities".* Furthermore, the retention and enhancement of local services and community facilities in rural areas, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship is supported. Importantly, Local Plans should also *"contain policies to optimise the use of land in their area and meet as much of the identified need for housing as possible"*.

3.24 The PDNPA Local Plan can have a significant influence on addressing inequalities including those relating to health and will need to consider the appropriate siting of any new development in relation to services and facilities (noting, however, that it is unlikely that the Local Plan will allocate specific sites for development). The Local Plan can ensure that any new development is located in areas which can improve accessibility for existing as well as new residents and ensure that future development does not exacerbate existing inequalities. The SA process can support the development of policy approaches that cumulatively improve the wellbeing of local communities.

3.25 The NPPF sets out the approach Local Plans should have in relation to **biodiversity**, stating that Plans should *Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation"*. Plans should also promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity. A strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure is to be supported through planning policies.

3.26 Paragraph 189 states that conservation and enhancement of wildlife is an important consideration and should be given great weight in National Parks.

3.27 The Local Plan, through its review of the spatial strategy, should seek to appropriately address any opportunities arising for local economies, communities and health as well as biodiversity, within the context of the National Park purposes and duty. This should be inclusive of approaches which are supportive of enhancing the connectivity of green infrastructure and promoting the achievement of biodiversity net gain. The SA process should support the identification and maximisation of potential benefits through the consideration of alternatives and assessment of both negative and positive significant effects.

3.28 In relation to **landscape**, the NPPF sets the planning principles of recognising the intrinsic beauty and character of the countryside as well as protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. Paragraph 189 states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. In National Parks, the scale and extent of development should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts.

3.29 The Local Plan should establish an approach to development which would protect character and quality of the National Park's unique and special landscapes in accordance with the National Park purposes. The SA should identify those alternatives which contribute positively to landscape character.

3.30 The NPPF states that in relation to the **historic environment** plans should *"set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats"*. Where appropriate, plans should seek to sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets and local character and distinctiveness, while viable uses of assets should be considered.

3.31 Paragraph 189 states that conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage is an important consideration and should be given great weight in National Parks.

3.32 Plans should consider the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring. They should also consider the contribution the historic environment can make to the character of a place. The Framework places a focus on making 'beautiful' and 'sustainable' places. The use of plans, design policy, guidance and codes are encouraged. The SA provides an opportunity to test alternatives in terms of the contribution they can make to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment.

3.33 The Local Plan can take forward a spatial strategy which helps to limit adverse impacts on designated and non-designated heritage assets, including any potential archaeological finds in line with heritage protection and enhancement plans. The SA has a role to play by identifying which alternatives could offer opportunities to secure the protection and enhancement of assets as well as those which might have significant impacts in terms of their appropriate use and setting, noting that it is unlikely that the new Local Plan will allocate specific sites for development.

3.34 The NPPF states that new and existing development should be prevented from contributing to, being put at an unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, pollutions including **water pollution and air quality**. Inappropriate development in areas at risk of **flooding** should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply. Furthermore, policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient infrastructure provision for water supply and wastewater.

3.35 The Local Plan presents an opportunity to consider incorporating appropriate targets for water efficiency and the level of water consumption and grey water recycling in any new development. The Local Plan also can ensure that any new development is sited away from areas of high flood probability and that appropriate water drainage is in place in line with flood risk strategies, although this will depend to some extent on whether site allocations are made in the new Local Plan. The SA process should seek to identify and address potential negative effects on the water environment, including implications relating to wastewater.

3.36 The NPPF states that planning system should protect and enhance **soils** in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or quality, while also encouraging the reuse of **previously developed land**.

3.37 Plans can seek to ensure the appropriate protection of soil quality, including best and most versatile agricultural land. Further to this, plans should ensure that new development does not conflict with current mineral operations as well as long-term mineral resource plans. The SA process could inform the development of the PDNPA Local Plan by helping to identify alternatives which would avoid the areas of highest soil quality and best and most versatile agricultural land (recognising that these assets are limited in the National Park), as well as those which would promote the use of brownfield land. However, the extent to which the PDNPA Local Plan can do this will depend on whether the Plan will include specific development site allocations which it currently does not.

3.38 The Framework sets out that in order to support a **prosperous rural economy**, planning policies should enable the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of businesses in rural areas through both the conversion of existing buildings and well-designed, new buildings. Policies should also enable the development and diversification of agriculture and other land-based rural businesses, as well as sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside. Policies should also retain and develop accessible local services and community facilities such as shops, meeting places, sports venues, open spaces, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

3.39 Local planning authorities should incorporate planning policies which *"support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation"*. Local Plans are required to "*set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to the national industrial strategy and any relevant Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration".*

3.40 The Local Plan should seek to achieve sustainable growth within the rural context. Ensuring that local town centres and services and facilities at settlements in the plan area are maintained and enhanced is also important and will provide support for local communities. The SA process can support the development of the Local Plan to ensure that its policies are considerate of impacts on the economy in the National Park. The process can also be used to demonstrate that impacts on the viability of town centres have been considered.

3.41 The NPPF encourages local planning authorities to consider **transport** issues from the earliest stages of plan making so that: the local communities are engaged early, ensure patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued; the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified and assessed; and opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure and changing transport technology and usage are realised. The framework also states that the planning system should actively manage growth patterns in support of these objectives.

3.42 Any growth will inevitably increase traffic on the roads which also has implications for air quality, and the Local Plan and SA process can seek to minimise effects of this nature through an appropriate spatial strategy, identifying where mitigation may be needed and requiring the necessary transport provisions and contributions from any new development. The PDNPA Local Plan, as supported by the SA, should seek to identify opportunities to maximise the

potential for alternative modes of transport to the car and reduce the need to travel, therefore reducing emissions, through the consideration of alternatives and assessment of significant effects.

Other National Policies, Plans and Programmes

3.43 Numerous other policies, plans and programmes at the national level are of relevance to preparation of the Local Plan and the SA. Unlike the NPPF, most of the documents focus on a specific topic area which the SA will consider. There will be some overlap between SA topics covered by these plans and programmes where those documents contain more overarching objectives. However, the plans and programmes considered to be of most relevance for the SA have been grouped by the topics they most directly seek to address, and green boxes below each topic heading summarise the implications of the national PPPs (including the NPPF) for the Local Plan and SA.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, Energy Efficiency and Waste Minimisation

3.44 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- The Future Homes and Buildings Standards (2026).
- The Onshore Wind Strategy (2025).
- The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (2025).
- The UK National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2025).
- National Framework for Water Resources 2025: Water for Growth, Nature and a Resilient Future (2025).
- State of the UK Climate in 2024 (2025).
- The Third National Adaptation Programme and the Fourth strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2024).
- Green Infrastructure Framework (2023).
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (2023).
- Energy Act (2023).
- Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (2023).
- Powering up Britain (2023).
- The Environment Improvement Plan (2023).
- British Energy Security Strategy (2022).
- The Environment Act 2021.
- The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021).
- The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (2021).
- The Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021).
- The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021).
- Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2021.
- The Energy White Paper: Powering our net zero future (2020).
- Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020).
- Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Policy Statement (2020).
- The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020).
- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and The Flood and Water Regulations 2019.
- The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2018).
- Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018).
- UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017.
- The Clean Growth Strategy (2017).
- National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014).
- Waste Management Plan for England (2013).
- The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (2012).
- The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009).
- The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009).
- Climate Change Act 2008.
- Planning and Energy Act (2008).
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

Implications for the Peak District National Park Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan should consider setting out policies to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation while also encouraging development which would help to minimise carbon emissions, insofar as this is appropriate in the National Park. This can be done through encouraging any new development to be sited in areas where sustainable transport patterns can be best achieved and encouraging development to make use of more sustainable sources of energy. Depending on the introduction of requirements for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to be mandatory, it may be appropriate for the Local Plan to contain policies relating to SuDS and to ensure that surface water is discharged as high up the drainage hierarchy as possible. Policies should also be included to promote the handling of waste in line with the waste hierarchy. The SA can test policy options

in relation to the contributions they make towards these aims.

Health and Wellbeing

3.45 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy (2025).
- Plan for Change (2024).
- Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2024).
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (2023).
- Homes England Strategic Plan 2023 to 2028 (2023).
- Green Infrastructure Framework (2023).
- White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom (2022).
- A fairer private rented sector White Paper (2022).
- National Design Guide (2021).
- Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021).
- COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan (2021).
- Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020) Addendum (2021).
- The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020).
- Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25.
- Homes England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023.
- The Housing White Paper 2017 (Fixing our broken housing market).
- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015).
- Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standard (2015).
- Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Report Ready for Ageing? (2013).
- Laying the foundations: housing strategy for England (2011).
- Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2010).
- Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England (2010).
- Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.

Implications for the Peak District National Park Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan needs to consider the need for infrastructure as this has a significant impact on the environment and it should be prepared to ensure that the population has access to sustainable low carbon infrastructure and services and facilities and that there is sufficient capacity within them to serve any changes in the demographic of the population. This should include healthcare, education and open space. Any new development should be located in areas where facilities are most accessible, issues of overcapacity would be less likely to result, and active modes of travel might be promoted (although it is noted that at this stage, there is uncertainty regarding whether development site allocations may form part of the Local Plan). Policies included in the Local Plan can also help to facilitate the supply of healthy local food. The provision of an appropriate level of housing, particularly affordable housing, to meet local needs over the plan period will help address issues of access to decent housing in the plan area. The provision of new housing should be considerate of local needs with regards to housing size, tenure and type, including the needs of Travellers and other groups including the elderly and disabled. In line with the National Parks Circular, while the focus should be on affordable housing, consideration should also be given to housing to support local employment opportunities and key services.

Policy options considered for the Local Plan can be tested through the SA in relation to the contributions they make towards these aims. The SA should also appraise the contribution the development strategy can make to health and wellbeing. This should be considered in relation to the ability to support the delivery of new infrastructure and facilities which might benefit public health, as well as accessibility to existing infrastructure and facilities of this nature. The capacity of existing facilities may also need to be considered. Consideration should also be given to the strategy's ability to deliver the required affordable homes.

Environment (biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape and soils)

3.46 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- The UK National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2025).
- The Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 (2024).
- The Environment Improvement Plan (2023).
- Green Infrastructure Framework (2023).
- Working with Nature (2022).
- Nature Recovery Network (2022).
- Establishing the Best Available Techniques for the UK (UK BAT) (2022).

- The Environment Act (2021).
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018).
- Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013).
- Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011).
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2010.
- Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009).
- England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008).
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Implications for the Peak District National Park Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan should be prepared to limit the potential for adverse impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity as well as the National Park's landscape and higher value soils. The plan area contains a number of important biodiversity sites which will need to be protected through planning policy. The plan should also take into account non-designated habitats which form part of wider ecological networks. The plan also presents opportunities to promote the achievement of net gain in biodiversity. Measures may include the incorporation of new green-blue corridors, to support the passing of wildlife and water through any new developments and will also help to reduce higher rates of surface water runoff. These aims may be supported through the appropriate update of the spatial strategy. It can also be used to encourage the re-use of brownfield land. Benefits may be achieved by directing development to less sensitive locations, albeit at this stage there is uncertainty regarding whether the Local Plan will allocate sites for development. Updated planning policy can also be used to achieve habitat connectivity through the provision of new green and blue infrastructure. It will be the role of the SA to test the policy options in terms of the effect they will have on biodiversity sites and habitats as well as valued landscapes. The effects of these options in relation to promoting the development of brownfield land and limiting the loss of valuable agricultural soils should also be appraised.

Historic Environment

3.47 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Historic England Corporate Plan 2023-26.
- Heritage Statement 2017.
- Sustainability Appraisal and Strategy Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016).
- Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010.
- Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953.

Implications for the Peak District National Park Local Plan and SA

The potential impact of any new development on the historic environment, including local character as well as designated and non-designated heritage assets and their respective settings, should inform the preparation of the Local Plan. Particular regard may be given to protecting heritage assets which have been identified as being 'at risk' (both at the national and local level). The update of the spatial strategy should be considered in relation to its potential impacts in relation to these issues.

The SA should appraise options for the Local Plan in terms of the potential for effects on the historic environment.

Waste and Air

3.48 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- National Framework for Water Resources 2025: water for growth, nature and a resilient future (2025).
- The Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 (2024).
- The Air Quality Strategy for England (2023).
- The Waste Prevention Programme for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste (2023).
- Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water (2023).
- Environment Act (2021).
- National Chalk Streams Strategy Chalk Stream Strategy (2021).
- Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources (2020).
- The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.
- Clean Air Strategy 2019.
- Environmental Noise Regulations (2018).

- Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018.
- Water Environment Regulations 2017.
- UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017).
- Managing Water Abstraction (2016).
- Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016.
- Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2016.
- Air Quality Standards Regulations 2016.
- Water White Paper (2012).
- National Policy Statement for Waste Water (2012).
- Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (2008).
- Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007).
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (2003).
- Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Implications for the Peak District National Park Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan should consider setting out policies to promote the efficient use of water and limit all types of pollution including water pollution. It should also seek to limit pressure on the wastewater treatment (WwT) infrastructure and water supply. Options for the spatial strategy should take account of areas which have highest sensitivity in relation to these issues, including Source Protection Zones (SPZ) and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). To limit the potential for air quality issues to be intensified as any development is delivered over the plan period the Local Plan should also factor in the contribution development options can make to achieving modal shift amongst residents and visitors and limiting the need for residents to travel.

The contribution that policy options can make to achieving these aims can be tested through the SA. Options can be considered in relation to particular sensitivities of the WwT infrastructure and other identified areas (such as SPZs and AQMAs).

Economic Growth

3.49 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy (2025).
- Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2024).
- National Design Guide (2021).
- The Growth Plan 2022.
- Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021).
- Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024.
- Agriculture Act 2020.
- UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2018).
- LEP Network response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017).
- National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021.

Implications for the Peak District National Park Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan should set out policies to support the rural economy within the National Park, reflecting the duty placed on the NPA to foster the economic well-being of local communities while pursuing the National Park purposes. This should include support for sustainable and accessible employment opportunities. Policies to support the level of infrastructure required for the economy to function successfully should also be set out. Policies should be supportive of appropriate economic growth that is located to enable local people to be able to access the new employment opportunities. Local Plan policies may also seek to promote the viability of town and local centres.

The SA can test options in relation to the contribution they can make to achieving these aims.

Transport

3.50 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Future of Transport: Supporting Rural Transport Innovation (2023).
- Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2023).
- Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy Report to Parliament (2022).
- Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021).
- Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020).
- The Road to Zero (2018).
- Transport Investment Strategy (2017).
- Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017).
- Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (2013).

Implications for the Peak District National Park Local Plan and SA

The potential for reducing the need to travel, limiting congestion and associated benefits for air quality and climate change as well as public health should inform the preparation of the policies for the Local Plan. The Local Plan can also be supportive of more sustainable modes of transport. Furthermore, the selection of options for the updated spatial strategy should be informed by issues such as the potential for access to new and existing public transport nodes and active transport routes and specific highways capacity issues. The selection of options should also be informed by the proximity of any new development to essential services and facilities which is likely to influence the need for residents to regularly travel long distances.

The SA should be used to test options in terms of the contribution they can make to making transport choices more sustainable in the National Park. This includes the contribution they make to the uptake of more sustainable transport options such as walking and cycling and public transport by both residents and visitors.

Sub-National

3.51 Below the national level there are further plans and programmes which are of relevance to the Local Plan and the SA process. These plans and programmes sit mostly at the sub-regional, county and district levels. Details of those plans and programmes which are of most relevance at this level are provided in **Appendix B**.

Surrounding Development Plans

3.52 Development in the Peak District National Park will not be delivered in isolation from those areas around it. Given the interconnection between the Peak District National Park and the surrounding areas there is potential for cross-boundary and in-combination effects where development is proposed through development plans in neighbouring authorities. As such, a summary of the Local Plans for the following local authority areas which surround the National Park is also provided in **Appendix B**:

- Sheffield Development Framework Core Strategy (2009)
- North East Derbyshire Local Plan 2014 – 2034 (2021)
- Derbyshire Dales Local Plan (2017)
- Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan 2014 – 2033 (2020)
- East Staffordshire Local Plan 2012 – 2031 (2015)
- Stockport Core Strategy DPD (2011) and saved policies of the Stockport Unitary Development Plan Review (2006)
- Chesire East Local Plan (2017) and the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (2022)
- High Peak Local Plan (2016)
- Tameside Unitary Development Plan (2004)
- Oldham Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2011)
- The Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document (2024)
- Kirklees Local Plan (2019)
- Barnsley Local Plan (2019)

Baseline Information

3.53 Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the Local Plan and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes. Baseline data must be relevant to environmental, social and economic issues, be sensitive to change and should ideally relate to records that are sufficient to identify trends.

3.54 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires that the Environmental Report includes descriptions of:

"(2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

(3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected."

3.55 Schedule 2(6) of the SEA Regulations requires the likely significant effects of the plan on the environment to be assessed in relation to: biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and the inter-relationship between these. As an integrated SA and SEA is being carried out, baseline information relating to other 'sustainability' topics has also been included, for example, information about housing, social inclusiveness, transport, energy, waste and economic growth.

3.56 Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the SA and monitored during the plan's implementation. Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the Local Plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the local plan.

3.57 The baseline information for the Peak District National Park is presented in **Appendix C**.

Key Sustainability Issues

3.58 Key sustainability issues for Peak District National Park were originally identified in the SA Scoping Report (February 2024). These issues were reviewed in light of the Scoping consultation responses received and the updated baseline information and are summarised in **Table 3.1**.

3.59 It is also a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Peak District National Park) if the new Local Plan was not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in the final column of **Table 3.1** in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

3.60 The information in **Table 3.1** below shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting the plan area would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the new Local Plan, although the policies in the adopted development plan would still go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the new Local Plan offers opportunities to directly and strongly affect existing trends in a positive way, through an up-to-date plan which reflects the requirements of the NPPF.

Table 3.1 Key Sustainability Issues for the Peak District National Park

Topic	Key Sustainability Issue	Likely Evolution of the Issue without the Local Plan
Population, Health and Wellbeing	The cost of housing is a big issue for local people as house prices are out of reach for many. There is also an under delivery of affordable housing and the threat of existing houses becoming holiday homes which impacts thriving and sustainable communities and removes rental properties from the market. There is a need for a mix of housing types that cater for the needs of a range of people. Declining and ageing populations is resulting in changes to the demographic make-up of communities and the loss of vital facilities in the National Park, particularly with the increase in online shopping following the COVID-19 pandemic. Rural isolation, market conditions and small populations may result in the loss of vital services that keep village communities alive. The effects of prolonged exposure to radon from underlying rock strata could increase the risks of lung cancer on the population. There remain deficiencies in quality and quantity of formal open space provision within the National Park.	The required affordable housing is less likely to be delivered and/or be delivered in less sustainable locations. The required mix of housing is less likely to be delivered. Continued population decline will affect the viability of some services, while at the same time demographic change will place additional demand on certain services and facilities, particularly in relation to health. The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to manage these pressures.
Crime and Safety	Maintaining the relatively low level of crime in the National Park.	The new Local Plan is unlikely to directly affect levels of crime but providing guidance for development to be well designed, generate jobs, affordable housing and community facilities may help address some of the causes of crime.
Tourism and Recreation	Managing tourism sustainably and in accordance with the National Park purposes, whereby it contributes to the local economy in a manner that conserves and enhances the landscape. Improve opportunities for young people and those underrepresented in the National Park.	The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to build a land use strategy that is sufficiently flexible to respond to economic uncertainties. In the absence of the Plan, it is less likely that issues associated with recreation and tourism can be managed in a way that reconciles the need to support opportunities to enjoy the National Park (the second National Park

Topic	Key Sustainability Issue	Likely Evolution of the Issue without the Local Plan
		purpose) with landscape conservation (the first purpose).
Right of Way and Open Access	Ensuring the continued management and promotion of a high quality rights of way network.	The new Local Plan can help support and manage the Public Rights of Way network.
Economy and Rural Deprivation	The National Park has a very low business density and a lack of high paying jobs which can be a barrier to working age people living within the National Park. Economic difficulties in the agricultural industry due to all of the land in the National Park being classed as a 'Less Favoured Area' for farming.	The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to build a land use strategy that is sufficiently flexible to respond to economic uncertainties. In the absence of the Plan, it is less likely that this issue will be effectively addressed and the economy may not be as effectively strengthened and grown.
Education	Schools within the National Park will require support to ensure that they remain viable.	The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to plan any housing development so as to support the viability of existing schools, for example by locating family-sized housing within proximity of settlements containing existing schools.
Transport	There is a lack of a robust and affordable public transportation in the Peak District, meaning that access to and within the National Park remains heavily car-based. In addition, cross-park traffic along key routes through the National Park including the A628 and A57 is an issue.	The new Local Plan could help support an increasing shift towards the use of sustainable modes of travel (by both visitors and residents) by ensuring development and regeneration schemes are supported by sustainable infrastructure and that amenities, services and jobs are located within a reasonable walking and cycling distance. In the absence of the Plan, it is more likely that there would be a continued focus on car use, although it is likely that changes in technology would mean more electric cars are in use even without the Plan.
Natural Resources and Pollution	Variations in the extraction capacity at the remaining quarries in the National Park. While most of the remaining quarries in the National Park have permissions to continue operation until around 2040 the reserves may be exhausted before this date. At other sites, the reserve will exceed the volume that can be extracted in the period available and operators may seek planning permission to continue to extract the remaining reserves. New development and farming practices must manage threats to water quality which release chemicals that are harmful to wildlife, especially within the Wye Valley part of the Peak District Special Area of Conservation that is exceeding nutrient targets. Increased carbon emissions resulting from sources including cement production and continued growth in traffic across the National Park.	The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to protect natural assets through appropriate development management policies and, if any site allocations are made in the Local Plan, by assessing site options in relation to their impacts on natural assets to inform site selection. The new Local Plan has the potential to secure long term sustainable development, which will be essential in ensuring that all new development implements water efficiency standards. The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to develop up to date policies specifically seeking to protect and enhance soils, insofar as this is within the scope of the plan. In the absence of the new Plan, these issues would be addressed to some degree during the development management process and by relying on national policy. However, they would be less effectively addressed compared to

Topic	Key Sustainability Issue	Likely Evolution of the Issue without the Local Plan
	Intensification of agriculture has had a negative impact on soil health (as well as wider impacts on the character of farmsteads). Upgrades to the Hope Valley train line may result in additional passenger trains and noise as a result. Residential development may result in increased light pollution. Unauthorised waste continues to be a problem if not targeted and enforced against.	having up to date and locally specific policies set out in the new Plan. Air quality may be addressed to some extent even in the absence of the new Plan through technological developments and an increase in the use of electric vehicles.
Biodiversity	There is a risk of the National Park's sensitive biodiversity sites being harmed by climate change, inappropriate development, increased human activity and increased urbanisation impacts. The habitats of the National Park vary from moderately vulnerable to highly vulnerable to climate change, with blanket bog being very highly vulnerable.	The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to manage development pressures on these sites, and to evaluate the condition of the habitats and employ measures to ensure that future growth in the National Park does not adversely affect their current condition but where possible contributes to their restoration and enhancement, including by increasing connections between biodiversity sites. In the absence of the Plan the risks facing local biodiversity assets are likely to continue and be less effectively addressed although these risks should still be addressed to some extent through the development management process.
Historic Environment	Balancing development pressures with the need to protect and conserve the historic environment in accordance with the National Park purposes.	The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to conserve and enhance the historic environment as well as improve the accessibility and interpretation of it. It can also provide a positive strategy for the historic environment which recognises the value heritage (both designated and non-designated) brings to the local economy and community. In the absence of the new Local Plan the risks facing heritage assets are likely to continue and be less effectively addressed although these risks should still be addressed to some extent through the development management process.
Landscape	Each landscape type within the Park is highly vulnerable to climate change and inappropriate development.	The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to ensure that sensitive landscapes are protected and enhanced as appropriate, and that development is designed to take account of the variation in character and sensitivity within the National Park. In the absence of the Plan and locally specific policies it is more likely that development proposals may come forward that are not well designed which could adversely impact the landscape setting of the Park.
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Hotter, drier summers are expected as a result of ongoing and accelerating climate change which has the potential to result in more frequent	The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to update the Park's approach to managing the effects of the changing climate and associated

Topic	Key Sustainability Issue	Likely Evolution of the Issue without the Local Plan
	moorland fires due to drier summers and periods of drought. Increased flood risk in areas both within and immediately downstream of the Peak District National Park with major cities (Derby, Manchester and Sheffield). Species may not adapt fast enough to climate changes, resulting in possible extinction. Climate change may reduce the ability of the Peak District to store carbon through carbon sinks such as peat, soils and plants. Further guidance is required to guide a programme of retrofitting in the National Park. Longer periods of warmer weather will increase the number of visitors to the National Park. This could increase traffic pollution, litter, accidental fires and lead to increased footfall and parking on verges compacting ground on and adjacent to popular routes.	weather events, particularly in the design of new buildings and green infrastructure. The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to provide developers with specific guidance for renewable energy and retrofitting within the National Park. The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to contribute further to mitigate the potential effects of any flooding and help the Park's communities adapt to the increased likelihood of significant weather events in the future. The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to improve public and active transport connections and capacity, and direct development of housing, employment, services and facilities in locations that will reduce the need to travel by car. In the absence of the new Plan, these issues would be addressed to some degree during the development management process and by relying on national policy. However, they would be less effectively addressed compared to having up to date and locally specific policies set out in the new Local Plan.

The SA Framework

3.61 As described in **Chapter 2**, the relevant objectives established via the review of plans, policies, and programmes and the key sustainability issues identified by the baseline review informed the development of a framework of sustainability objectives, the SA framework, against which the plan is being assessed. The SA framework for the Peak District National Park Local Plan is presented in **Table 3.2.** A small number of changes were made to the SA framework at the Issues and Options stage, in response to comments received during the Scoping consultation and as a result of the quality review that LUC undertook upon appointment by PDNPA to undertake the remaining stages of the SA. The SA framework was streamlined and one change of particular note is the introduction of SA objective 13: Health, to address this topic directly. This will ensure that any likely significant effects on health (which is one of the topics specified in the SEA Regulations) can be clearly identified in the SA, although it is recognised that this is a cross-cutting topic which will be influenced by a number of the other SA objectives. No further changes have been made to the SA framework since the Issues and Options stage.

3.62 The context for the appraisal of policy options and draft policies against the SA objectives is set by the sub-objectives or decision-making criteria presented in the second column of the table. These criteria provide a guide for the appraisal of options and draft policies, identifying issues relating to the SA objective that should be considered where relevant. Given the large number of issues relating to each SA objective, it is not possible to list all those that are related and relevant and therefore the decision-making criteria should not be considered to be prescriptive or exhaustive. In effect the criteria act as a starting point for the identification of effects and the appraisal work considers wider issues as appropriate.

Table 3.2: SA Framework for the PDNPA Local Plan

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions: Will the Plan…	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
1. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and	■ Promote energy efficiency in accordance with the energy hierarchy?	Climatic factors

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions: Will the Plan…	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
to adapt to the effects of climate change.	■ Conserve and protect the functionality and increase capacity of carbon sinks, such as peat soils, unimproved grassland and woodland? ■ Encourage the use of nature-based solutions (NbS) to support local environments in becoming more resilient to climate impacts, such as flooding, drought and overheating, and absorb and store greater quantities of carbon? ■ Promote or facilitate the use of appropriate renewable energy where it is within the capacity of the National Park's special qualities to accommodate it? ■ Ensure development is not at risk from flooding and will not increase the threat of flooding elsewhere? ■ Promote climate change resilience through sustainable siting, design, landscaping and infrastructure?	
1. To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park's contrasting and ever-evolving landscape in a changing climate.	■ Protect areas of highest landscape sensitivity from harmful incremental change? ■ Protect key or characteristic landscape features? ■ Support delivery of the landscape strategy and facilitate landscape enhancement? ■ Support resilience to climate change? ■ Deliver change that conserves and enhances an attractive and locally distinctive built environment and ensure assimilation into the landscape? ■ Strengthen local distinctiveness, sense of place and relationship to the landscape setting? ■ Encourage sensitive design of road infrastructure?	Landscape and climatic factors
2. To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity and geodiversity flourishes.	■ Promote nature recovery through habitat connectivity, nature conservation and by protecting and enhancing habitats outside designated areas, including wildlife corridors and permeable landscape? ■ Protect sites and habitats of nature conservation value, including SSSIs and other nationally and locally designated sites? ■ Protect BAP priority species and Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England? ■ Support habitats and biodiversity adaptation to climate change? ■ Conserve and enhance geological interests, including regionally important geodiversity sites?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
3. To conserve and enhance, understand and appreciate the cultural heritage of the National Park as part of an ever-changing landscape.	■ Conserve, enhance and better reveal the significance of sites, features, areas and their settings, which are of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance, in a manner appropriate to that significance? ■ Preserve and enhance the setting of features and sites of heritage importance? ■ Conserve and enhance the integrity and character of conservation areas?	Cultural heritage and landscape

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions: Will the Plan…	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
	■ Preserve and enhance the significance of designated and non-designated buildings and groups of buildings, which contribute to the historical and architectural character of the National Park, including Listed Buildings 'at risk'? ■ Respect and support the Park's intangible cultural heritage?	
4. To protect and improve air quality and minimise noise and light pollution.	■ Minimise increases in polluting traffic? ■ Support the uptake of low/zero emission vehicles? ■ Protect and increase a sense of remoteness and tranquillity? ■ Control noise and light pollution from roads, industry and other development so as to protect tranquillity and dark skies?	Air
5. To maintain and enhance water quality and quantity.	■ Ensure water is used efficiently, managed with care and the supply of water resources is protected? ■ Improve natural drainage processes? ■ Encourage recycling/re-use of 'grey water'? ■ Maintain and improve water quality and the natural hydrological system? ■ Support sustainable design and construction techniques embracing water conservation whilst respecting conservation priorities?	Water
6. To reduce waste generation and manage mineral resources.	■ Prevent the sterilisation of mineral resources? ■ Promote the appropriate restoration of sites that are no longer used? ■ Ensure efficient/prudent use of mineral and other resources, such as recycling aggregates? ■ Reduce the amount of waste requiring treatment and disposal? ■ Encourage recycling or 'Energy from Waste' in line with the waste hierarchy? ■ Support sustainable design and construction techniques embracing waste conservation whilst respecting conservation priorities?	Material assets
7. To encourage and develop the use of sustainable transport e.g. public transport and cycling and walking routes.	■ Promote sustainable forms of transport (public transport including bus and rail, cycle and pedestrian routes) and ensure that the necessary associated infrastructure is made available? ■ Enhance connectivity of the sustainable transport network? ■ Maximise opportunities to integrate connected green and blue infrastructure along transport corridors? ■ Support the reduction of vehicular traffic and related emissions by promoting alternative sustainable modes of transport? ■ Reduce the impact of transport infrastructure and road traffic on the National Park's landscape habitats, special environmental qualities and residential amenity? ■ Reduce the net impact of road traffic such as noise, pollution and visual intrusion?	Air, climatic factors and human health

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions: Will the Plan…	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
8. To protect the National Park's soils and ensure efficient use of land.	■ Allow for the conversion / retrofit of existing buildings? ■ Prioritise the development of brownfield land over greenfield land? ■ Protect the soil resource from loss, particularly peat and unimproved soils? ■ Support remediation of contaminated land?	Soils
9. To provide a wide range of good quality homes to meet the identified local need for housing.	■ Deliver housing that supports thriving and sustainable communities? ■ Provide good quality, safe and secure housing? ■ Support addressing the housing needs of an ageing population?	Population and material assets
10. To support thriving and sustainable communities by improving access to services and facilities.	■ Support the delivery and retention of key facilities and services ensuring that local needs are met locally wherever possible or alternative sustainable access is provided? ■ Ensure access to a range of services and facilities? ■ Support enhanced quality and quantity of publicly accessible open space?	Population and human health
11. To promote a flourishing local economy and achieve high levels of employment.	■ Encourage a sustainable visitor economy and local business growth? ■ Support the changing needs of sustainable agriculture and forestry and rural enterprises? ■ Facilitate sustainable tourism? ■ Care for the National Park's special qualities and respect the well-being of local communities? ■ Increase opportunities for people to live and work locally? ■ Increase opportunities for skills development and access to post-school education and training?	Population and material assets
12. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing better access to health services and the National Park.	■ Improve people's health and reduce ill-health? ■ Promote healthy lifestyles? ■ Create opportunities for all, specifically targeting young people and those from under-served communities to connect with and enjoy the National Park? ■ Facilitate and encourage provision of accessible resources and opportunities that can improve understanding of the special qualities, pressures and management of the National Park? ■ Improve provision of and access to a wide range of recreational opportunities? ■ Provide facilities for sport, recreation and learning, especially for children, disadvantaged groups and the local community? ■ Facilitate improved health and wellbeing of residents and/or visitors?	Population and human health
13. Promote good governance.	■ Improve opportunities for participation in local action and decision-making?	Population

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions: Will the Plan…	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
	■ Encourage positive partnership involvement and joint working with other stakeholders and sectors?	

Chapter 4
SA Findings for the Quantum and Spatial Options

The first part of this chapter presents the SA findings for the options that were considered in the Issues and Options Consultation Document. The content of this work remains largely unchanged from when it was originally presented in the July 2024 SA Report[9]. An additional section has been added to the chapter since the SA Report for the Preferred Approach consultation, which sets out an appraisal of the alternative quantum options that have been considered by PDNPA.

The SA findings for the current Regulation 19 consultation can be found in **Chapter 5**.

4.1 As explained in **Chapter 2**, the appraisal of options at the Issues and Options stage was undertaken on a narrative basis given the high-level nature of the options and the limited scope of the differences between some of the options being considered for the same issues. Where possible, likely significant effects were highlighted. Given the nature of the Local Plan, it was assumed that most effects will be permanent and long-term, unless otherwise stated.

Spatial Strategy

4.2 This section presents the SA findings for the options considered within the Spatial Strategy chapter of the Issues and Options Consultation Document. Where appropriate, recommendations were made for consideration during the next stages of plan-making.

Settlement Strategy - Settlement Tiers

4.3 Three options have been identified in relation to settlement tiers:

1. Retain the current approach – a 'two-tier' strategy of those settlements where new development is acceptable in principle, and the rest, where it is not.
2. Stick with a two-tier strategy but review the list.
3. We have more tiers and direct different types and levels of development accordingly. All settlements would feature somewhere within the tiers.

4.4 Each of the options for settlement tiers would have to at least some extent a positive effect on **SA objective 10: housing** as all of the options would identify settlements that are appropriate for new-build development, which would mainly comprise housing. However, a continuation of Option 1 is likely to also result in a continuation of the current situation whereby a low proportion of homes that are built are affordable homes for local people and where many of the settlements listed in policy as being acceptable locations for new-build development have not seen any new local needs housing since 2011. Reviewing the list under Option 2 offers the opportunity to reflect market influences and respond to the outcomes of the current Local Plan, refreshing and updating the list of settlements in which new-build development is considered to be appropriate on that basis. This should lead to higher levels of affordable housing delivery for local people and a wider distribution of new development amongst the Park's settlements. Option 3 would be likely to have a particularly positive effect on **SA objective 10: housing** as it should result in any new housing being distributed more widely within the National Park and would provide developers with more information / criteria about what type of development can go where. This in turn could make developing in the Peak District National Park more attractive and thereby increase new-build development, including affordable housing for local residents.

4.5 Option 3 could also have a more positive effect on environmental topics i.e. landscape (**SA objective 2**), heritage (**SA objective 4**) and biodiversity and geodiversity (**SA objective 3**) as it would involve providing guidance on what type of development would be acceptable and where. For example, tier one settlements have the most capacity for development meaning that development could take place there with less harm to the landscape character, a settlement's setting within the historic landscape or to any other special qualities of the Peak District. However, it is likely that Option 3 may result in a higher level of housing delivery, more towards the top end of the range identified in the proposed Spatial Objectives for thriving and sustainable communities. This may in itself place more pressure on the natural environment and be more likely to lead to negative effects on the above SA objectives, although this will depend to a large extent on the specific design and location of individual developments and cannot be assumed based only on the total quantum of development being higher. This approach also depends on robust evidence being available to underpin the tiering of settlements. Some impacts of a higher level of development on largely greenfield land cannot be mitigated, however, for example impacts on soils (although agricultural land quality in the National Park is generally low).

4.6 Option 3 would also have the most positive effect on **SA objective 8: sustainable travel** as most development would be steered to tier one settlements which would be those that are well-located for public transport and active travel. This could also have a positive effect on climate change (**SA objective 1**) and air quality (**SA objective 5**) as it could lead to less reliance on private vehicles, thereby reducing traffic and greenhouse gas emissions. However, a higher level of development overall, which is likely to result from this option, could at the same time exacerbate these issues.

Summary and recommendations

4.7 Overall Option 3 appears to perform most positively against the SA objectives as it is more likely to result in a higher level of new-build development, including affordable housing to meet local needs. While more development could place more pressure on the environment, the more nuanced policy approach involving five tiers should offer better opportunities to reflect the specific sensitivities and capacities of individual settlements. However, it is essential that this policy approach is supported by robust evidence, for example in relation to landscape sensitivity and transport, to ensure that the tiering of settlements is justified and results in development coming forward in the most sustainable locations.

Settlement Strategy - Sites for housing development

4.8 Three options have been identified in relation to sites for housing development:

1. Exceptions approach
2. Development boundaries
3. Site allocations

4.9 The current Local Plan does not allocate land for housing development. This is known as the 'exceptions' approach because new homes within the National Park are not permitted 'except' in special circumstances, for example it contributes to the conservation and/or enhancement of settlements, addresses eligible local needs or provides accommodation for key workers. Option 1 (exceptions approach) has not resulted in the delivery of sufficient sites for locally needed affordable housing; therefore continuing with this approach is likely to produce the same result over the new Local Plan period. Option 3 (allocating sites for housing) would be likely to have a more positive effect on **SA objective 10: housing** delivery as allocating specific sites should provide more certainty by creating a supply of deliverable sites with landowner consent. Option 3 would also require that housing development on allocated sites would meet local need and local affordable need. Option 2 may result in more housing delivery to meet local needs compared to Option 1, by providing more certainty for developers; however not as much as under Option 3. It is also noted that defining settlement boundaries or allocating sites could push up the value of the affected land which could adversely influence the viability of market housing proposals. In comparison, Option 1 would

avoid inflating the value of developable land which should avoid the associated viability issues.

4.10 Option 1 is likely to have the most positive effects on the environmental SA objectives i.e. landscape (**SA objective 2**), heritage (**SA objective** 4) and biodiversity and geodiversity (**SA objective** 3) as it is the most restrictive approach in terms of the amount of built development likely to result, and each proposal would be considered on an individual basis under the exceptions policy approach, considering the specific location, type and design of the development proposed. Under Option 2, while the exceptions approach would still apply, defining settlement boundaries would give a strong steer to developers as to the likely acceptability of the proposal. While this would be likely to result in more local needs affordable housing being delivered, and new development would be contained within that defined area, there is less scope to evaluate proposals individually based on their own merits.

4.11 Option 3 would involve allocating sites. This approach means that site options could be assessed in detail prior to allocation and would be considered alongside alternative options in relation to their likely effects on the environment, rather than relying on the development management process. This is likely to mean that the most suitable sites are selected for allocation. However, Option 3 would provide certainty about the in-principle acceptability of allocated sites for housing and so is likely to result in more development overall compared to the other two options, perhaps towards the higher end of the housing range indicated in the spatial objectives, which could in itself be more likely to result in negative environmental effects.

Summary and recommendations

4.12 While Option 1 performs best against the environmental SA objectives, continuing with the existing policy approach can only be expected to result in the same shortfall of affordable housing to meet local needs, which would have negative effects on the social and economic SA objectives. Option 2 therefore performs the best across the range of SA objectives as it would retain the flexibility of the exceptions approach (which is lacking under Option 3) while providing some additional certainty to developers which should boost housing delivery.

Cultural Heritage

4.13 The Cultural Heritage section of the Issues and Options document considers issues including whether there should be a Local List of non-designated heritage assets and how isolated traditional buildings should be addressed in policy terms. However, there are no distinct options identified at this stage which are of a format suitable for appraisal.

Climate Change and Sustainable Building

4.14 This section sets out the SA finding for the options considered within the Climate Change and Sustainable Building chapter of the Issues and Options Consultation Document.

Replacement Dwellings

4.15 Two options have been identified in relation to replacement dwellings:

1. Retain current policy.
2. Retain current policy DMH9 but set higher threshold.

4.16 The existing local plan policy DMH9 allows for the replacement of dwellings so long as the dwelling in question is not listed, is not considered to have cultural heritage significance, and does not contribute positively towards the landscape character or built environment. Retaining this policy, as per Option 1, would likely result in continued positive effects on protecting the setting and heritage of the rural landscape (**SA objective 2**). However, the current policy does not consider the impact that replacing dwellings can have on embodied carbon and sustainable use of land. As such, continuing with this approach could have a negative effect on **SA objective 1: climate change**. Option 2 would involve implementing stricter conditions for the replacement of dwellings, taking into account embedded carbon and the other benefits of retaining existing buildings. This could have a positive impact on **SA objective 1: climate change**, depending on where the threshold is eventually set. While it may mean fewer instances of non-traditional buildings being replaced with perhaps more sensitively designed new buildings, any negative impacts on **SA objective 2: landscape** are considered to be minor due to the expected scale of such effects.

Summary and recommendations

4.17 Option 2 is considered to perform more positively against the SA objectives compared to Option 1.

Carbon Capture

4.18 Two options have been identified in relation to carbon capture:

1. No specific Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) policy.
2. New CCS policy.

4.19 Option 1 would continue the status-quo of allowing national policy to determine whether or not CCS infrastructure should be permitted in the National Park. This approach would depend on other Local Plan policies when considering issues related to landscape, heritage and biodiversity. Option 2 would introduce a new CCS policy to work alongside national policy. Whilst national policy would continue to determine whether

CCS infrastructure can be constructed, this option would set out a locally-specific approach and would make clear PDNPA's agreed position to be used alongside other Local Plan policies. These options are likely to have similar effects as both options would ultimately be aligned with national policy; however Option 2 provides greater clarity. The effects on the SA objectives, particularly **SA objective 1: climate change,** of providing that increased clarity would depend largely on the ultimate content of the policy and how restrictive it is in terms of CCS development so are largely uncertain at this stage.

Summary and recommendations

4.20 Option 2 is considered likely to perform more positively against the SA objectives compared to Option 1; however the effects will depend largely on the specific content of the policy. The policy will not be able to conflict with national policy but should be drafted to reflect specific local circumstances.

Housing

4.21 This section sets out the SA finding for the options considered within the Housing chapter of the Issues and Options Consultation Document.

Holiday homes and permanent homes

4.22 Three options have been identified in relation to holiday homes and permanent homes:

1. Holiday homes: no policy change.
2. Holiday homes: policy change – permanent residence clause.
3. Holiday homes: policy change – permanent residence clause applied to specific settlements.

4.23 Holiday homes can provide benefits to the economy (**SA objective 12**) of the National Park, as a source of income and way of diversifying farms. However, there is an acceptance that where holiday homes are highly concentrated within an area, they adversely affect the availability and affordability of homes to buy or rent and damage the sustainability of local communities. Option 1 would not change the current policy and as such the positive and negative effects of holiday homes would likely continue as at present.

4.24 Option 2 would impose a permanent residence clause on new residential properties across all settlements (with the exception of farm diversification or buildings that are located in the open countryside) which has the potential to reduce the concentration of holiday homes within the National Park. This could aid affordability, ensuring new and suitable housing is prioritised for permanent residents which could have a positive effect on **SA objective 10: housing**. It could also improve the vitality and viability of settlements and contribute to thriving and sustainable local communities (**SA objective 11**).

However, consideration should be given to where there is potential for this approach to distort the market, for example by pushing up the price of existing residences which are not subject to the clause. Option 3 offers a similar solution, but it would limit the permanent residence clause to specific settlements where the concentration of holiday homes is high within the National Park. The effects of this option would fall between Option 1 and 2.

Summary and recommendations

4.25 The effects of these options are likely to be reasonably limited in scope, as Options 2 and 3 would both only apply to new residential properties, and so neither option has the scope to significantly impact on the tourism industry or open up the local housing market. Option 3 would be particularly limited in scope as it would only apply to specific settlements. However, Option 2 is likely to have the most positive effects of the options.

Affordable housing – house size

4.26 Three options have been identified in relation to house size:

1. Retain floorspace set out in Policy DMH1.
2. Change floorspace standards to those set out in interim Guidance Note.
3. Change floorspace standards to one maximum floorspace of 97 $m^{2.}$

4.27 Option 1 would retain the existing house size policy that restricts the size of affordable houses by linking house size to the currently required number of bed spaces. This ensures that a range of house sizes are delivered and benefits local housing mix while contributing to a longer-term supply of smaller, as well as larger, affordable homes to meet local need. However, this option prevents people from planning ahead for their longer-term housing needs and reduces flexibility. Option 2 takes forward the principles of the existing policy but would implement more flexibility. This would allow for couples or families to, where appropriate, apply for homes of a larger size than the existing proportion limits. This would have a positive effect on **SA objective 12: economy**, providing more desirable housing where appropriate. However, it may have a negative effect on **SA objective 10: housing**, with local people in need of housing priced out of suitable housing owing to the increased floorspace. Option 3 goes further, placing a limit of 97m2 (currently the maximum permitted size for a five person dwelling) upon housing with any number of bedrooms. This option would likely have the same effects as Option 2 but more intensified.

Summary and recommendations

4.28 Option 2 performs best of the three options, representing the most balanced approach between addressing current needs and providing some element of future proofing for residents.

Travel and Transport

4.29 This section sets out the SA finding for the options considered within the Travel and Transport chapter of the Issues and Options Consultation Document.

Visitor parking

4.30 Three options have been identified in relation to visitor parking:

1. Stick with current policy (Policy DMT7).
2. More restrictive policy.
3. Less restrictive policy.

4.31 Existing policy would be retained under Option 1 which allows for the development of new or enlargement of existing car parks, so long as they deliver local benefits (resident amenity or enhancing the built environment of a settlement). This approach is subjective in terms of what is considered a 'local benefit'. Additional visitor parking could encourage visitors to enter the Park by private vehicle which could worsen air quality (**SA objective 5**) within the area and increase greenhouse gas emissions (**SA objective 1**). In addition, car parks could negatively affect the natural beauty (**SA objective 3**), cultural heritage (**SA objective 3**) and landscape (**SA objective 2**) setting of the area. Furthermore, if they are developed on greenfield land they could harm biodiversity in the area. However, car parks for visitor parking could limit on-street parking and improve residential amenity as well as facilitating the economic benefits of tourism.

4.32 Option 2 would implement a more restrictive policy, preventing new car parks from being built, only allowing for existing car parks to be expanded. This option would likely have a less negative effect on **SA objective 5: pollution** compared to Option 1 and it would prevent the provision of new car parks. However, depending on visitor need, this option could have a negative impact on tourism and the local economy (**SA objective 12**) and also have adverse impacts on amenity as a result of roadside parking. Option 3 would provide the opposite of Option 2, implementing a less restrictive policy than the existing Local Plan policy, where 'local benefit' would no longer be a requirement for the development of new and expansion of existing car parks. This could have a knock-on effect and increase tourism and therefore boost the economy of the National Park but at the cost of negatively impacting the local landscape, biodiversity, and cultural heritage of the area. As such, Option 3 would have the same potential negative effects as Option 1 but intensified.

Summary and recommendations

4.33 Option 1 performs best against the SA objectives overall, providing something of a balance between environmental and economic concerns.

Safeguarding and protecting multi-user trails on former railway routes

4.34 Two options have been identified in relation to this issue:

1. New policy will continue to safeguard the Monsal and Longdendale Trails for future rail use.
2. New policy will protect the Monsal and Longdendale Trails from development that conflicts with their current purpose as recreational routes.

4.35 There are limited differences between these options in terms of the SA objectives, as both options would continue to safeguard these two trails and so any impacts in terms of restricting other development proposals would be similar. However, Option 1 in theory safeguards the trails for future rail use. While this could be seen to be more likely to result in the impacts associated with rail expansion, this is theoretical as PDNPA is highly unlikely to ever support rail use of either trail due to it comprising major development. Option 2 reflects the current value of the trails for recreational use rather than focussing on their potential future value for rail use and may therefore have slightly more positive effects on **SA objective 13: health** for this reason.

Summary and recommendations

4.36 For the reasons noted above, there are minimal differences between these options but Option 2 performs slightly better than Option 1.

Air transport

4.37 Two options have been identified in relation to air transport:

1. Aircraft take-off and landing sites will not normally be permitted.
2. Take-off and landing not permitted, except for commercial drones.

4.38 Leisure helicopter flights within the National Park have increased over recent years. In additional, recreational fliers are also popular. The existing Local Plan policy, DMT91, does not permit aircraft take-off and landing sites. The continuation of this policy would ensure that noise and light pollution remains at a minimum. Option 2 would also not permit aircraft take-off and landing sites, except for commercial drones which may be used to deliver goods to the National Park within the

timescales of the Local Plan. Developing a policy which permits commercial drone take-off and landing could therefore have some economic benefits but is more likely to have negative effects on the natural environment including biodiversity (**SA objective 3**), for example if nesting sites were affected. There may also be negative effects on peoples' amenity.

Summary and recommendations

4.39 Option 1 performs more positively than Option 2 – while there are some potential economic benefits associated with Option 2, these are likely to be outweighed by the environmental and amenity impacts of commercial drone use.

Utilities

4.40 This section sets out the SA finding for the options considered within the Utilities chapter of the Issues and Options Consultation Document.

The development of new or expanded reservoirs

4.41 Two options have been identified in relation to new or expanded reservoirs:

1. Continue with our current approach.
2. Write a new policy that says no new reservoirs will be permitted.

4.42 The existing local plan does not have a policy that would prevent the development of a new reservoir; however, national policy fills this role to an extent as the NPPF prevents major development in National Parks unless there are exceptional circumstances. While unlikely to occur, the lack of a Local Plan policy does therefore leave open the window for possible reservoir development in the future, should the circumstances arise. Option 1 would accept this possibility and continue with the current approach. Alternatively, Option 2 would introduce a Local Plan policy to prevent the development of reservoirs. While this option would not affect national policy it would set a clear position from PDNPA and so may mean a new reservoir is even less likely to be built within the plan area. While this could have a negative effect on water security (**SA objective 6**), and positive effects on the environmental SA objectives e.g. biodiversity and landscape, these effects are largely theoretical as the actual likelihood of a new reservoir being permitted is very low under both options.

Summary and recommendations

4.43 The differences between these options are in practice likely to be minimal for the reasons set out above; however Option 2 provides more certainty of no new reservoir development and therefore performs slightly better.

Minerals and Waste

4.44 This section sets out the SA finding for the options considered within the Minerals and Waste chapter of the Issues and Options Consultation Document.

Stone for building and roofing

4.45 Four options have been identified in relation to stone for building and roofing:

1. Small-scale building stone quarries.
2. No separate policy on building stone.
3. New building stone policy.
4. New building stone policy with defined areas of search.

4.46 Building stone quarries and the traditional skills associated with working and finishing the stone are an important part of life in the National Park. Option 1 would continue with the current Local Plan approach, policy MIN3, which only permits small-scale working of building and roofing stone where there is a demonstrable need within the National Park, for local use only and the impacts of working on the environment and communities can be mitigated. This option is likely to have positive effects on the historic character of the area and on the environmental SA objectives, in particular **SA objective 2: Landscape**, as a result of restricting quarrying activities in accordance with the policy. Option 2 would mean there is no separate policy for building stone quarries and as such proposals would be dealt with under Policy MIN1 in the current Local Plan which states that proposal would not be permitted other than in exceptional circumstances. This option is likely to have similar effects to Option 1.

4.47 Option 3 would introduce a new building stone policy, but it would remove reference to 'small-scale' and the requirement that the end use for all the stone must be within the National Park. This option would have potential negative effects because it could in theory allow larger quarries to be developed which could have an adverse impact on the special qualities of the landscape (**SA objective 2).** However, this option could also have positive effects on **SA objective 12: economy**. Similar to Option 3, Option 4 would remove reference to 'small-scale' and the requirement that the end use for all the stone must be within the National Park, however it would also allocate areas of search or preferred areas for building stone extraction. Similar to Option 3, this option could have negative effects on the landscape (although these may to some extent be limited by identifying areas of search in areas of lesser impact) but positive effects on the local economy, particularly as the identification of areas of search could provide more certainty for developers.

Summary and recommendations

4.48 There is no single option which performs clearly more or less positively than the others, with the options representing different approaches to balancing environmental concerns with economic interests. Option 1 performs best in terms of environmental protection; however Option 4 could be seen to best represent the balance between environmental and economic concerns. The effects of that option would to some extent depend on the specific location of the areas of search that are defined. When drafting new policy, there should be a strong focus on the long-term benefits of quarry restoration including for nature recovery.

Quantum Options

4.49 Consultation took place in late 2025 on the Local Plan Review Preferred Approach, which was accompanied by an SA Report (October 2025). At that time, reasonable alternative options for the amount of housing development to be delivered were not considered in the appraisal. Since that consultation, PDNPA identified a number of alternative options for the amount of housing to be delivered, which were subject to SA in April 2026 and the findings reported to PDNPA in an internal summary note, so that the appraisal could be taken into account when preparing the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

4.50 PDNPA identified five reasonable alternative options for the amount of housing development to be delivered through the Local Plan, and an appraisal of each is presented below. More information about the background to these options can be found in the Spatial Strategy and Strategic Housing Topic Paper. The SA has been undertaken based on the assumption that the housing under each option would be primary residence housing.

4.51 The five options are:

- Option 1: Standard Method Housing Figure – 270-362 dwellings per annum (dpa)
- Option 2: Affordable Housing Need (prescribed methodology) – 99-125 dpa
- Option 3: Locally derived housing need figure (medium population increase by around 4,247 during plan period) – 95 dpa
- Option 4: Locally derived housing need figure (low population increase by around 1,1731 during plan period) – 48 dpa
- Option 5: Locally derived housing need figure (maintain stable population around 35,897 during plan period) – 16 dpa

4.52 Options 2 and 3 are very similar, with the Option 3 figure falling just slightly outside the range of Option 2. However, they are considered to be distinct alternatives for the purposes of SA, because the principle of basing the figure on affordable housing need has some implications for how the housing would be provided, which warrant consideration through the SA.

4.53 As detailed in the Spatial Strategy and Housing Topic Paper, one further locally derived housing need figure was identified by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA): 150 dwellings per annum (high population increase by around 7,191 during plan period). However, this has not been subject to SA as it is not compliant with the NPPF paragraph 11b, the National Park purposes or the Peak District National Park Management Plan.

4.54 **Table 4.1** below sets out the SA findings for the five reasonable alternative quantum options considered. The findings are summarised below the table.

Table 4.1 SA Findings for the Quantum options

SA Objective	Option 1 (270-362 dpa)	Option 2 (99-125 dpa)	Option 3 (95 dpa)	Option 4 (48 dpa)	Option 5 (16 dpa)	Justification
1. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and to adapt to the effects of climate change.	--	--	--?	-	-	The development of new homes will result in emissions during construction and operation, and traffic movements are likely to increase as a result of population growth, with associated greenhouse gas emissions. Any such effects will be more pronounced the higher the housing figure is, although it is recognised that effects will depend to some extent on the location of new housing and its proximity to the main centres and public transport links (noting the overall rural nature of the National Park and limited public transport provision in many areas). Furthermore, the scale of development proposed through Options 1 to 3 would result in more development on greenfield land compared to Options 4 and 5 which is more likely to increase the risk of flooding in the area. Although Options 2 and 3 would provide a similar amount of development, Option 2 would likely result in more development on greenfield land compared to Option 3 as Option 2 could technically allow for 100% of affordable homes on greenfield land. As such, significant negative effects are expected for Options 1 to 3, however Option 3 has uncertainty attached. As Options 4 and 5 would involve a lower level of growth and with the proportion of housing delivered likely to be more balanced between greenfield and brownfield land, those options are likely to have minor negative effects.
2. To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park's contrasting and ever-evolving landscape in a changing climate.	--?	--?	--?	-?	-?	A higher housing figure is expected to mean that adverse impacts from new built development on the landscape and character of the National Park are more difficult to avoid. The higher scale of development associated with Options 1 to 3 in particular would result in the development of some greenfield land which would likely result in negative impacts on the local landscape. Although Options 2 and 3 would provide a similar amount of development, Option 2 would likely result in more development on greenfield land compared to Option 3 as Option 2 could technically allow for 100% of affordable homes on greenfield land. One of the special qualities of the National Park, 'beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology', is more likely to be affected by a larger amount of new housing development and as such the unique landscape would likely be more affected by Options 1 to 3. Options 4 and 5 are likely to result in less development on greenfield land as brownfield sites within the National Park may be able to accommodate the scale of growth. While there may still be landscape impacts, these are likely to be less compared to the development of greenfield land. As such, Options 1 to 3 are expected to have significant negative effects on this SA objective and Options 4 and 5 are expected to have minor negative effects. In all cases, the effects are uncertain as they will depend a lot on the specific location and design of individual housing developments.
3. To be a place where	--?	--?	--?	-?	-?	As with SA objective 2 above, the larger scale of development that would occur under Options 1 to 3 would result in the development of more greenfield land which would be more likely to result in negative impacts on sensitive habitats and

SA Objective	Option 1 (270-362 dpa)	Option 2 (99-125 dpa)	Option 3 (95 dpa)	Option 4 (48 dpa)	Option 5 (16 dpa)	Justification
nature recovers and biodiversity and geodiversity flourishes.						species, although it is recognised that brownfield sites can also harbour valuable biodiversity. One of the special qualities of the National Park is 'internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats' which could be adversely affected by the scale of development proposed under Options 1 to 3 in particular. Although Options 2 and 3 would provide a similar amount of development, Option 2 would likely result in more development on greenfield land compared to Option 3 as Option 2 could technically allow for 100% of affordable homes on greenfield land. Options 4 and 5 are likely to result in less development on greenfield land as brownfield sites within the National Park may be able to accommodate more of the growth and it may be easier to avoid the most sensitive areas in terms of biodiversity and geodiversity. As such, Options 1 to 3 are expected to have significant negative effects on this SA objective and Options 4 and 5 are expected to have minor negative effects. In all cases, the effects are uncertain as they will depend largely on the specific location and design of individual housing developments.
4. To conserve and enhance, understand and appreciate the cultural heritage of the National Park as part of an ever-changing landscape.	--?	--?	--?	-?	-?	As with other SA objectives above, the larger scale of development proposed through Options 1 to 3 would be more likely to result in negative impacts on local heritage assets as it may be more difficult to avoid the most sensitive locations. Options 4 and 5 are likely to result in less development on greenfield land as brownfield sites within the National Park may be able to accommodate more of the growth, which could make it less challenging to avoid adverse effects on cultural heritage. As such, Options 1 to 3 are expected to have significant negative effects on this SA objective and Options 4 and 5 are expected to have minor negative effects. In all cases, the effects are uncertain as they will depend largely on the specific location and design of individual housing developments. It is also recognised that the effects of development on brownfield land in relation to this objective will depend largely on the current use of the site and whether sympathetic new development could even constitute an improvement to the built environment.
5. To protect and improve air quality and minimise noise and	--	--	--	-	-	The number of private vehicles on the road would increase under all options; however traffic congestion and associated air pollution impacts are likely to increase with the scale of development that would arise from Options 1 to 3 in particular. Furthermore, additional housing is likely to lead to increased noise and light pollution within the National Park, during both the construction and operational phases. Such effects would again be more likely if the higher growth levels associated with Options 1-3 are pursued. As one of the National Park's special qualities is 'undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions', the scale of growth proposed through Options 1 to 3 is likely to result in significant negative

SA Objective	Option 1 (270-362 dpa)	Option 2 (99-125 dpa)	Option 3 (95 dpa)	Option 4 (48 dpa)	Option 5 (16 dpa)	Justification
light pollution.						effects on this SA objective. As Options 4 and 5 would deliver a lower level of growth they would likely have minor negative effects.
6. To maintain and enhance water quality and quantity.	--	--	--	-	-	New homes will put additional pressure on existing water supply and treatment infrastructure. Furthermore, housing development on land that is within the water catchment of the upper River Wye must demonstrate nutrient neutrality as the excess of nutrient is harming the delicate ecosystem. One of the main causes of phosphate pollution is treated wastewater. As such, significant negative effects are expected for Options 1 to 3. As Options 4 and 5 would involve a lower level of growth they would likely have minor negative effects.
7. To reduce waste generation and manage mineral resources.	--	--	--	-	-	All options will result in an increase in waste generation and demand for construction materials. The higher scale of development that is proposed under Options 1 to 3 is more likely to result in the development of some greenfield land and development in mineral safeguarding areas. Limestone and gritstone safeguarding areas cover the majority of the southern portion of the National Park and eastern boundary. As such, significant negative effects are expected for Options 1 to 3 and minor negative effects for Options 4 and 5.
8. To encourage and develop the use of sustainable transport e.g. public transport and cycling and walking routes.	+?	+?	+?	0	0	Since 2011 there has been a reduction in public transport services providing access to, from and within the National Park. The higher growth options could therefore have positive effects on this SA objective as housing development could support the provision of new sustainable transport infrastructure. As such, minor positive effects are expected for Options 1-3, however uncertainty is attached as the achievement of the objective relies heavily upon the location of housing sites as well as policy specifications. Negligible effects are likely for Options 4 and 5 due to the lower levels of growth associated with those options and the more limited potential for stimulating new infrastructure provision.
9. To protect the National Park's soils and ensure	--	--	--?	-	-	Some of the soils within the National Park are in poor condition, such as the Dark Peak peat soils and, while some soils can recover from damage without intervention, others need management intervention to support with resilience. As the scale of development proposed through Options 1 to 3 in particular would result in the development of some greenfield land, these options are expected to have significant negative effects on this SA objective. Although Options 2 and 3 would provide a similar amount of development, Option 2 would likely result in more development on greenfield land compared to Option 3

SA Objective	Option 1 (270-362 dpa)	Option 2 (99-125 dpa)	Option 3 (95 dpa)	Option 4 (48 dpa)	Option 5 (16 dpa)	Justification
efficient use of land.						as Option 2 could technically allow for 100% of affordable homes on greenfield land. As such, Option 3 is expected to have a significant negative effect with uncertainty attached. Options 4 and 5 are likely to result in less development on greenfield land as brownfield sites within the National Park may be able to accommodate more of the growth. As such, Options 4 and 5 are expected to have minor negative effects.
10. To provide a wide range of good quality homes to meet the identified local need for housing.	+	+	+	++	+	All of the options would have positive effects on this SA objective as they would provide at least some additional housing within the National Park which it is assumed would be high quality and would be subject to a primary residence clause. The amount of housing to be provided under Option 1 is highest of all five options; however this figure does not reflect the locally assessed housing needs of the National Park and does not take into account the falling population. It is considered that this level of provision would be excessive and a minor rather than significant positive effect is therefore likely. Option 2 would also have a minor positive effect as while it reflects the affordable housing needs of the National Park as calculated by the prescribed methodology, this is potentially exaggerated in the National Park context and isn't locally derived. Option 3 would have a minor rather than significant positive effect as a significant proportion of the homes provided would not be local needs affordable housing. Option 4 would have a significant positive effect as it better reflects local housing needs in consideration of the falling population, and the level of housing delivery is compatible with previous delivery rates. Option 5 would also result in minor positive effects as it would provide a small amount of new housing, but not enough to meet local needs.
11. To support thriving and sustainable communities by improving access to services and facilities.	0	0	0	0	0	The largest service loss between 2010 and 2020 has been convenience stores, post offices and primary schools. Strategic housing sites could provide additional services and facilities on site, but these are unlikely to come forward within the National Park. As such, all of the options are expected to have negligible effects on this SA objective as it relies heavily upon the specific locations of housing sites as well as policy specifications.

SA Objective	Option 1 (270-362 dpa)	Option 2 (99-125 dpa)	Option 3 (95 dpa)	Option 4 (48 dpa)	Option 5 (16 dpa)	Justification
12. To promote a flourishing local economy and achieve high levels of employment.	+	+	+	0	0	The provision of adequate housing would support local economic growth, thereby enhancing the local economy. As such, minor positive effects are expected for Options 1 to 3. The lower level of housing delivery provided via Options 4 and 5 would not support economic growth to the same extent and as such negligible effects are expected.
13. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing better access to health services and the National Park.	+/--	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Additional housing of the scale proposed under Options 1 to 3 in particular would potentially support the delivery of improved health and social infrastructure, including community and leisure facilities as well as increased social interaction. However, people's health is more likely to be negatively affected in the short term by construction and there may be more pressure on existing facilities. For example, the distance to the nearest GP practice has increased from an average of 1.5 miles to 1.8 miles and as noted above, the largest service loss has been convenience stores, post offices and primary schools, so additional housing could result in more pressure on GPs and community facilities. As such, mixed minor positive and negative effects are expected for Options 1 to 3. In addition, despite increased social interaction and social infrastructure, and the potential for higher contributions towards community facilities, the identity of existing communities could be negatively affected by the scale of growth associated with Options 1 in particular. The negative effect associated with this option is therefore significant. Options 4 and 5 are also likely to have mixed effects on this SA objective as people's health and existing facilities would be less negatively affected, but the smaller scale of housing may not support the provision of new health and social infrastructure.
14. Promote good governance.	0	0	0	0	0	All of the options are expected to have negligible effects on this SA objective as the achievement of the objective will depend on policies in the Local Plan and not on the amount of housing to be delivered.

Summary of findings

4.55 The SA of the five quantum options is high level, focussing on the total amount of housing to be delivered and not taking into account the location or nature of individual housing developments. These factors will clearly have a significant impact on the actual sustainability effects of the housing eventually delivered.

4.56 In general, the higher housing options would be more likely to have negative effects on the sensitive natural environment of the National Park. The amount of growth associated with Options 1-3 is highest and so these options would have broadly fairly similar effects in terms of the scores associated with each SA objective. However, where the threshold for a significant effect is reached by Options 2 or 3, the same score is identified for Option 1 although clearly the actual effects would be more pronounced, the higher the level of growth that occurs. Option 1 would therefore have the most negative effects of the options. Options 4 and 5 would deliver smaller scales of growth and so tend to have less pronounced effects, both positive and negative, compared to Options 1-3.

4.57 While the amount of housing associated with Options 2 and 3 is similar, Option 2 would potentially involve more greenfield land development as the delivery of affordable housing could in theory be entirely on greenfield land. Therefore, despite the broadly similar quanta of development under these options, Option 2 could have more negative effects.

4.58 While higher levels of housing development could be more likely to stimulate the provision of services and facilities and public transport improvements, there is a question about the actual deliverability of the highest growth option and whether it reflects actual housing need in the National Park context.

4.59 It is considered that Option 4 (48dpa) performs the best overall, representing something of a balance between the social and economic advantages of providing enough housing growth to meet local needs but also avoiding the potential adverse environmental effects of higher growth.

Selected option

4.60 The Authority has used a locally derived population-based methodology permitted under PPG to determine that around 95 homes a year to 2045 are needed. However, considering land availability, constraints on development and other relevant matters, the amount of new homes that can feasibly be provided each year over the plan period is considered by PDNPA to be 87. Of the total housing requirement, 35% will be affordable homes for local people and 65% is expected to be delivered through enhancement or conversion. Also, the development of greenfield sites is restricted to locally needed affordable homes, and all development is required to conserve and enhance valued landscape charter and the Special Qualities of the Park.

Chapter 5
Sustainability Appraisal Findings for Regulation 19 Local Plan

5.1 This chapter presents the SA findings for the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

5.2 The policy appraisals are grouped by section, as they appear in the Local Plan. Due to the nature of the Plan, effects are considered to be long-term and permanent, unless stated otherwise.

Spatial Objectives

5.3 The Regulation 19 Local Plan sets out spatial objectives for how planning policy will achieve ten specified outcomes. The achievement of the spatial objectives will ultimately depend on the policies in the Local Plan and the conformity of development proposals with these requirements. As such, the appraisal of the spatial objectives focusses on their compatibility with the SA objectives. **Table 5.1** below presents the symbols that have been used to illustrate the compatibility analysis.

Table 5.1 Key to symbols and colour coding used in compatibility analysis

Symbol and Colour Coding	Description
√	Compatible
X	Incompatible
0	Neutral

5.4 The compatibility analysis is presented in **Table 5.2,** and a summary of the findings is provided below the table.

Table 5.2 Compatibility analysis between the Local Plan Spatial Objectives and the SA objectives

Spatial Objectives	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and Minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Sustainable development	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	0
Landscape	√	√	√	√	√	√	0	0	√	X	X	X	√	0
Biodiversity and nature recovery	√	√	√	0	√	√	0	0	√	X	X	√	√	0
Cultural heritage and the built environment	0	√	0	√	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation and tourism	0	0	0	X	X	0	0	√	0	0	√	√	√	0
Thriving and sustainable communities	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	√	0
Economy	√	√	X	X	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	√	0	0
Climate change and sustainable building	√	√	√	√	0	√	0	0	√	0	0	0	0	0
Travel and transport	√	√	√	0	√	0	0	√	0	0	√	√	√	0
Minerals and waste	X	√	√	X	X	X	√	0	√	0	0	√	0	0

5.5 Most of the spatial objectives are compatible with or neutral in relation to the 14 SA objectives. This is because, where there is a relationship, the spatial objectives in many ways have comparable aims to those of the SA framework, seeking to promote nature recovery and protect the special qualities of the landscape and the historic character of the National Park. Furthermore, many of the spatial objectives consider climate change and how it should be addressed through nature-based solutions.

5.6 Where potential incompatibility has been highlighted, this is due to the fact that built development (e.g. economic, housing, minerals and waste development) could have an adverse impact on the landscape, historic environment, biodiversity and exacerbate the effects of climate change. In particular, the spatial objectives for Thriving and Sustainable Communities indicate that up to 1,740 new homes could be provided by 2045. However, it is recognised that any built development is likely to be small-scale, given the context of the National Park. This SA does not make any specific recommendations to address these potential incompatibilities as they represent the inevitable tensions between built development which may be permitted to address socio-economic needs, and the need to protect and enhance the environment of the National Park. It is also important to note that in the National Park context, priority will be given to the first National Park purpose (conservation) where there is potential tension between the two.

Core Policies and Development Strategy

5.7 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.3** below.

Table 5.3 SA findings for the Core Policies and Development Strategy

SA objectives	Policy C1: Securing National Park Purposes	Policy C2: Sustainable Development	Policy C3: Enhancing the National Park	Policy C4: Landscape Character and Special Qualities	Policy C5: Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape	Policy C6: Biodiversity and Nature Recovery	Policy C7: Cultural Heritage Assets of Archaeological, Architectural, Artistic or	Policy C8: Development Strategy	Policy C9: Settlement Capacity and Limits	Policy C10: Development Management Principles	Policy C11: Design, Siting, Layout and Landscaping	Policy C12: Local Infrastructure and Developer Contributions
SA1: Climate change	0	++	0	+	0	+	0	+?	0	+	+?	0
SA2: Landscape	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	++	++	++	+
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	++	++	+	++	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	+
SA4: Heritage	++	++	+	0	+	0	++	+	++	++	+	0
SA5: Pollution	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	+?	0	+	0	0
SA6: Water	0	++	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0	+	+	+
SA9: Soils	0	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA10: Housing	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
SA11: Communities	++	++	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+
SA12: Economy	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0

SA objectives	Policy C1: Securing National Park Purposes	Policy C2: Sustainable Development	Policy C3: Enhancing the National Park	Policy C4: Landscape Character and Special Qualities	Policy C5: Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape	Policy C6: Biodiversity and Nature Recovery	Policy C7: Cultural Heritage Assets of Archaeological, Architectural, Artistic or	Policy C8: Development Strategy	Policy C9: Settlement Capacity and Limits	Policy C10: Development Management Principles	Policy C11: Design, Siting, Layout and Landscaping	Policy C12: Local Infrastructure and Developer Contributions
SA13: Health	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.8 Policies C1 and C2 seek to ensure that new development is in accordance with the National Park purposes which requires the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the area. Policy C2 specifies that development will be considered sustainable where it conserves and/or enhances landscape character. As such, both of these policies are expected to have significant positive effects on **SA2: Landscape**. Furthermore, conserving and enhancing local wildlife and cultural heritage should be prioritised. Policy C2 specifically states that for development to be sustainable it should create habitats and increase species number and range and help secure the sustainable future of heritage assets. As such, both policies are also expected to have significant positive effects on **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA4: Heritage**.

5.9 Policy C2 is also expected to have significant positive effects on **SA1: Climate change**, **SA5: Pollution, SA6: Water, SA9: Soils, SA11: Communities** and **SA13: Health**. This is because it is in favour of development that mitigates and adapts to climate change, conserves natural resources, makes efficient use of land particularly prioritising brownfield land, and promotes the health, safety and well-being of the community including through the provision of additional community facilities, housing and services. This policy is also expected to have minor positive effects on **SA7: Waste and minerals** and **SA10: Housing**.

5.10 Policy C3 is expected to have minor positive effects on most of the environmental SA objectives as its aim is to set out opportunities for development to deliver enhancement to the Special Qualities of the National Park. Policy C4 is also expected to conserve and enhance the Special Qualities of the National Park, especially the valued landscape and biodiversity in line with the Authority's Landscape Strategy, Wooded Landscapes Plan and Nature Recovery Plan. As such, this policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**.

5.11 Policy C5 is likely to have a significant positive effect on **SA2: Landscape** as its overarching purpose is to set out criteria for development to adhere to in order to conserve and enhance the landscape. As such, the policy includes a requirement for landscape impact assessments to be undertaken for certain developments which must take into account the key characteristics of the local landscape and the Peak District Nature Recovery Plan. This will ensure development is respectful of the local landscape character, wildlife and habitats. Furthermore, the criteria set out that development proposals will only be supported where they contribute to the historic environment. The policy also sets out criteria for the reuse of buildings for business or housing. As such, minor positive effects are expected for **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity, SA9: Soils, SA10: Housing** and **SA12: Economy**. This is because the reuse of buildings protects soils from loss and greenfield land from development and could provide more premises for businesses or homes. Minor positive effects are also expected for **SA4: Heritage** as reuse of buildings could help to restore the historic environment.

5.12 Policy C6 is expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** as its primary purpose is to protect National Park's ecological network of sites, features and species. All developments must contribute towards nature recovery in accordance with the Peak District Nature Recovery Plan. Minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA1: Climate change**, **SA2: Landscape, SA6: Water,** and **SA9: Soils** as increased biodiversity on site could result in nature-based solutions that build flood risk resilience, improved landscape character and better water quality and soil health depending on the design of the development.

5.13 Policy C7 sets out the requirement for development to conserve and where possible enhance or reveal the significance of heritage assets and their settings. As such, significant positive effects are expected for **SA4: Heritage**. Minor positive effects are expected for **SA2: Landscape** and **SA11: Communities** as the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings could improve the landscape character of the area as well as improve sense of place within local communities.

5.14 Policy C8 would have a minor positive effect on **SA10: Housing** as it sets out a clear development strategy, which will allow for some residential development as appropriate in the National Park setting. This policy is likely to result in any new housing being appropriately located and provides developers with more information about what type of development can go where. The policy specifically states that development will be acceptable in principle where local needs are met through affordable housing, community facilities and scall-scale retail and businesses. As such, minor positive effects are expected for **SA11: Communities** and **SA12: Economy**.

5.15 Policy C8 could have a minor positive effect on environmental topics i.e. landscape (**SA objective 2**), heritage (**SA objective 4**) and biodiversity and geodiversity (**SA objective 3**) as it provides guidance on what type of development would be acceptable and where and restricts development in the open countryside.

5.16 Policy C8 is also expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA8: Sustainable transport** as most development would be steered to existing settlements and employment sites which would be those that are well-located for public transport and active travel. This could also have a minor positive effect on climate change (**SA objective 1**) and air quality (**SA objective 5**) as the development strategy could lead to less reliance on private vehicles, thereby reducing traffic and greenhouse gas emissions. However, within the

context of the National Park, such effects are unlikely to be significant.

5.17 Policies C9 and C10 set out criteria and principles that developers must take into account in relation to settlement capacity and development management principles. Policy C9 provides guidance for development in terms of settlement capacity, requiring that developments in or on the edge of a settlement must take into account the significance of local green spaces and open spaces. As such, minor positive effects are expected for **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA13: Health** as green spaces provide vital habitats for local wildlife and improve health and wellbeing of residents and visitors through access to greenspace. Furthermore, significant positive effects are expected for **SA2: Landscape** and **SA4: Heritage** as the policies require that the siting of development should complement the character of the settlement and landscape setting, and criteria are included to avoid development within settlement gaps. Policy C10 is expected to have minor positive effects on environmental topics as it sets out criteria for all development proposals to meet which includes nature friendly design and landscaping, energy and water efficiency, promoting sustainable drainage as well as sustainable travel and contributing to the green and blue infrastructure network. All of the above is expected to have positive effects on the local area as well as the health and wellbeing of the local community.

5.18 Policy C11 sets out siting, design and layout criteria for new development. It is likely to have significant positive effects on **SA2: Landscape** as the policy states that all development must respect, conserve and enhance the valued character of the site, buildings, setting and landscape. The policy is likely to have minor positive effects on **SA1: Climate change, SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity, SA4: Heritage, SA8: Sustainable transport** and **SA11: Communities** as it sets out to ensure that high quality development is built that respects the Special Qualities of the National Park and the local surroundings which includes the ecological network, heritage assets and transport network.

5.19 Policy C12 aims to ensure that new development is adequately supported by appropriate local infrastructure. It is likely to have minor positive effects on **SA11: Communities** as it sets out the Authority's aim to use developer contributions and legal agreements to ensure that all development contributes to the achievement of spatial outcomes, which could support thriving and sustainable communities. The National Park Authority will seek developer contributions for affordable housing, health and social care, open space and sports facilities, transport and transport infrastructure, and green infrastructure. As such it is likely that Policy C12 will have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape, SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity, SA8: Sustainable transport, SA10: Housing** and **SA13: Health**.

Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Geodiversity

5.20 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.4** below.

Table 5.4 SA findings for the Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Geodiversity policies

SA objectives	Policy B1: Protecting and managing the Natural Zone	Policy B2: Protecting Sites, Species and Networks	Policy B3: Protecting Irreplaceable Habitat, Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	Policy B4: Delivering Nature Recovery
SA1: Climate change	+	+	+	+
SA2: Landscape	++	0	++	0
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	++	++	++	++
SA4: Heritage	0	0	0	0
SA5: Pollution	0	0	0	0
SA6: Water	+	+	+	+
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	+	+	++	+
SA10: Housing	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	Policy B1: Protecting and managing the Natural Zone	Policy B2: Protecting Sites, Species and Networks	Policy B3: Protecting Irreplaceable Habitat, Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	Policy B4: Delivering Nature Recovery
SA11: Communities	0	0	0	0
SA12: Economy	0	0	0	0
SA13: Health	0	0	0	0
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0

5.21 Due to the nature of the policies in this section of the Local Plan, all four are likely to have significant positive effects on **SA3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity**. The primary purpose of these policies is to conserve and enhance the ecological network and maximise developments' contribution to nature recovery. Specifically, Policy B4 states that proposals should provide 10% or greater biodiversity net gain (BNG) and all development must be in accordance with the Peak District Nature Recovery Plan. Associated minor positive effects are identified in relation to **SA6: Water** as the measures in the policies will apply to proposals which could otherwise impact on aquatic habitats. Positive effects on **SA9: Soils** are likely from all four policies, with the effects being significant in relation to Policy B3 as it specifically requires proposals to include appropriate measures to avoid harm to rooting soils.

5.22 Policies B1 and B3 are also likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to **SA2: Landscape** as the protection of the Natural Zone as well as features including trees, woodlands and hedgerows will benefit the visual character of the National Park and its surrounds.

5.23 Minor positive effects on **SA1: Climate change** are likely as a result of all four policies in this section. The policies will all help to conserve and protect the functionality of habitats which may include carbon sinks. Policy B3 specifically seeks to protect trees and woodland, which can play a particularly valuable role in climate change mitigation.

5.24 No negative effects are identified in relation to any of the policies in this section of the Local Plan. While the measures to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity could be seen as restrictive to built development, they will ensure that proposals are appropriate and so result in higher quality development where it does occur. The measures in the policies are not expected to have a notable impact in terms of restricting housing and economic development that would otherwise come forward in the National Park.

Cultural Heritage

5.25 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.5** below.

Table 5.5 SA findings for the Cultural Heritage policies

SA objectives	Policy CH1: Assessing the Impact of Development on Designated and Non-designated Heritage Assets and Their Settings	Policy CH2: Conversion of a Cultural Heritage Asset	Policy CH3: Listed Buildings	Policy CH4: Conservation Areas	Policy CH5: Registered Parks and Gardens
SA1: Climate change	0	+	0	0	0
SA2: Landscape	++	++	++	++	++

SA objectives	Policy CH1: Assessing the Impact of Development on Designated and Non-designated Heritage Assets and Their Settings	Policy CH2: Conversion of a Cultural Heritage Asset	Policy CH3: Listed Buildings	Policy CH4: Conservation Areas	Policy CH5: Registered Parks and Gardens
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	0	0	0	+
SA4: Heritage	++	++	++	++	++
SA5: Pollution	0	0	0	0	0
SA6: Water	0	0	0	0	+
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	+	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	0	0	0	0	+
SA10: Housing	0	+?	0	0	0
SA11: Communities	0	+?	0	0	0
SA12: Economy	+	+	+	+	+
SA13: Health	+	+	+	+	+
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0

5.26 Policies CH1-5 collectively place strong emphasis on conserving and enhancing cultural heritage assets, including archaeological remains, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, and non-designated heritage assets. As such, they are all expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA4: Heritage**, as they provide protection, require proportionate assessments, and ensure that harm is avoided except in exceptional circumstances where public benefits clearly outweigh the loss. By safeguarding the historic environment, these policies will also help maintain the character, distinctiveness, and sense of place of the National Park.

5.27 These five policies are also expected to have significant positive effects on **SA2: Landscape**, given the close relationship between cultural heritage, settlement character, and landscape setting. The policies require sensitive design, the use of appropriate materials and the protection of historic views, all of which will support the conservation of the Park's distinctive and evolving landscape character.

5.28 Policy CH2 may have minor positive effects on **SA1: Climate change**, where conservation and adaptive re-use of existing buildings reduces the need for new construction and associated emissions. Similarly, there may be minor positive effects on **SA7: Waste** since the retention, repair, and conversion of heritage assets encourages resource efficiency, limits demolition waste, and makes more sustainable use of land.

5.29 There are also potential minor positive effects on **SA10: Housing** and **SA11: Communities** for Policy CH2, which allows for the sensitive conversion of heritage assets into housing where this supports long-term conservation. This can contribute to meeting local needs while ensuring heritage significance is maintained. However, effects are likely to be limited in scale due to the selective and exceptional circumstances under which such conversions will be permitted. As such, uncertainty is attached.

5.30 Safeguarding historic environments is also likely to result in minor positive effects on **SA12: Economy** and **SA13: Health** for all policies, as high-quality heritage settings can attract visitors, support sustainable tourism, and reinforce local identity and wellbeing. Protecting conservation areas and cultural landmarks can enhance community pride and provide opportunities for recreation, education, and cultural engagement, which in turn supports both the visitor economy and public health outcomes.

5.31 Policy CH5 could have positive effects on **SA3: Biodiversity, SA6: Water** and **SA9: Soils** as they encourage the protection and careful management of historic parks, gardens, landscapes, and traditional boundaries (e.g. walls, hedgerows, and trees). This could sustain habitats, support ecological connectivity, and maintain natural drainage processes.

Recreation and Tourism

5.32 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.6** below.

Table 5.6 SA findings for the Recreation and Tourism policies

SA objectives	Policy RT1: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation in and on the edge of settlements	Policy RT2: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation in the countryside	Policy RT3: Hotels, Bed and Breakfast and Self-catering Accommodation	Policy RT4: Holiday Occupancy of Self-catering Accommodation	Policy RT5: Caravans and Camping	Policy RT6: Holiday Occupancy of Camping and Caravan Sites	Policy RT7: Facilities for Keeping and Riding Horses
SA1: Climate change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA2: Landscape	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	+	+	0	+	+	0
SA4: Heritage	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	0	0
SA5: Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA6: Water	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA10: Housing	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
SA11: Communities	++	++	0	0	0	+	+
SA12: Economy	+	+	++	+	+	0	+
SA13: Health	+	+	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	Policy RT1: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation in and on the edge of settlements	Policy RT2: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation in the countryside	Policy RT3: Hotels, Bed and Breakfast and Self-catering Accommodation	Policy RT4: Holiday Occupancy of Self-catering Accommodation	Policy RT5: Caravans and Camping	Policy RT6: Holiday Occupancy of Camping and Caravan Sites	Policy RT7: Facilities for Keeping and Riding Horses
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.33 Policy RT2 sets out that proposals for new recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities and recreation hubs must be informed by a Landscape Strategy. Policies RT1 and RT2 state that new facilities must justify their location in relation to environmental capacity, scale and intensity of the use/activity. By ensuring that such facilities are appropriately sited and designed within the National Park's valued landscape character, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to these policies against **SA2: Landscape**. Additionally, where possible, new development should be focused in or on the edge of existing settlements, which will help to protect the open countryside. Policies RT1 and RT2 specifically state that particular attention will be paid when assessing the proposed development's likely effects on internationally protected areas (existing and potential). This is expected to support the preservation of habitats and wildlife and have a minor positive effect on **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**. Policy RT2 discourages development for recreation and environmental education at new sites in the open countryside unless there is compelling evidence for its need. By protecting the open countryside, a minor positive effect is expected against **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**. Additionally, as Policy RT1 supports proposals for recreation and environmental education facilities where they provide opportunities for access by sustainable transport, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA8: Sustainable transport.** Policies RT1 and RT2 will protect and improve access to facilities, services and recreational opportunities, as well as increase opportunities for skills development and learning and encourage a sustainable visitor economy. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA12: Economy.** As PoliciesRT1 and RT2 aim to encourage well-designed recreation and education facilities and safeguard and improve or expand visitor facilities within Recreation Hub sites/locations they are likely to have significant positive effects in relation to **SA11: Communities** and minor positive effects on **SA13: Health.**

5.34 Furthermore, Policies RT1 and RT2 outline that where possible, development must reuse existing buildings that are heritage assets. This is expected to have a mixed effect on **SA4: Heritage**, although the effect is uncertain, as reuse may either negatively impact the preservation of heritage assets' integrity and character if done improperly, or may support their conservation and improve their condition.

5.35 Policy RT3 supports the change of use of historic and non-traditional buildings into self-catering holiday accommodation if enhancement can be achieved and there is no adverse impact on the local landscape. In addition, it states that new hotels on brownfield sites will be acceptable, unless there will be an unacceptable landscape or ecological impact. As such, Policy RT3 aims to protect areas of landscape sensitivity and ecological importance and a minor positive effect is expected against **SA2: Landscape** and **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**. As the policy will permit the change of use of a building of historic value, it is expected to have a mixed effect on **SA4: Heritage**. However, without specific details it cannot be determined whether the change of use will negatively impact the preservation of heritage assets or improve their condition, and as such the effect is uncertain. As Policy RT3 supports the provision of holiday accommodation, appropriate to the context of the National Park, this will likely directly support the visitor economy and local businesses. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected against **SA12: Economy.**

5.36 Policy RT4 sets out holiday occupancy conditions for self-catering accommodation to ensure the accommodation is justified and used for holiday purposes. As such, this is likely to have a minor positive effect on **SA12: Economy** as it aims to clarify what can be used for accommodation. Another aim of the policy is to allow accommodation to form part of the general housing stock if suitable and is therefore anticipated to have a minor positive effect on **SA Objective 10: Housing.**

5.37 Policy RT5 states that small camping and caravan sites may be permitted but must be well screened and consider the landscape setting, neighbouring uses and nutrient neutrality. As such, the policy aims to support the protection of landscapes, wildlife and habitats and minor positive effects are expected on **SA2: Landscape**, **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA6: Water.** Policy RT5 also supports forms of holiday accommodation such as wooden pods that have a lesser impact on the environment and landscape than more traditional accommodation types such as static caravans, which it does not seek to permit. As such, it promotes sustainable forms of tourism and is expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA12: Economy.**

5.38 Policy RT6 aims to restrict the use of a camping or caravan site to no more than 28 days per year by any one person, and limits operation to spring-autumn unless it can be demonstrated that the site is adequately screened in winter and will not have an adverse impact on landscape character, protected sites or Special Qualities of the Park. The policy addresses the greater impact on the landscape during the winter months and through consideration of Special Qualities will prevent undue impacts to wildlife habitats as well as residential amenity. As such, a minor positive effect is expected against **SA2: Landscape**, **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity and SA11: Communities.**

5.39 Policy RT7 permits the provision of horse riding facilities provided that they do not alter the valued landscape character or adversely impact its character and appearance. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA2: Landscape.** By supporting the provision of horse riding facilities and ensuring that they have good access from road networks, the policy could improve access to facilities for the community, encourage the visitor economy and provide employment opportunities. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected against **SA11: Communities** and **SA12: Economy.**

Climate Change, Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage

5.40 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.7** below.

Table 5.7 SA findings for the Climate Change, Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage policies

SA objectives	Policy CC1: Sustainable design and carbon reduction	Policy CC2: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Development	Policy CC3: Flood Risk	Policy CC4: Sustainable Drainage
SA1: Climate change	++	+	++	+
SA2: Landscape	+	?	+	0
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	+/-?	+	+
SA4: Heritage	+?	?	+	0
SA5: Pollution	+	+	++	++
SA6: Water	+	+	++	++
SA7: Waste and Minerals	+	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	+/?	0	0
SA9: Soils	+	?	+	0
SA10: Housing	+	+	+	0
SA11: Communities	0	+	+	++
SA12: Economy	0	+	+	+
SA13: Health	+	+	++	+
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0

5.41 Policy CC1 promotes sustainable design and the reduction of carbon through supporting development that promotes energy efficiency and incorporates low carbon heating and energy systems, maximises on-site renewable and low carbon energy generation and integrates measures to address climate change. As such, a significant positive effect is expected against **SA1: Climate change** and a minor positive effect against **SA5: Pollution**. The policy is also expected to have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA7: Waste and minerals,** as the policy supports retrofitting which reduces material use and waste, while protecting key landscape characteristics and supporting sustainable design. The policy states that development must integrate measures to address climate change adaptation, including water efficiency and biodiversity enhancement. A minor positive effect is therefore expected against **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA6: Water**. As Policy CC1 promotes the retrofit of existing buildings and will encourage the improvement of existing housing stock, minor positive effects are expected against **SA9: Soils** and **SA10: Housing.** A similar positive effect is expected for **SA13: Health**, as the policy could help provide higher quality housing through passive design and more sustainable living environments. The policy supports the retrofitting of listed buildings which could prolong the life of the heritage assets. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for **SA4: Heritage,** however this is uncertain at this stage.

5.42 Policy CC2 seeks to encourage proposals for low carbon and renewable energy development, provided they do not adversely affect landscape character, cultural heritage assets, or other Special Qualities of the National Park. As such, the policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA1: Climate change** as it promotes the transition to low carbon energy sources, thereby contributing to greenhouse gas

reduction and climate change mitigation. Policy CC3 is expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to **SA1: Climate change** as it seeks to direct new development to areas at the lowest risk of flooding, taking into account all sources of flood risk and the likely impacts of climate change.

5.43

5.44 Policy CC2 could also have minor positive effects on **SA5: Pollution, SA10: Housing**, **SA11: communities,** and **SA13: Health**. Renewable energy infrastructure may indirectly support higher quality and more sustainable living environments, while clean energy contributes to long-term resilience, community wellbeing, and potentially reduced energy costs. In addition, by helping to reduce emissions and air pollutants, the policy may support improved public health by lowering the risk of respiratory problems.

5.45 Policy CC3 states that development should be located in areas with the lowest risk of flooding from all sources. This is likely to prevent pollution, leading to a significant positive effect on **SA5: Pollution**. The policy is also expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA13: Health**, as reducing flood risk directly lowers threats to life, property, and wellbeing, including the physical and mental health effects of flooding. By restricting inappropriate development in areas of high flood risk, Policy CC3 is likely to steer housing to safer, more suitable locations, resulting in a minor positive effect on **SA10: Housing**. A similar positive effect is expected for **SA11: Communities**, as the policy reduces the risk of flooding to key facilities and infrastructure, helping to keep the community safe and maintain access to services.

5.46 Policy CC3 is expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA6: Water,** as it ensures water resources and floodplains are managed in a way that reduces flood risk, prevents water contamination, and safeguards natural hydrological processes. Policy CC2 may have minor positive effects on **SA6: Water**, as renewable energy generation could reduce pollution risks associated with fossil fuel extraction and combustion.

5.47 Policy CC4 is expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA5: Pollution** and **SA6: Water**, as it requires development to protect water quality and manage surface and foul water sustainably, prohibits water pollution without effective control measures, and ensures appropriate treatment where connection to the main sewage system is not possible. The policy also promotes sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) that integrates biodiversity enhancement and multifunctional green infrastructure, delivering wider benefits. This is likely to provide additional minor positive effects for **SA3: Biodiversity**, **SA11: Communities, SA12: Economy, SA13: Health,** and **SA1: Climate change** through enhanced resilience, wellbeing, and resource efficiency.

5.48 Policy CC2 is expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA12: Economy,** as renewable energy schemes can generate economic activity and local employment opportunities. Policy CC3 is also likely to have a minor positive effect on **SA12: Economy**, as reducing flood risk will increase opportunities for people to live and work locally, facilitate tourism, support agriculture, and encourage sustainable business growth.

5.49 Policy CC2 is likely to have a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect on **SA3: Biodiversity** as renewable energy development could result in diversification of land use and biodiversity net gain, however some risk of localised disturbance to habitats remains. Policy CC3 could also have a minor positive effect as reducing flood risk and safeguarding natural hydrological systems may allow biodiversity to prosper.

5.50 Given that renewable energy schemes could involve land take, the effect on **SA9: Soils** is uncertain depending on how much land is needed and what type of renewable energy is used. By restricting inappropriate development in areas of high flood risk, Policy CC3 may lead to more efficient and sustainable use of land, resulting in a minor positive effect on **SA9: Soils** as development will be steered to locations that protect soils and reduce the risk of erosion or degradation.

5.51 Policy CC2 is expected to have an uncertain effect on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA4: Heritage.** This is because Policy CC2 aims to limit any adverse effects on landscape character and heritage assets, however this is uncertain at this stage. However, Policy CC3 seeks to provide natural flood management that could enhance the landscape and protect cultural heritage sites at risk from flooding. As such, a minor positive effect is expected.

5.52 Policy CC2 does not directly address sustainable transport; however, wider uptake of low carbon energy could support the decarbonisation of transport over the longer term. Therefore, a potential but uncertain minor positive effect is identified for **SA8: Sustainable transport.**

Housing

5.53 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.8** below.

Table 5.8 SA findings for the Housing policies

SA Objectives	Policy H1: Housing	Policy H2: Eligible housing need	Policy H3: Local Connection Definition	Policy H4: First Occupation of Affordable Residential Buildings	Policy H5: Second and Subsequent Occupation of Affordable Housing	Policy H6: Residential Dwellings to Meet an Essential Need for a Rural Worker	Policy H7: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople	Policy H8: Building and Extending a Dwelling(s) to Meet a Person's Own Housing need	Policy H9: Sub-division of Dwellings to Create Multiple Units	Policy H10: Replacement Dwellings	Policy H11: Ancillary Accommodation	Policy H12: Residential Gardens	Policy H13: Provision of Affordable Housing	Policy H14: Making Effective Use of Land	Policy H15: Housing Mix	Policy H16: Housing Size	Policy H17: Primary Occupancy	Policy H18: Householder Development
SA1: Climate change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA2: Landscape	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-?	0	+?	+/-?	+?	0	+?	0	+?	0	+?
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA4: Heritage	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-?	0	+?	+/-?	0	+/-?	0	0	0	0	+?
SA5: Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA6: Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
SA10: Housing	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	++	++	+	+
SA11: Communities	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	++	++	+	+
SA12: Economy	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
SA13: Health	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.54 Policy H1 is expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA10: Housing**. This is because the policy states new housing is acceptable in principle, however the policy sets out criteria new housing must meet, and housing is not allocated within the plan. A minor positive effect is also expected against **SA11: Communities** by ensuring new homes meet identified local need, remain affordable, and are secured for local people in perpetuity. Policy H1 may also have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape, SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA4: Heritage** as it requires development to achieve conservation or enhancement of the local area, wildlife and heritage assets. Uncertainty is attached, however, as the exact design and location of development is unknown at this stage. It may also have minor positive effects on **SA13: Health**, as it promotes the provision of assisted accommodation for those requiring care.

5.55 Policy H2 seeks to ensure an appropriate supply of affordable housing to meet local need. As such, a significant positive effect is expected against **SA10: Housing** and **SA11: Communities.**

5.56 Policies H3, H4 and H5 are expected to have significant positive effects against **SA10: Housing** and **SA11: Communities** as they will ensure new homes meet local needs first, foster community cohesion, and keep affordable homes accessible to those with the strongest local connections. Policy H3 may also have a minor positive effect on **SA13: Health,** as it promotes the provision of accommodation for those providing care to another person within the National Park.

5.57 Policies H6 to H18 seek to meet current and changing local housing needs, manage affordability and occupation, and ensure housing development occurs in ways that conserve the local landscape and cultural heritage. Most of the policies are therefore likely to have minor positive effects on **SA10: Housing** and **SA11: Communities**. Policy H13 is expected to have significant positive effects on **SA10: Housing** and **SA11: Communities,** by directly promoting the delivery of affordable housing. Policies H15 and H16 set out a desired housing mix and housing size for the area to meet local need, and as such are also expected to have significant positive effects against SA10 and SA11**.** Several of the policies may also have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA4: Heritage** as they aim to protect the Park's Special Qualities and promote sensitive design, appropriate location and scale, and the reuse of materials and buildings. However, these effects are uncertain at this stage. The provision of new or extended dwellings and ancillary accommodation through Policies H8 and H11, respectively may also have a minor negative effect on these SA objectives through the intensification of land use. Policy H13 is expected to have a minor mixed but uncertain effect against **SA4: Heritage**, as while it may support the continued use and maintenance of historic buildings, it could also risk adverse impacts on their character and significance where conversions are not sensitively designed or managed.

5.58 Policy H14 may also have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA9: Soils** as it aims to make more efficient use of land and reduce pressure on greenfield sites, though this may also have uncertain effects on SA2 if the required minimum housing density conflicts with local character.

5.59 Policy H6 may have minor positive effects on **SA12: Economy** by supporting key workers in agriculture, forestry, and rural enterprise through the provision of new dwellings which are essential for business viability. By facilitating opportunities to live and work locally through the provision of affordable accommodation, Policy H13 is also expected to have a minor positive effect against **SA12: Economy**. Policy H15 is also expected to have minor positive effect against **SA12: Economy** as it ensures developments provide a balanced mix of dwelling sizes and affordability to reflect local need, which could help people who work locally to remain living in the area.

5.60 Policy H10 may have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA4: Heritage** by permitting replacement dwellings only where repair is not feasible and requiring sensitive design and siting. These effects are however uncertain. It also states a replacement dwelling will only be permitted where a new dwelling maximises opportunities to reuse, recycle and minimise new embodied and operational carbon consumption, which may have minor positive effects on **SA1: Climate change**.

Rural Economy

5.61 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.9** below.

Table 5.9 SA findings for the Rural Economy policies

SA objectives	Policy E1: Business Development	Policy E2: Safeguarded Employment Sites	Policy E3: Extensions, Alterations, or Intensification of Existing Employment or Business Space	Policy E4: Change of Use of Employment/business Sites	Policy E5: Agricultural, Forestry or Rural Enterprise land Management Operational Development	Policy E6: Farm Diversification	Policy E7: On-farm Anaerobic Digestion and Agricultural Waste Management	Policy E8: Homeworking
SA1: Climate change	+/?	0	+	0	0	0	+	0
SA2: Landscape	+/?	0	+	0	+/-	+?	0	0
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	0	+	0	0	+?	0	0
SA4: Heritage	+	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0
SA5: Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA6: Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	Policy E1: Business Development	Policy E2: Safeguarded Employment Sites	Policy E3: Extensions, Alterations, or Intensification of Existing Employment or Business Space	Policy E4: Change of Use of Employment/business Sites	Policy E5: Agricultural, Forestry or Rural Enterprise land Management Operational Development	Policy E6: Farm Diversification	Policy E7: On-farm Anaerobic Digestion and Agricultural Waste Management	Policy E8: Homeworking
SA10: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA11: Communities	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	+
SA12: Economy	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	+
SA13: Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.62 Policy E1 is likely to have minor positive effects on **SA9: Soils** and **SA3: Biodiversity**, as it discourages development on greenfield land and instead promotes the use of existing buildings, brownfield sites, and farm diversification. This also links to **SA2: Landscape** and **SA1: Climate change**, as protecting greenfield land from development will help to maintain landscape character and keep the land resilient to climate impacts, although the actual effect remains uncertain depending on the scale and type of new business development allowed on existing sites. A minor positive effect is expected against **SA4: Heritage**, as the policy seeks to ensure sensitive conversion of heritage assets, and requires mitigation against any adverse impacts to buildings with cultural heritage significance.

5.63 Policies E2, E3, E4 and E6 may have minor positive effects on **SA12: Economy**, as they will safeguard sites for employment use, ensure any loss of employment land is carefully considered and that the expansion or reuse of sites maximises potential to protect or enhance Special Qualities. These policies are also likely to have a minor positive effect on **SA11: Communities**, as enabling farm diversification and flexibility for business and employment sites will support sustainable local communities.

5.64 Policy E3 seeks to ensure that industrial expansion remains within the environmental capacity of the area, likely having a minor positive effect on **SA1: Climate change** and **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**. It also states that expansion will only be permitted if it does not adversely affect landscape character or Special Qualities, resulting in a minor positive effect for **SA2: Landscape**. A minor positive effect is also expected for **SA8: Sustainable transport** as the policy states that opportunities to improve access by active travel and public transport options should be maximised.

5.65 Policy E5 ensures that agricultural or forestry operational development is appropriately located and designed and prevents adverse effects on Special Qualities. However, any agricultural and forestry development is likely to change the local landscape and setting of heritage assets. As such, a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected for **SA2: Landscape** and **SA4: Cultural heritage**.

5.66 Policy E6 is expected to have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** as it supports farm diversification for nature recovery and will ensure the Special Qualities of the Park are not adversely affected.

5.67 Policy E7 is expected to have minor positive effects on **SA1: Climate change** and **SA7: Waste and minerals** as it supports small-scale anaerobic digestion and any associated development for management of waste or renewable energy generation. Uncertain effects are identified on **SA13: Health**, as depending on the location of the facilities, they could cause harm to local amenity.

5.68 Policy E8 permits certain uses for home working, supporting flexible working arrangements for the rural community. As such, minor positive effects are expected against **SA11: Communities** and **SA12: Economy**.

Shops, Services and Community Facilities

5.69 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.10** below.

Table 5.10 SA findings for the Shops, Services and Community Facilities policies

SA objectives	Policy S1: Shops and Community Services and Facilities in Settlements	Policy S2: Shops and town centres uses in the open countryside	Policy S3: Impact Assessment for New Retail, Professional Services and Other Related Town Centre use	Policy S4: Change of Use of Shops, Other Rown Centres Uses and Community Services and Facilities	Policy S5: The Provision and Retention of Community Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites and facilities	Policy S6: Local Green Spaces	Policy S7: Outdoor Advertising
SA1: Climate change	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA2: Landscape	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA4: Heritage	0	0	0	0	0	+	+

SA objectives	Policy S1: Shops and Community Services and Facilities in Settlements	Policy S2: Shops and town centres uses in the open countryside	Policy S3: Impact Assessment for New Retail, Professional Services and Other Related Town Centre use	Policy S4: Change of Use of Shops, Other Rown Centres Uses and Community Services and Facilities	Policy S5: The Provision and Retention of Community Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites and facilities	Policy S6: Local Green Spaces	Policy S7: Outdoor Advertising
SA5: Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA6: Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
SA10: Housing	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA11: Communities	++	++	++	++	++	0	0
SA12: Economy	++	++	++	0	0	0	0
SA13: Health	+	+	0	0	++	+	+
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

5.70 Policy S1 encourages the provision of shops, community services and facilities and other town centre uses where need can be demonstrated and the sequential test can be met. The policy supports the vitality and viability of town centres and the provision of additional and improved facilities, which could increase social interaction and community focused services in accessible locations. As such, significant positive effects are expected against **SA11: Communities** and **SA12: Economy.** Additionally, Policy S1 supports the provision of residential uses on the upper floors of commercial units. A minor positive effect is therefore expected against **SA10: Housing.**

5.71 Policy S2 supports the local economy by promoting the sale of locally produced goods and supports the retention of existing commercial and community uses. The policy is therefore expected to have significant positive effects against **SA12: Economy** and **SA11: Communities.** Furthermore, Policy S1 and S2 state that appropriate town centre uses will encourage the understanding and enjoyment of the National Park which could improve the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors. As such minor positive effects are also expected for **SA13: Health**.

5.72 Policy S3 establishes when an impact assessment will be required to protect the retail, leisure and community offer in town centres. As such, the policy supports the continued operation and viability of local businesses, employment opportunities and uses that serve the community. Therefore, it is expected that the policy will have significant positive effects against **SA11: Communities** and **SA12: Economy.**

5.73 Policy S4 builds on Policy S1 to outline the tests that will be required to demonstrate the acceptability of the conversion of existing community services and facilities to non-community uses, including viability assessment and evidence of reasonable attempts to sell, let or market the site. As such, the policy aims to support the retention of existing community facilities and services. A significant positive effect is therefore expected against **SA11: Communities.** Notwithstanding its primary objective to retain community facilities on existing sites; where it can be demonstrated that an existing use is no longer viable, needed, or available elsewhere, a change of use may be permitted. As such, the policy facilitates brownfield developments involving the conversion of existing buildings, which is likely to have a minor positive effect on **SA9: Soils**.

5.74 Policy S5 protects existing community recreation sites and sports facilities and supports the delivery of new facilities. In exceptional circumstances where it is demonstrated that

such facilities are no longer required; the new use will be required to meet another community need. As such, the policy supports the retention of community services and facilities that provide recreational opportunities and ensures that community needs are met. Therefore, significant positive effects are expected against **SA11: Communities** and **SA13: Health.**

5.75 Policy S6 sets out a list of Local Green Space designations. These sites have been either nominated by local people, providing an opportunity for participation in local decision-making, or are important open spaces within a conservation area which support the conservation of historic assets' integrity and character. As such, a minor positive effect is expected against **SA14: Governance** and a minor positive effect is expected against **SA4: Heritage**. As the designation of Local Green Spaces will protect areas of green space that are important to local communities and may also include characteristic landscape features, serve as wildlife habitats, build resilience to climate change or provide recreational opportunities for the benefit of the community, minor positive effects are expected against **SA1:Climate change**, **SA2: Landscape, SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity,** and **SA13: Health.**

5.76 Policy S7 sets out circumstances where outdoor advertising may be permitted, to ensure that the Special Qualities are conserved and enhanced. The policy will also help to protect the value and appearance of heritage assets as well as public safety and amenity of neighbouring properties. A minor positive effect is expected against **SA4: Heritage** and **SA13: Health.**

Minerals and Waste

5.77 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.11** below.

Table 5.11 SA findings for the Minerals and Waste policies

SA objectives	Policy M1: Minerals Development	Policy M2: Fluorspar proposals	Policy M3: Building and roofing stone	Policy M4: Restoration and aftercare	Policy M5: Mineral safeguarding	Policy W1: Waste management	Policy HW1: Redevelopment of Hope Works	Policy MW1: The justification for minerals and waste development	Policy MW2: Waste management facilities	Policy MW3: The impact of minerals and waste development on amenity	Policy MW4: The impact of minerals and waste development on the environment	Policy MW5: Cumulative effects of minerals and waste development	Policy MW6: Ancillary minerals development	Policy MW7: Processing of building and roofing stone
SA1: Climate change	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA2: Landscape	++	+?/-	+?	++	0	+/?	++	+	+/?	+	+	+	+	+
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	++	+?/-	+?	++	0	+?	++	+	+?	+	+	+	0	0
SA4: Heritage	+	0	+	++	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA5: Pollution	0	+?/-	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	++	++	++	+	+
SA6: Water	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0	0	+?	0	+	0	0	0
SA7: Waste and Minerals	++	+/-	+	0	++	++	++	+	++	0	0	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA10: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	Policy M1: Minerals Development	Policy M2: Fluorspar proposals	Policy M3: Building and roofing stone	Policy M4: Restoration and aftercare	Policy M5: Mineral safeguarding	Policy W1: Waste management	Policy HW1: Redevelopment of Hope Works	Policy MW1: The justification for minerals and waste development	Policy MW2: Waste management facilities	Policy MW3: The impact of minerals and waste development on amenity	Policy MW4: The impact of minerals and waste development on the environment	Policy MW5: Cumulative effects of minerals and waste development	Policy MW6: Ancillary minerals development	Policy MW7: Processing of building and roofing stone
SA11: Communities	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
SA12: Economy	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
SA13: Health	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	++	++	0	0
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.78 Most policies in this section seek to limit new extraction, prioritise prior extraction, require high-quality restoration and aftercare, embed the waste hierarchy for local needs, and reduce environmental and amenity impacts. As a result, the policies are likely to have positive effects across a broad range of SA objectives, particularly **SA2: Landscape, SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity, SA5: Pollution** and **SA7: Waste & minerals**, provided that mitigation, restoration and monitoring provisions are successfully applied.

5.79 Policy M1 states that new extraction will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. It also makes restoration of sites a core requirement for each new minerals proposal, prioritising biodiversity-led after-uses, public access and recognition of cultural heritage. As such, it is likely to have a significant positive effect on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**, because site restoration is expected to deliver habitat creation, landscape enhancement and nature recovery. The emphasis on site restoration and appropriate after-uses may also provide minor positive effects on **SA11: Communities**, through recreation and access, and **SA4: Heritage**, through recognition of cultural heritage and industrial archaeology. There may also be minor positive effects for **SA9: Soils** where restoration improves soil quality and avoids long-term degradation. Minor positive effects for **SA1: Climate change** are also possible where nature-based after-uses improve carbon sequestration or reduce flood risk.

5.80 Policy M1 is likely to have a significant positive effect on **SA7: Waste and minerals** by restricting unnecessary new extraction and supporting efficient use of existing reserves.

5.81 Policy M2 supports continued underground extraction where environmental impacts can be mitigated and does not allow opencast mining of fluorspar. This policy is likely to have a minor positive effect on **SA12: Economy** by safeguarding a specialist local mineral and related employment where justified, while limiting industry by not allowing opencast mining. Requiring suitable mitigation and banning opencast may also have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape**, **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA5: Pollution**. The policy's support for recycling of tailings may also have a minor positive effect on **SA7: Waste and minerals**. However, as extraction is still allowed, minor negative effects are also expected for these objectives.

5.82 Policy M3 only allows the working of building and roofing stone for demonstrated need, local supply and tightly mitigated proposals. This is likely to have a minor positive effect on **SA4: Heritage** by ensuring local materials are available for repair and conservation of local heritage assets whilst securing long-term nature conservation benefits. Where proposals include carefully controlled extraction and restoration, sites may deliver positive effects for **SA2: Landscape** and **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity,** however this is uncertain at this stage. The strict tests for exceptional circumstances may also help avoid unnecessary environmental harm, so minor positive effects on **SA5: Pollution** and **SA7: Waste and minerals** are expected.

5.83 Policy M4 sets out detailed requirements for the restoration and aftercare of mineral and waste sites. It specifically notes that restoration must contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity and amenity as well as align with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. As such, significant positive effects are expected for **SA2: Landscape**, **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA4: Heritage**. The policy may also have minor positive effects on **SA1: Climate change**, **SA9: Soils** and **SA11: Communities** as well-planned restoration of a site could improve recreation opportunities, rehabilitate soil and provide carbon sequestration from restored habitats.

5.84 Policy M5 protects important mineral resources from sterilisation and promotes prior extraction where practicable. This is likely to have a significant positive effect on **SA7: Waste and minerals** by safeguarding supply and preventing loss of resource. A minor positive effect is expected for **SA9: Soils** by preventing inappropriate surface development in sensitive mineral areas. Safeguarding existing railheads supports sustainable transport of minerals and so may have a minor positive effect on **SA8: Sustainable transport**.

5.85 Policies W1 and MW2 promote the sustainable management of waste through the waste hierarchy, restrict large-scale facilities, and favour local, appropriately-scaled facilities in sequentially-identified locations. As such, these policies are likely to have significant positive effects on **SA7: Waste and minerals** by promoting reuse, recycling and minimising waste. By limiting large facilities and minimising (and where possible avoiding) adverse impacts on the natural environment, the policy is likely to have a minor positive effect on **SA5: Pollution**. Localised waste facilities designed to meet community needs and ensuring waste facilities avoid adverse impacts on the amenity of communities may also deliver minor positive effects for **SA11: Communities** and **SA13: Health** through better waste management.

5.86 Policy W1 requires the restoration and after-use of waste sites to contribute to recreation opportunities and biodiversity enhancements within the National Park. As such, minor positive effects are expected for **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA13: Health**. The policy also encourages construction and demolition waste to be managed and re-used on site. However, where there may be significant environmental risk to flora, fauna, local communities or the water environment, an appropriate off-site disposal option is required. This could have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape**, **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**, and **SA6: Water**. However, this remains uncertain because waste will still be disposed of somewhere, and while negative effects may be reduced, they may not be entirely avoided.

5.87 Policy HW1 seeks to ensure any redevelopment of the brownfield elements of the Hope Cement Works site protects quarry restoration plans and prioritises conservation, environmental improvements, and community benefits. Furthermore, the policy supports opportunities for affordable housing, employment, sustainable transport, renewable energy, recreation and education where of an appropriate scale. As such, significant positive effects are expected for **SA2: Landscape**, **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity, SA4: Heritage** and **SA7: Waste and minerals** and minor positive effects are expected for **SA1: Climate change, SA8: Sustainable transport, SA10: Housing** and **SA12: Economy**. Policy HW1 may also have minor positive effects on **SA9: Soils** and **SA11: Communities** as well-planned redevelopment of the cement works could rehabilitate soil and provide new benefits for the community.

5.88 Policy MW1 requires robust evidence on the viability, need, alternatives and public interest in minerals and waste development. This is likely to result in a minor positive effect on **SA14: Governance** by improving transparency and decision-making. It may also deliver minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape**, **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**, **SA5: Pollution**, and **SA7: Waste and minerals** by requiring consideration of environmental, biodiversity and community impacts before permission is granted.

5.89 Policies MW3-MW5 require that impacts on amenity and the environment and the cumulative impacts of minerals and waste development are acceptable or mitigated. These policies are therefore likely to have significant positive effects on **SA5: Pollution** and **SA13: Health** by reducing adverse impacts on health and wellbeing, tranquillity, noise, water and odour pollution. Minor positive effects are also expected for **SA2: Landscape** and **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** by reducing visual and ecological impacts. By aiming to minimise residual waste and protecting groundwater and rivers, Policy MW4 is also likely to have significant positive effects on **SA6: Water**.

5.90 Furthermore, Policy MW5 specifically ensures that the cumulative impact of existing and new minerals and waste development is acceptable in the area. A minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA11: Communities**, as the policy helps to prevent additional harm across multiple factors.

5.91 Policies MW6 and MW7 are likely to have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA5: Pollution** by limiting non-essential ancillary development to ensure ancillary development is confined to suitable locations to conserve the National Park. They are also likely to have a minor positive effect on **SA12: Economy** by supporting the local economy and the traditional local skill of stone processing.

Travel and Transport

5.92 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.12** below.

Table 5.12 SA findings for the Travel and Transport policies

SA objective	Policy T1: Reducing the general need to travel and encouraging sustainable transport	Policy T2: Reducing and directing traffic	Policy T3: Cross-Park Roads	Policy T4: Local road improvements	Policy T5: Managing the demand for freight transport	Policy T6: Railway, light railway and guided bus development	Policy T7: Routes for walking, cycling and horse riding, and inland waterways	Policy T8: Development affecting a public right of way	Policy T9: Traffic Management	Policy T10: Business parking	Policy T11: Residential off-street parking	Policy T12: Visitor parking	Policy T13: Air transport	Policy T14: EV Charging Points	Policy T15: Vehicular accesses to properties	Policy T16: Transport related wildlife severance
SA1: Climate change	+	+	+	0	0	+?	+	+	+	0	0	-	0	+	0	0
SA2: Landscape	+	+	+	+	+	+?	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+	0	+	0
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	+	+	+	+	+?	+	+	+	+?	+	+/-?	+	0	0	++
SA4: Heritage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0	+/-	0	0	0	0
SA5: Pollution	+	+	+	0	+	+?	+	+	+	+	+	-	0	+	0	0

SA objective	Policy T1: Reducing the general need to travel and encouraging sustainable transport	Policy T2: Reducing and directing traffic	Policy T3: Cross-Park Roads	Policy T4: Local road improvements	Policy T5: Managing the demand for freight transport	Policy T6: Railway, light railway and guided bus development	Policy T7: Routes for walking, cycling and horse riding, and inland waterways	Policy T8: Development affecting a public right of way	Policy T9: Traffic Management	Policy T10: Business parking	Policy T11: Residential off-street parking	Policy T12: Visitor parking	Policy T13: Air transport	Policy T14: EV Charging Points	Policy T15: Vehicular accesses to properties	Policy T16: Transport related wildlife severance
SA6: Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	++	++	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA10: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA11: Communities	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0
SA12: Economy	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objective	Policy T1: Reducing the general need to travel and encouraging sustainable transport	Policy T2: Reducing and directing traffic	Policy T3: Cross-Park Roads	Policy T4: Local road improvements	Policy T5: Managing the demand for freight transport	Policy T6: Railway, light railway and guided bus development	Policy T7: Routes for walking, cycling and horse riding, and inland waterways	Policy T8: Development affecting a public right of way	Policy T9: Traffic Management	Policy T10: Business parking	Policy T11: Residential off-street parking	Policy T12: Visitor parking	Policy T13: Air transport	Policy T14: EV Charging Points	Policy T15: Vehicular accesses to properties	Policy T16: Transport related wildlife severance
SA13: Health	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.93 Policies T1 and T2 are expected to have significant positive effects on **SA8: Sustainable transport**, as they deter Cross-Park traffic, encourage modal shift towards sustainable transport, manage parking demand, and require travel planning to reduce car dependency. Together they may also have a minor positive effect on **SA1: Climate change** and **SA5: Pollution,** by promoting low-carbon transport and avoiding unnecessary increases in road capacity. By managing traffic schemes and car parking sensitively, the policies are also likely to have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape, SA11: Communities** and **SA13: Health**, through providing quieter, safer, and more sustainable access to the National Park. By managing traffic impacts in environmentally sensitive locations and seeking to secure long term net environmental benefits, Policies T1 and T2 are expected to have minor positive effects on **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity.**

5.94 Policies T3 to T13 are likely to have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**, as new car parks and roads are not supported, and proposals for new railways must ensure the benefits outweigh the negative impacts. Furthermore, Policy T9 states that traffic management schemes must aim to minimise impacts on ecological and environmental receptors. This is likely to reduce habitat fragmentation and protect landscape character. In addition, where additional parking may be needed, proposals will need to show a clear local need and be located in the most appropriate locations. Many of the policies also require mitigation of any negative impacts, be in accordance with the Peak District National Park Parking Standards and Transport Design Guide and protect the Special Qualities of the Park. Most of these policies, except Policies T4 and T12 are also expected to have minor positive effects on **SA1: Climate change** and **SA5: Pollution**, as reducing the amount of new major road infrastructure is likely to decrease construction-related emissions and long-term traffic impacts. Policies T7 and T8 could reduce reliance on private cars by encouraging active travel. However, the effects of Policy T6 have uncertainty attached as impacts on the local landscape and habitats might be possible depending on design and mitigation. Also, construction could temporarily increase pollution in the short-term, but in the longer term the policy is expected to support **SA5: Pollution** through cleaner transport modes.

5.95 Policies T5 and T6 are likely to have minor positive effects on **SA12: Economy**, as they support facilities that meet the needs of Park-based businesses and tourist or heritage attractions and improve freight transfer options.

5.96 Policies T6, T7, T8 and T9 are expected to have significant positive effects on **SA8: Sustainable transport**. These policies seek to safeguard, enhance, and expand active travel networks, ensure that applications for new public transport represent sustainable transport solutions, and ensure appropriate traffic management Policies T7 and T8 are also likely to have significant positive effects on **SA11: Communities** and **SA13: Health** as they improve accessibility, connectivity, and recreation opportunities.

5.97 Policies T10, T11 and T12 are expected to have minor positive effects on **SA11: Communities** as reducing obstructive or unsafe parking practices and limiting visitor car numbers could improve amenity for residents and reduce congestion and localised air quality issues. Policy T10 is also expected to have an uncertain minor positive effect on **SA4: Heritage**, by ensuring that any additional parking has a limited impact on designated sites and heritage assets. The actual effect will depend on how 'limited' is interpreted.

5.98 Although new car parks are not promoted, Policy T12 could provide additional visitor parking which could encourage visitors to enter the Park by private vehicle which could worsen air quality within the area and increase greenhouse gas emissions. As such, minor negative effects are expected for **SA1: Climate change** and **SA5: Pollution**. In addition, car parks could negatively affect the natural beauty, cultural heritage and landscape setting of the area, although they may also reduce ad-hoc parking in inappropriate or unsafe locations, benefitting local amenity. Furthermore, if they are developed on greenfield land they could harm biodiversity in the area. As such, mixed effects are expected for **SA2: Landscape**, **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA4: Heritage**. Uncertainty is attached to **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** as proposals for new car parks will be assessed against direct or indirect impact on Protected Sites.

5.99 Policy T13 is expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA2: Landscape** and **SA11: Communities**, as it restricts aircraft and helicopter activity that could harm tranquillity, amenity and the Special Qualities of the Park. Furthermore, the policy is restrictive for non-powered flights if they will have an adverse impact on wildlife in the Park. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**.

5.100 Policy T14 promotes the delivery of EV charging points in new developments where parking is new or reconfigured. Minor positive effects are therefore expected against **SA1: Climate change** and **SA5: Pollution**, as the policy will help support the transition towards the use of low-emission vehicles.

5.101 Policy T15 establishes guidance for vehicular access to properties. By ensuring that new or improved access onto highways is appropriate and safe and responds to local character, a minor positive effect is expected against **SA2: Landscape** and **SA11: Communities.**

5.102 Policy T16 seeks to ensure that severed wildlife routes and habitats as a result of transport infrastructure are addressed by requiring the provision of safe crossing points, such as wild bridges or cut and cover tunnels. As such, a

significant positive effect is expected against **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**.

Utilities

5.103 The likely effects of the policies in this section of the Local Plan are set out in **Table 5.13** below.

Table 5.13 SA findings for the Utilities policies

SA objectives	Policy U1: New or expanded water resource reservoirs	Policy U2: Development that requires new or upgraded service infrastructure	Policy U3: New and upgraded electricity distribution networks	Policy U4: Water networks	Policy U5: Development close to utility installations	Policy U6: Telecomms infrastructure	Policy U7: Restoration of utility and telecomms infrastructure sites
SA1: Climate change	-	+	-	+?	-	-	0
SA2: Landscape	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+/-	-	+/-	0	-	+/-	+
SA4: Heritage	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	0	0
SA5: Pollution	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA6: Water	+/-	+	0	+/-	0	0	+
SA7: Waste and Minerals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA8: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Soils	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
SA10: Housing	0	0	+	0	0	+	0
SA11: Communities	+	+	+	+	+	+	0

SA objectives	Policy U1: New or expanded water resource reservoirs	Policy U2: Development that requires new or upgraded service infrastructure	Policy U3: New and upgraded electricity distribution networks	Policy U4: Water networks	Policy U5: Development close to utility installations	Policy U6: Telecomms infrastructure	Policy U7: Restoration of utility and telecomms infrastructure sites
SA12: Economy	0	0	+	0	0	+	0
SA13: Health	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.104 Positive effects are expected in relation to **SA11: Communities** for most of the Utilities policies except Policy U7 as they are likely to improve the Peak District National Park community's connectivity to infrastructure and services. Specifically, Policy U1 is expected to have a minor positive effect as it states that when new or expanded reservoirs are delivered it must provide facilities to support public access to the area. Furthermore, Policy U1 is expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA13: Health** as it states reservoirs must allow the public opportunities for recreation which is likely to promote the health of the community.

5.105 All of the policies other than Policy U5 and Policy U7 specifically state that service infrastructure will not be permitted if it adversely affects the landscape and Special Qualities of the National Park. Mixed effects are therefore expected for all policies other than Policy U5 and Policy U7 which are expected to have minor negative effects on **SA2: Landscape**. Minor negative effects are expected as utility and telecommunication infrastructure can affect the landscape of the area. However, Policy U1 is likely to have minor positive effects mixed with minor negative effects as it states that there is a presumption against the development of new or expanded reservoirs, but where they are delivered, significant landscape enhancement must take place. Policies U1 and U3 are also expected to have minor positive effects on **SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity** and **SA4: Heritage.** Policy U1 states that the delivery of the highest possible present biodiversity net gain within the management area of the reservoir and the conservation of any affected heritage features will be required. And Policy U3 seeks to minimise the impact of infrastructure and ancillary works on heritage, landscape character and habitats. However, new reservoirs and electricity distribution networks can cause significant changes to the local landscape and cultural heritage and disrupt habitats and wildlife; therefore, mixed effects are expected for these SA objectives overall.

5.106 Mixed effects are also expected in relation to **SA6: Water** for Policy U1 and Policy U4 due to the impact that existing, new or expanded reservoirs could have in altering natural drainage processes but also providing better water security. Policy U4 is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to **SA1: Climate change** as development to manage the impacts of climate change will be supported. Minor negative effects are expected for all policies, except Policy U2, U4 and U7, in relation to **SA1: Climate Change,** and all policies except U7 in relation to **SA9: Soils**, due to the fact that new reservoirs and utility infrastructure have the potential to release carbon through disturbance to peat soils and soil degradation. Positive effects on the environment are expected for Policy U7. This is because it promotes restoration of the site for the utility and telecommunications infrastructure is no longer needed. Therefore, this policy is expected to have minor positive effects on **SA2: Landscape, SA 3: Biodiversity and geodiversity, SA6: Water** and **SA9: Soils**.

5.107 Policy U2 states that new development should incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) where possible. This would help alleviate flooding and improve water pollution. It also states that measures to prevent any impacts on nutrient neutrality will be required. As such, minor positive effects are expected for **SA1: Climate Change, SA5: Pollution** and **SA6: Water**.

5.108 Policy U3 and U6 are expected to have minor positive effects on **SA10: Housing** and **SA12: Economy**. This is because new infrastructure can benefit housing and businesses through improved and more efficient utility services.

Chapter 6
Cumulative Effects

6.1 This chapter summarises the likely cumulative effects of the Local Plan spatial objectives and policies on each of the SA objectives in the SA framework, as shown in **Table 6.1**. The total combined effects of all the Plan policies working together are discussed, highlighting that many of the potential negative sustainability effects identified will be reduced or avoided by other strong policy requirements governing all development in the Park. **Table 6.2** at the end of the section then provides a single overall cumulative effect for the Local Plan in relation to the achievement of each of the SA objectives.

Table 6.1 Summary of the SA Findings for the Regulation 19 Local Plan

	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Policy C1: Securing National Park Purposes	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0
Policy C2: Sustainable Development	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	++	+	++	0	++	0
Policy C3: Enhancing the National Park	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0
Policy C4: Landscape Character and Special Qualities	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C5: Conservation and enhancement of the landscape	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0
Policy C6: Biodiversity and nature recovery	+	+	++	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C7: Cultural heritage assets of archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy C8: Development Strategy	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	0
Policy C9: Settlement Capacity and Limits	0	++	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy C10: Development Management Principles	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0
Policy C11: Design, Siting, Layout and Landscaping	+?	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy C12: Local infrastructure and developer contributions	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	0
Policy B1: Protecting and managing the Natural Zone	+	++	++	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Policy B2: Protecting Sites, Species and Networks	+	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Policy B3: Protecting Irreplaceable Habitat, Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	+	++	++	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0

	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Policy B4: Delivering Nature Recovery	+	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Policy CH1: Assessing the Impact of Development on Designated and Non-designated Heritage Assets and Their Settings	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
Policy CH2: Conversion of a Cultural Heritage Asset	+	++	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	+?	+?	+	+	0
Policy CH3: Listed Buildings	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
Policy CH4: Conservation Areas	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
Policy CH5: Registered Parks and Gardens	0	++	+	++	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0
Policy RT1: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation in and on the edge of settlements	0	+	+	+/-?	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	0
Policy RT2: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation in the countryside	0	+	+	+/-?	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	0
Policy RT3: Hotels, Bed and Breakfast and Self-catering Accommodation	0	+	+	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
Policy RT4: Holiday Occupancy of Self-catering Accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
Policy RT5: Caravans and Camping	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Policy RT6: Holiday Occupancy of Camping and Caravan Sites	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy RT7: Facilities for Keeping and Riding Horses	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
Policy CC1: Sustainable design and carbon reduction	++	+	+	+?	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	0

	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Policy CC2: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Development	+	?	+/-?	?	+	+	0	+?	?	+	+	+	+	0
Policy CC3: Flood Risk	++	+	+	+	++	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	0
Policy CC4: Sustainable Drainage	+	0	+	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0
Policy H1: Housing	0	+?	+?	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0
Policy H2: Eligible housing need	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0
Policy H3: Local Connection Definition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	0
Policy H4: First Occupation of Affordable Residential Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0
Policy H5: Second and subsequent occupation of affordable housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0
Policy H6: Residential dwellings to meet an essential need for a rural worker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0
Policy H7: Gypsy, traveller and travelling show people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
Policy H8: Building and extending a dwelling(s) to meet a person's own housing need	0	+/-?	0	+/-?	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
Policy H9: Sub-division of dwellings to create multiple units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
Policy H10: Replacement dwellings	+?	+?	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy H11: Ancillary accommodation	0	+/-?	0	+/-?	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
Policy H12: Residential gardens	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Policy H13: Provision of Affordable Housing	0	0	0	+/-?	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	+		
Policy H14: Making effective use of land	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0
Policy H15: Housing mix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	0
Policy H16: Housing size	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0
Policy H17: Primary occupancy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
Policy H18: Householder development	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
Policy E1: Business development	+?	+?	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Policy E2: Safeguarded Employment Sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
Policy E3: Extensions, alterations, or intensification of existing employment or business space	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
Policy E4: Change of use of employment/business sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
Policy E5: Agricultural, forestry or rural enterprise land management operational development	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy E6: Farm Diversification	0	+?	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
Policy E7: On-farm anaerobic digestion and agricultural waste management	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
Policy E8: Homeworking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0

	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Policy S1: Shops and community services and facilities in settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	+	0
Policy S2: Shops and town centre uses in the open countryside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	0
Policy S3: Impact assessment for new retail, professional services and other related town centre use	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0
Policy S4: Change of use of shops, other town centres uses and community services and facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0
Policy S5: The Provision and Retention of community open space, sport and recreation sites and facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0
Policy S6: Local Green Spaces	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Policy S7: Outdoor advertising	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy M1: Minerals Development	+	++	++	+	0	0	++	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
Policy M2: Fluorspar proposals	0	+/-?	+/-?	0	+/-?	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Policy M3: Building and Roofing Stone	0	+?	+?	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy M4: Restoration and Aftercare	+	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
Policy M5: Mineral Safeguarding	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
Policy W1: Waste Management	0	+?	+?	0	+	+?	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
Policy HW1: Redevelopment of Hope Works	+	++	++	++	0	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0

	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Policy MW1: The justification for Minerals and Waste Development	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
Policy MW2: Waste management facilities	0	+?	+?	0	+	+?	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
Policy MW3: The Impact of Minerals and Waste Development on Amenity	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
Policy MW4: The Impact of Minerals and Waste Development on the Environment	0	+	+	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
Policy MW5: Cumulative Effects of Minerals and Waste Development	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0
Policy MW6: Ancillary Minerals Development	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Policy MW7: Processing of Building and Roofing Stone	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Policy T1: Reducing the general need to travel and encouraging sustainable transport	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	+	0
Policy T2: Reducing and directing traffic	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	+	0
Policy T3: Cross-Park Roads	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T4: Local Road Improvements	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T5: Managing the Demand for Freight Transport	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Policy T6: Railway, light railway and guided bus development	+?	+?	+?	0	+?	0	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	0

	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Policy T7: Routes for Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding, and Waterways	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	++	0	++	0
Policy T8: Development Affecting a Public Right of Way	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	++	0	++	0
Policy T9: Traffic Management	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T10: Business Parking	0	+	+?	+?	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy T11: Residential Off-street Parking	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy T12: Visitor Parking	-	+/-	+/-?	+/-	-	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy T13: Air Transport	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy T14: EV Charging Points	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T15: Vehicular accesses to properties	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy T16: Transport related wildlife severance	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy U1: New or Expanded Water Resource Reservoirs	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	-	0	+	0	+	0
Policy U2: Development that Requires New or Upgraded Service Infrastructure	+?	+/-	-	0	+	+	0	0	-	0	+	0	0	0
Policy U3: New and upgraded electricity distribution networks	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	-	+	+	+	0	0
Policy U4: Water Networks	+?	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	-	0	+	0	0	0
Policy U5: Development Close to Utility Installations	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	+	0	0	0

	SA1: Climate change	SA2: Landscape	SA3: Biodiversity	SA4: Heritage	SA5: Pollution	SA6: Water	SA7: Waste and minerals	SA8: Sustainable transport	SA9: Soils	SA10: Housing	SA11: Communities	SA12: Economy	SA13: Health	SA14: Governance
Policy U6: Telecommunications Infrastructure	-	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	-	+	+	+	0	0
Policy U7: Restoration of Utility and Telecommunications Infrastructure Sites	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

SA Objective 1: Climate change

6.2 Whilst no allocations are made for development sites in the Regulation 19 Local Plan, there may be an increase in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of measures to promote tourism if visitors to the Park travel via private vehicle. Also, any new reservoir and utility infrastructure have the potential to release carbon through disturbance to peat soils and soil degradation. However, the Local Plan includes a number of policies which relate to Sustainable Development, Low Carbon and Renewable Energy, Flood Risk, Sustainable Drainage and Sustainable Design and Carbon Reduction. These policies will combine to help achieve the goal of net zero by 2040 as they encourage the generation of energy through renewable and low carbon sources and minimising energy use. Furthermore, Policy 2 directly supports development that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

6.3 **Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected in relation to this SA objective.**

SA Objective 2: Landscape

6.4 The Peak District National Park covers 555 square miles and covers eight regional character areas: Dark Peak, Dark Peak Western Fringe, Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe, South West Peak, White Peak, Derwent Valley, Eastern Moors, Derbyshire Peak Fringes. The Park contains a wide variety of landscapes including broad open moorlands, more intimate enclosed farmlands and wooded valleys.

6.5 The Regulation 19 Local Plan includes a number of policies which specifically aim to conserve and enhance the quality and character of the area, including Policy C4: Landscape Character and Special Qualities, which is expected to conserve and enhance the Special Qualities of the National Park, especially the valued landscape and biodiversity in line with the Authority's Landscape Strategy, Wooded Landscapes Plan and Nature Recovery Plan. Furthermore, almost every policy includes reference to the Special Qualities of the Park and notes they must be conserved and enhanced.

6.6 No sites are allocated in the Local Plan for built development. Policy C8: Development Strategy is clear that development in the open countryside will not generally be permitted and that development proposals on the edge of settlements must demonstrate that settlement capacity and limits have been taken into account. This will mitigate the potential for development that does come forward having adverse impacts on landscape character.

6.7 **Overall, a cumulative significant positive effect is expected in relation to this SA objective. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.**

SA Objective 3: Biodiversity and geodiversity

6.8 More than a third of the National Park (35%) is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) where important plants, wildlife and geological formations should be conserved. Most are privately-owned though often publicly accessible.

6.9 As no sites are allocated for development in the Regulation 19 Local Plan, significant adverse effects on biodiversity are unlikely, despite the sensitivity of the area. In addition, the Local Plan includes extensive policy protection for biodiversity and geodiversity. The main aim of Policies B1, B2, B3 and B4 are to protect and enhance both designated and undesignated habitats and species throughout the Park. The Environment Act 2021 also helps address habitat loss and fragmentation by making biodiversity net gain mandatory in most development, as reflected in the Local Plan.

6.10 **Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected in relation to this SA objective. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.**

SA Objective 4: Heritage

6.11 The National Park has almost 3,000 listed buildings and structure, 473 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, four Registered Parks and Gardens and 109 Conservation Areas.

6.12 As no sites are allocated for built development in the Regulation 19 Local Plan significant adverse effects on the historic environment are unlikely, despite the sensitivity of the area in this sense. As with biodiversity, the Local Plan includes strong policy protection in relation to the historic environment. In particular, Polices CH1 to CH5 place strong emphasis on conserving and enhancing cultural heritage assets, including archaeological remains, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, and non-designated heritage assets.

6.13 **Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected in relation to this SA objective. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.**

SA Objective 5: Pollution

6.14 As the Regulation 19 Local Plan does not allocate built development in the National Park, a significant adverse effect in terms of increased pollution is unlikely. However, there may be an increase in air pollution from vehicles if the Local Plan results in an increase in visitors to the Park, many of whom travel come via private vehicle. In addition, mineral extraction in the Park could increase air pollution and generate noise and dust. However, mitigation for these potential impacts is included in the Local Plan. Policy C2 is in favour of development that conserves natural resources, while Policies M1 to M5, W1, HW1 and MW1 to MW7 require that impacts

on amenity, the environment and cumulative impacts of minerals and waste development are acceptable or mitigated.

6.15 Overall, a cumulative negligible effect is expected in relation to this objective.

SA Objective 6: Water

6.16 Whilst no sites are allocated for built development in the Regulation 19 Local Plan, there may be a small increase in pressure on water resources within the area with an increased number of visitors and residents. However, the Local Plan includes a number of policies which relate to Sustainable Development, Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage. These policies aim to prevent water contamination, safeguard natural hydrological processes and promote sustainable drainage systems.

6.17 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected in relation to this SA objective. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 7: Waste and Minerals

6.18 Most of the Local Plan policies are expected to have negligible effects on this SA objective, although a number of policies in the Minerals and Waste section of the Plan will have positive effects as they seek to limit new extraction, prioritise prior extraction, require high-quality restoration and aftercare and embed the waste hierarchy for local needs.

6.19 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 8: Sustainable transport

6.20 Most of the Local Plan policies are expected to have negligible effects on this SA objective, although Policies T7 and T8 aim to safeguard, enhance and expand active travel networks within the National Park.

6.21 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 9: Soils

6.22 As no sites are allocated for built development in the Regulation 19 Local Plan significant adverse effects on soils are unlikely. However, any new reservoir and utility infrastructure has the potential to disturb peat soils and increase soil degradation. Policy C2 promotes the efficient use of land, particularly prioritising brownfield land and Policy B3 specifically requires proposals to include appropriate measures to avoid harm to rooting soils.

6.23 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 10: Housing

6.24 The Regulation 19 Local Plan does not allocate any sites for housing development, and Policy H1 is clear that housing will not be permitted solely to meet open market demand. However, the Housing section of the Plan sets out a number of policies which permit housing development on an exceptions basis, including where it addresses eligible local needs, is affordable or provides accommodation for rural workers. This approach will ensure that new homes meet local needs first, fostering community cohesion, and keeping affordable homes accessible to those with the strongest local connections.

6.25 While the Local Plan contains numerous policies relating to the protection of the environment, which could be seen as potentially restrictive to housing development, this reflects the National Park context, and these policies will combine to ensure that housing that is provided is high quality and appropriately located.

6.26 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 11: Communities

6.27 The Regulation 19 Local Plan includes various policies that will combine to improve the sense of community in the National Park, both directly and indirectly. In particular, the Shops, Town Centre Uses, Community Services and Facilities section of the Plan encourages the provision or improvement of community facilities and services in appropriate locations.

6.28 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 12: Economy

6.29 Although the Regulation 19 Local Plan does not allocate any sites for commercial development, it includes a range of policies seeking to support the local economy. The Rural Economy section of the Plan aims to safeguard sites for employment use, ensure any loss of employment land is carefully considered and that the expansion or reuse of sites maximises potential to protect or enhance Special Qualities.

6.30 In addition, policies in the Local Plan that seek to protect the Special Qualities of the National Park will indirectly support the tourism economy.

6.31 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 13: Health

6.32 The Regulation 19 Local Plan includes various policies that will combine to improve the health and wellbeing of local people, both directly and indirectly. In particular, the Shops, Town Centre Uses, Community Services and Facilities section

of the Plan encourages the provision or improvement of community facilities and services in appropriate locations. This will include health and fitness centres as well as other services which support health and well-being.

6.33 While certain types of development could have adverse effects on public health, Policies MW3 to MW5 in the Minerals and Waste section of the Plan require that impacts on amenity resulting from these activities are acceptable or mitigated which could reduce any adverse impacts of that type of development on health and wellbeing.

6.34 Furthermore, Policies T7 and T8 aim to safeguard, enhance and expand the active travel network which could improve accessibility, connectivity and active recreation opportunities.

6.35 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 14: Governance

6.36 Most of the Regulation 19 Local Plan policies are expected to have negligible effects on this SA objective, although Policy S6: Local Green Spaces outlines a list of Local Green Space designations which have been either nominated by local people, providing an opportunity for participation in local decision-making.

6.37 Overall, a cumulative negligible effect is expected.

Summary of total effects of the Regulation 19 Local Plan

6.38 Table 6.2 summaries the effects of the Regulation 19 Local Plan as a whole on each of the SA objectives, as described above.

Table 6.2 Total effects of the Regulation 19 Local Plan

SA objective	Regulation 19 Local Plan
SA1: Climate change	+
SA2: Landscape	++
SA3: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+
SA4: Heritage	+
SA5: Pollution	0
SA6: Water	+
SA7: Waste and Minerals	+
SA8: Sustainable transport	+
SA9: Soils	+
SA10: Housing	+
SA11: Communities	+
SA12: Economy	+
SA13: Health	+
SA14: Governance	0

Cumulative effects of the Local Plan with other plans

6.39 Although the PDNPA Local Plan does not allocate any residential or commercial development, the National Park sits within or borders the following Local Planning Authorities: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Kirklees Borough Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Sheffield City Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. As such, the development proposed within the Local Plans of those authorities could result in cumulative effects on the National Park, particularly if it is located close to the edge of the National Park.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

6.40 The Barnsley Local Plan was adopted in January 2019. The Local Plan made provision for at least 21,546 homes and 297ha of employment land is allocated between 2014 and 2033. The location of the new development is being directed within Urban Barnsley and Principal Towns and Villages.

Cheshire East Council

6.41 The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy was adopted in July 2017. The Local Plan made provision for at least 36,000 homes and 380ha of employment land is allocated between 2010 and 2030. The Plan notes that growth will be prioritised within the Principal Towns and Key Service Centres.

Derbyshire Dales District Council

6.42 The Derbyshire Dales Local Plan was adopted in December 2017. The Local Plan made provision for at least 5,680 homes and 24ha of employment land is allocated between 2013 and 2033. The Plan notes that new development will be directed towards the most sustainable locations in line with the settlement hierarchy.

High Peak Borough Council

6.43 The High Peak Local Plan was adopted in April 2016. The Local Plan made provision for at least 7,000 homes and 35.5ha of employment land is allocated between 2011 and 2031. The location of the new development is concentrated around the Market Towns.

Kirklees Council

6.44 The Kirklees Local Plan was adopted in February 2019. The Local Plan made provision for at least 31,140 homes and 95ha of employment land is allocated between 2013 and 2031. The majority of the new housing development is concentrated within Huddersfield and Dewsbury.

North East Derbyshire District Council

6.45 The North East Derbyshire Local Plan was adopted in November 2021. The Local Plan made provision for at least 6,600 homes and 43ha of employment land is allocated between 2014 and 2034. The Plan notes that new development will be directed towards the most sustainable locations in line with the settlement hierarchy.

Oldham Council

6.46 The Oldham Joint Core Strategy was adopted in November 2011. The Local Plan made provision for at least 289 homes per year and 82ha of employment land is allocated between 2008 and 2026. The Plan aims to provide 80% of the housing provision on previously developed land and half of the employment land will be provided at Foxdenton.

Sheffield City Council

6.47 The Sheffield Development Framework Core Strategy was adopted in March 2009. The Plan made provision for at least 1,425 homes per year and 145ha of employment land is allocated between 2004 and 2026. The Plan notes that new development will be directed towards the main built-up area of the city. The emerging Local Plan was submitted for examination in October 2023. In February 2025 the Inspector asked for the number of homes to be increased to 38,012 and an additional 53 hectares of employment land allocated during the plan period.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

6.48 The Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan was adopted in September 2020. The Local Plan made provision for at least 6,080 homes and 32ha of employment land is allocated between 2014 and 2033. The Plan notes that new development will be directed towards the most sustainable locations in line with the settlement hierarchy.

6.49 To note, all of the above Councils are currently reviewing their Local Plans but are at very early stages apart from Oldham Council which aims to adopt its emerging plan in Spring 2027 and Sheffield City Council's Emerging Local Plan which is currently being examined.

6.50 Although all of these Local Plans aim to provide development within the most sustainable locations, e.g. urban areas, towns etc., and these areas are generally not bordering the National Park (other than for the Market Towns within High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council which are surrounded by the National Park), it is inevitable that the amount of development proposed within/bordering the National Park will increase recreational pressure on the Park and could result in an intensification in congestion, noise, air and light pollution which could adversely affect the Park. However, as discussed above, the Peak District Local Plan seeks to work with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities to support and guide low impact development within the National Park and take other actions to reduce impacts of recreation and tourism within the Park.

How environmental and sustainability consideration have been integrated into the PDNPA Local Plan

The SA has been conducted in such a way that it meets the requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives (including through EU exit legislation) and UK Government guidance on the preparation of SAs. As required by the regulations, the SA has been developed through an iterative process and has informed decision making at every stage of developing the PDNPA Local Plan.

The initial informative stage of the SA was the Scoping process. The Scoping stage of the SA was carried out by the Peak District National Park Authority in February 2024. The SA Scoping Report included a review of other relevant plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on sustainability and provide the policy context for the Management Plan. The social, environmental and economic baselines were established which identified the key sustainability issues to be addressed and provided the basis from which the potential effects of the Management Plan could be assessed. Consultation on the SA Scoping Report was undertaken between August and October 2023 and the key elements of the Scoping Report (i.e. the baseline information, review of plans, policies and programmes and key sustainability issues) have been reviewed and updated as appropriate in the SEA Reports prepared at each stage of plan preparation since then.

How the SEA has been taken into account

The policies within the Regulation 19 Local Plan have been subject to SA throughout their development, along with reasonable alternative options. Each policy has been assessed against the social, environmental and economic objectives in the SA framework in order to establish the likely positive and negative effects. The results of the appraisals were used to inform the decision-making process and establish appropriate options to take forward into the Local Plan. Each stage of developing the Local Plan has included undertaking SA to take account of new evidence. These updates helped further refined the options to include in the Local Plan.

Various recommendations for the Local Plan were made at the Preferred Approach stage of the SA process to help strengthen the positive effects expected. The full list of recommendations and the Authority's reasoning for incorporating the recommendation or not is set out in **Table 6.3** below.

Table 6.3 Recommendations made previously and how they have been addressed

Policy	Recommendation made previously	Authority response
Policy CH2	Include specific wording around retrofitting for climate change and incorporating renewable energy.	Policy CH2 is a policy that guides conversion of a heritage asset and is not applicable for retrofitting and incorporating renewable energy development. Depending on whether the heritage asset in question is designated or non-designated, such applications may be considered permitted development. In any case the application would be determined under other policies. The relevant Policies are: ■ CH1: Assessing the impact of development on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting. ■ CC1 Sustainable design and carbon reduction (strategic policy). This sets out at Clause C that 'The retrofitting of existing buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions is supported in principle. Where development affects a Listed Building or Conservation Area, energy efficiency and renewable measures will be supported where they: – conserve and enhance the significance of the heritage asset; and – minimise harm to historic fabric and character; and – adhere to relevant national guidance, including that of Historic England; and – are reversible where practicable.'
Policy CC2	Robust criteria for different types of renewable energy development could be developed and included within Policy CC2, to provide greater certainty for developers.	The supporting text to Policy CC2 sets out that The Climate Change and Sustainable Building Supplementary Planning Document (or successor) should be used.
Housing Policies	Provide clarity on how "exceptional circumstances" will be defined, in order to reduce uncertainty and improve transparency in decision-making about which developments are acceptable.	The Housing Chapter refers to exceptional circumstances several times (Policies H1, H3, H6, H7, H9, H10, H13, H15, H16). It is not possible or appropriate in all cases to set out how exceptional circumstances are

Policy	Recommendation made previously	Authority response
		defined as it relates to the fact and degree pertaining to each individual planning application in relation to the relevant Policy. However, the Plan does set out that: ■ Policy H1: New housing is only provided ***by exception*** to the policy that provision is not made for housing solely to meet open market demand and housing land is not allocated in the development plan. ■ Supporting text to Policy H3: There may be exceptional circumstances whereby people cannot fulfil the 10 years over a 20 year residency requirement but are close to it and can demonstrate they have (or have retained) a connection with their National Park community, for example through family ties, work, or their contribution to the local community wellbeing. These connections will be taken into account. ■ Supporting text to Policy H6: An essential business need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work constitutes an exceptional circumstance that justifies a new dwelling in the open countryside in accordance with the NPPF provided there is a proven business need that cannot be met by housing in a nearby settlement, or by use of housing already on the site. ■ Supporting text to Policy H7: The Derbyshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2022) did not identify any need for pitches in the National Park. Nevertheless, the Authority accepts that over the plan period exceptional circumstances might justify small-scale provision of 1 or 2 pitches subject to identified need and in a suitable location. Planning permission will not be permanent and the need for a site will be kept under review. ■ Supporting text to Policy H9: Whether or not subdivision is acceptable will depend on the sensitivity of the building to accommodate change and the standard of accommodation that can be created. It also depends on the landscape setting

Policy	Recommendation made previously	Authority response
		and neighbour amenity. In exceptional circumstances permitted development rights may be removed by condition. This would be to protect the quality of the development, the setting of the development, and the residential amenity of neighbours. ■ Policy H13: The exceptional circumstances where a replacement dwelling may be permitted is in relation to the policy presumption in favour of refurbishment, extension and/or remodelling existing dwellings and that replacement does not on its own constituent an enhancement as set out in Policy C3 (and Policy H10). Enhancement sites are sites where, to further National Park purposes, significant conservation and enhancement of the National Park can be achieved through the provision of housing and landscaping. No two enhancement sites are the same and very few examples exist because their acceptability is based on their material, site specific and exceptional circumstances. As such it is not possible to categorise them in Policy H13. ■ Policy H15: The Authority may also exercise some flexibility if a viability appraisal that has been independently verified and accepted by the Authority demonstrates there are exceptional circumstances for an alternative housing mix. This must not adversely affect the overall housing mix, and all other aspects of the development must be acceptable to the Authority. ■ Policy H16: The affordable house sizes reflect Nationally Described Space Standards for two-storey dwellings with the exception of 1 bed maisonette of 39m2. Affordable housing will be expected to align as closely as possible to the house sizes set out in policy and market housing will be expected to align closely with Nationally Described Space Standards. The Authority would have to be persuaded there are exceptional

Policy	Recommendation made previously	Authority response
		circumstances to not work within the policy.
Policy H10	The policy could specifically mention embodied carbon.	This recommendation has been taken on board in Policy H10.
Policy E7	Include reference to the protection of the amenity of the surrounding area.	This is covered in Policy C10 which states that 'All development proposals must where possible and appropriate promote neighbourliness and amenity for local residents/occupiers.'
Minerals and Waste Policies	The policies that include BNG targets could be made more explicit.	National policy sets a mandatory target. It is not appropriate to set a different target but instead it is set out in policy, a requirement for the highest feasible percentage, which would then be negotiated in relation to the Natural England BNG metric.
	Clarification on what "exceptional circumstances" means is recommended.	National policy defines exceptional circumstances in relation to major development.
	Incorporating binding legal agreements for long-term aftercare would be beneficial.	Policy M4 sets out that 'where necessary proposals will need to be accompanied by an appropriate legal agreement to ensure that the above policy objectives are met.'
Policies T7 and T8	Clearer guidance could be provided on how active travel infrastructure can be designed to maximise health, biodiversity and carbon reduction benefits.	Policy C11 sets out that all development proposals must have regard to the Design and Placemaking Planning Practice Guidance and the Green Infrastructure Framework or successors. The supporting text of Policy T7 refers to the Peak District Active Travel Plan.
Travel and Transport Policies	The policies could place more emphasis on encouraging the use of public transport instead of private cars to improve accessibility to the Park (although the rural context of the National Park is noted).	Spatial Objectives for travel and transport under Outcome 9 include 'To deliver a pattern of development for homes, businesses and community facilities that reduces the need to travel and enables travel by sustainable means.' Where development is necessary to encourage the use of public transport, planning policies are supportive and appropriate for the National Park context. Policies T1 and T2 promote modal shift to sustainable transport.

Chapter 7
Monitoring

7.1 The SEA Regulations require that *"the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action"* and that the environmental report should provide information on *"a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring"*. Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.

7.2 Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. Therefore, indicators for the SA objectives for which likely significant effects (either positive or negative, and including mixed effects) have been identified in the SA, are included, this includes all SA objectives apart from SA objective 14: Promote good governance.

7.3 **Table 7.1** below sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the PDNPA Local Plan.

7.4 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the National Park Authority continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already commenced and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Table 7.1 Proposed SA monitoring framework for the PDNPA Local Plan

SA Objectives	Indicators	Possible Data Sources
1. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and to adapt to the effects of climate change.	■ Energy efficiency ratings of new homes. ■ Proportion of new homes/employment within 500m of energy networks that have been connected. ■ Proportion of new homes/employment that incorporate renewable energy.	■ EPC certificate check ■ Planning application checks for major developments

SA Objectives	Indicators	Possible Data Sources
	■ Applications granted and completed for renewable energy generation.	
2. To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park's contrasting and ever-evolving landscape in a changing climate.	■ Proportion of new development on brownfield land. ■ Number of permissions granted with conditions to incorporate conservation or habitat creation, landscape treatment and provision of other features which enhance valued characteristics.	■ Planning application checks
3. To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity and geodiversity flourishes.	■ Biodiversity net gains achieved through development. ■ Loss in areas of biodiversity importance as listed in policy. ■ Provision of Green Infrastructure within developments.	■ Planning application checks ■ Future net gain monitoring database
4. To conserve and enhance, understand and appreciate the cultural heritage of the National Park as part of an ever-changing landscape.	■ Condition of Conservation Areas. ■ Number and condition of buildings on the Heritage at Risk register. ■ Losses to designated cultural heritage assets of archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance.	■ Planning application checks
5. To protect and improve air quality and minimise noise and light pollution.	■ Average annual daily traffic flows.	■ Highway authorities
6. To maintain and enhance water quality and quantity.	■ Proportion of new development built on flood zones against EA advice. ■ Percentage of water bodies at good ecological status or potential. ■ Percentage of water bodies assessed at good chemical status. ■ Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flood risk and water quality grounds. ■ Number and proportion of applications granted and completed with Sustainable Urban Drainage.	■ Planning applications checks ■ EA information
7. To reduce waste generation and manage mineral resources.	■ Proportion of new development coming forward on brownfield land. ■ Number of new on-farm anaerobic digestion waste management facilities permitted. ■ Production of primary land-won aggregates (million tonnes). ■ Number and area of quarries in the National Park: Active or dormant.	■ Planning application checks
8. To encourage and develop the use of sustainable transport e.g. public transport and cycling and walking routes.	■ Proportion of new development located within named settlements in the Park. ■ Length of cycleways created/enhanced. ■ Number of new car-free developments.	■ Planning application checks

SA Objectives	Indicators	Possible Data Sources
	■ Percentage of visitor/resident trips arriving by car versus public transport. ■ Number and quality of public transport linked walking/cycling connectors.	
9. To protect the National Park's soils and ensure efficient use of land.	■ Proportion of new development coming forward on brownfield land.	■ Planning applications checks
10. To provide a wide range of good quality homes to meet the identified local need for housing.	■ Housing stock by type. ■ Change to housing stock i.e.: Number of dwellings permitted and completed (gross and net) by type (including open market, affordable, key workers, grant assisted, new-build, change of use). ■ Number of major developments completed (housing over 10 dwellings). ■ Number and proportion of affordable dwelling completion from new development. ■ Number of gypsy and travellers' pitches available.	■ 5YLS monitoring reports ■ Council tax records ■ PDNPA planning records
11. To support thriving and sustainable communities by improving access to services and facilities.	■ Access to specified services and facilities within target times by public transport (including bank/building society; GP surgery; NHS dentist; petrol station; post office; primary & secondary school; supermarket; hospital). ■ Overall number and range of services across named settlements. ■ Losses of community facilities through change of use, by settlement and overall.	■ Rural services data series (CRC) ■ PDNPA planning records
12. To promote a flourishing local economy and achieve high levels of employment.	■ Amount of floorspace permitted and completed by Use Class (gross and net). ■ Applications granted and completions of holiday accommodation by type (gross and net).	■ Planning application checks
13. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing better access to health services and the National Park.	■ Number of applications granted and completions for development to promote recreation. ■ Provision of Green Infrastructure within developments.	■ Planning application checks

Chapter 8
Next Steps

8.1 The SA of the Regulation 19 Local Plan has been undertaken to accord with current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. This SA builds on the work carried out at the Scoping Stage, the Issues and Options stage and the Preferred Approach consultation.

8.2 The Local Plan does not allocate any sites for built development, which contributes to the broadly very positive effects of the Plan that have been identified in this report. Instead, the focus of the Regulation 19 Local Plan is on protecting and enhancing the Special Qualities of the National Park while permitting appropriate development to address local needs. There is potential to generate positive effects through the new Local Plan, particularly in relation to the environmental SA objectives, as shown in the number of positive cumulative effects identified in **Chapter 6** of this report.

8.3 A number of recommendations have been made throughout the SA process to date, which have been considered by the Authority and addressed as detailed in **Chapter 6**.

Next Steps

8.4 This SA Report will be available for consultation alongside the Regulation 19 Local Plan from 27 July 2026 – 18 September 2026.

8.5 Following consultation, PDNPA will review the responses received and consider whether to submit the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Examination.

LUC

June 2026

Appendix A

Consultation Comments

Table A.1 Consultation responses summary table for the SA Scoping Report

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
Derbyshire County Council	**Population and Housing** It is welcomed and supported that two of the fundamental issues facing the National Park relating to population and housing are fully recognised and reflected in the Scoping Report as highlighted particularly in paragraphs 4.18 and 4.19 namely that: The 2021 Census reveals that the population of the National Park fell by approximately 2,000 people from approximately 38,000 to 36,000 and that this, together with an ageing population, is reducing the number of people who are actively working and living in the National Park. Appropriate reference is made to the fact that it is thought that young people are leaving the National Park as they can't afford to buy or rent property there. In this context, it is appropriately recognised throughout the Scoping Report that without a local plan the National Park would not be able to seek to positively influence to type and tenure of housing across the area; and That whilst the delivery of housing has largely been in line with the anticipated levels set out in the Core Strategy the National Park consistently under delivers affordable housing for local people. In this context, it is appropriately recognised throughout the Scoping Report that without a new local plan, this situation could continue and could result in local people having to move away from the National Park, which would not support the National Parks ambition for thriving and sustainable communities. **Public Transport** It is a bit disappointing there is very little in the report about public transport and what there is seems to be only about rail services. The report needs to consider bus services as well. Not only to get people into the National Park for tourism but to move the resident population around to get to school, work, shopping etc. Derbyshire County Council is spending a great deal of its Bus Service Improvement Plan funding improving bus services throughout the National Park because the County Council sees it as the best way to get people out of their car. It would be welcomed if this was recognised and supported in the Scoping Report. **Climate change** A few relatively minor comments from the climate change perspective: ■ Page 14 - 'National Level - Climatic Factors' reference should be made to the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP19) and then covered again on pages 52 - 53 when detailing policy in more detail. ■ Page 15 'Local Level – Climatic Factors' reference should be made to the Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025) and then covered again on page 70 when detailing policy in more detail.	Noted and welcomed. The SA Scoping Report has been updated with more information on the effects of climate change which have been included in the baseline. Derbyshire County Council provided PDNPA with baseline data on school places and provision which has now been included within the updated baseline information in **Appendix C**. Data on bus services has moved from 'access to services' to 'transport' and further information on service availability/improvements has been added to **Appendix C**. In addition, extra commentary has been included from those accessing the National Park to include those that move around within the National Park.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	■ Page 94 (Appendix 2: Baseline Characteristics, Trends and Key Issues) – climate change – Trends - wildfires are currently the main/only focus. Future projections for changes to average and extreme temperatures, average and extreme rainfall levels, drought etc. should also be referenced here. – Key issues - the current summary is fairly generic and would benefit from more specific reference to impacts such as flooding, drought, high temperatures etc. **Trees** The desire to increase tree and scrub cover with appropriate trees is a worthwhile and positive objective. Those planning new treescapes should consider ecology, landscape and the historic environment when considering proposed locations. **Education** Nothing too much for education in here, but the number of schools that they are stating on page 100 should be updated. There are in fact 1 nursery school, 33 primary phase schools and 2 secondaries in the Peak Park area. I don't believe that any have closed to reduce from 39, rather that they must previously have used an incorrect figure. **Landscape** No substantive comments to make on the proposed approach to the development of the Sustainability Assessment. Within the report structure, landscape matters have been scoped in and the relevant national and local policy context has been identified. **Gypsies and Travellers** It is welcomed and supported that Page 67 of the report makes appropriate reference to the Derby, Derbyshire, Peak District National Park and East Staffordshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) that was commissioned by Derbyshire County Council, its constituent authorities and the Peak District National Park Authority to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople throughout the study area. As appropriately noted on page 67, the GTAA does not identify any current or future requirements for pitches, plots or mooring within the National Park area but it is right that the Local Plan should take a positive approach to new need that may be identified during the lifetime of the Local Plan.	
Derbyshire Dales District Council	In accordance with the requirements of Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 it is considered that the Scoping Report demonstrates a thorough assessment of the key environmental, economic and social issues, challenges and objectives for the review of the Peak District National Park Local Plan. The Scoping Report provides a comprehensive approach to the early stages of Sustainability Appraisal and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects.	The SA framework has now been streamlined and updated to include reference to thriving and sustainable communities.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	The process of Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process to be carried out alongside plan preparation. In this instance the Sustainability Appraisal has been clearly integrated into the early development of the Local Plan review process and will inform the generation of policy options. It is considered that the proposed scope of the appraisal is appropriate, and the baseline information and conditions contained within the Scoping Report are robust and consistent with other plans and programmes relevant to the sustainability context of the Local Plan and its likely effects. The ability of the Sustainability Appraisal to inform the preparation, and mitigate the impacts of the plans, policies and proposals of the Local Plan will be paramount to ensure the final application of the policies achieve the overarching aims of sustainable development. The Sustainability Framework as set out in Annex 3 draws clearly from the review of relevant policies, plans and programmes. The Sustainability Framework proposes a clear set of SA objectives from which the emerging Local Plan policies and proposals can be assessed to determine their likely environmental, economic and social affects, as required by the SEA Directive. However, the Framework includes 12 core objectives supported by more than 40 detailed sub-objectives as the methodology for appraising policy options. This is rather lengthy, and it be maybe appropriate to streamline the scope of the SA Framework to ensure a more concise assessment process and avoid duplication when appraising affects. It is the role of the SA Scoping Report to identify baseline characteristics, trends and key issues for the Plan area and then appraise policy options, using the SA Framework to determine their likely affects. It is noted that Appendix 2 on Baseline Characteristics, Trends and Key Issues highlights housing within the Peak Park as a key issue for the Local Plan review noting “The mix of all types of houses added to the housing stock has not put downward pressure on house prices, or put any significant dent in the figures of unmet housing need in the National Park.” Furthermore, the Sustainability Framework set out in Annex 3 recognises at criteria 8 the need to “maximise the delivery of affordable housing”. Whilst accepting statutory purposes the District Council considers that one of the key requirements for the National Park is to ensure that its housing needs are met and the appraisal of policy options through the SA of the Local Plan should fully recognise the role housing will have on the potential of the Plan to deliver thriving and sustainable communities. Finally in reference to the policies, plans and programmes cited within the SA Scoping Report it is recommended that neighbouring Local Authority Plans are referred to. In this instance reference to the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan and ongoing review should be made as a local level plan/ strategy of relevance. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of emerging work on the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan and the consideration of neighbouring authority plans and strategies to ensure consistency of approach across the wide Peak area. In this regard, please refer to the Local Plan Review webpage on the Derbyshire Dales District Council website for further information and a copy of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Review SA Scoping Report (2021).	The Local Plans of surrounding Councils have been included within **Chapter 3** and **Appendix B** of this report.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
Environment Agency	**Flood Risk** The document refers to the following local policies: Derbyshire's Flood Risk Local Management Strategy, 2015 Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Management Plan, 2023. In terms of strategic plans the Humber Flood Risk Management Plan & the North West flood risk management plan are also relevant and should be considered. Also, each Drainage & Wastewater management plan from Severn Trent, Yorkshire Water & United Utilities cover the Peak District and these should be considered also. Section 4.22 Flooding states: "The current local plan policy is based on the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008). Without a new local plan, development may be directed to areas that could have an impact on flooding. A new SFRA is required to provide up to date evidence to influence a new local plan" If the Peak District National Park Authority are considering updating their SFRA, they should contact the Environment Agency at the earliest opportunity to discuss what model data we currently hold and any timescales relating to new/updated models and when these might be available. **Groundwater and Contaminated Land** Section 3 Policies, plans and programmes - 3.1 National Level section on page 14 "Soil, Water, Air" should be amended to include Land Contamination Risk Management Guidance (EA, 2020, updated 2023) and the same change added on "soil, water, air" page 32/33. The Peak District National Park is situated in a highly sensitive area with respect to controlled waters and is located on a Principal Aquifer with designated Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1 located at several locations. The site is also situated on drift geology comprising secondary aquifers which may contain groundwater or influence the groundwater regime in the area of the site. The River Wye and Derwent Rivers and other surface water bodies been identified in the Peak District which are considered to be controlled waters. We recommend consideration is given to undertaking an assessment of the hydrogeology at the site including a water features survey to ensure that all surface and groundwater interactions and features are fully understood as well as any potential impacts arising from the development. We would expect any Environmental Impact Assessment to consider the impacts the development may have in relation to contamination at the site and detail any required mitigation measures to prevent an adverse impact on the water environment. Further guidance on the assessment of risks to controlled waters can be found in our document 'Guiding Principles for Land Contamination', "LCRM" and Groundwater Protection guidance which are available on our website at the following addresses:	Noted and welcomed. Plans and policies that have been suggested have been added. The text suggested for the baseline information regarding groundwater and nutrient neutrality has been included within **Appendix C**.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/land-contamination-technical-guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection **Water Quality** It is not explicitly stated within the sustainability report that the water environment and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are linked through the Habitats regulations, with riverine elements of the SSSIs not mentioned. In the Biodiversity section (page 85), the only mention of any of the designated species is White Clawed Crayfish within the invertebrates section, but it is not highlighted that this is a protected species. We recommend the following paragraph on page 122 should be rewritten, as it is a simplification of the situation. 'Natural England has issued new advice for the National Park for certain types of development on land that is within the water catchment of the upper River Wye. Such applications must demonstrate 'nutrient neutrality' in order to receive planning permission. This is to protect water quality in the designated 'Derbyshire Dales Special Area of Conservation' - an area rich in rare flora and fauna including notable aquatic species such as white[1]clawed crayfish. An excess of nutrients – in particular phosphates – is harming the delicate ecosystem. The main cause of phosphate pollution is treated waste water. It should be replaced with consideration of the following paragraph: The risk of nutrient enrichment in the upper Wye catchment impacts upon the conservation status of designated species within the riverine units of the Wye Valley SSSI and the Peak District Dales SAC - an area rich in rare flora and fauna including notable aquatic species such as white[1]clawed crayfish, Bullhead and Brook Lamprey. An excess of nutrients – in particular phosphates – is harming this delicate ecosystem. The main sources of phosphate in this catchment are treated waste water, agricultural runoff and urbanisation. These sites are protected by the Habitats regulations and actions to improve this situation and return the SSSI to 'favourable condition' for these species are managed by a Diffuse Water Pollution Plan. Furthermore, in order to prevent the nutrient situation deteriorating and to protect the designated site, Natural England has issued new advice for the National Park for certain types of development on land that is within the water catchment of the upper River Wye. Such applications must demonstrate 'nutrient neutrality' in order to receive planning permission.	
Historic England	The following comments were provided: ■ Page 14, we welcome reference to Historic England's Good Practice Advice Notes, in the table of page 14. It could be beneficial to include our Historic Environment Advice Notes. See link below: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/#Section5Text	Noted. The following amendments have been made: ■ Reference is now made that the landscape strategy includes the historic environment.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	■ Page 15, are there any National Park strategies that are relevant to the historic environment and the role of heritage within landscape? Are there any townscape heritage strategies available to include in this section? Is there a Local List of locally designated assets? ■ Page 48, 'Soil, water and air' consider the implications of any proposals on waterlogged archaeology, or any heritage assets that could be affected by changes to the watercourse. ■ We welcome the section from page 56 to 59 and are keen to engage with the Local Authority on how these issues and assertions can be realised within the Local Plan. As mentioned above, it would be useful to incorporate relevant Historic Environment Advice Notes within this section. ■ Page 70, ensure that heritage is fully considered and included within the section on landscape and the role of heritage as a key component within landscape is fully realised. Also, comments apply to section beginning on page 81. ■ Page 92, the National Planning Policy Framework, within Section 16, sets out how non designated assets should be considered through the planning system. ■ Page 92, how can the Plan have a positive strategy for the historic environment and consider heritage as an asset in the Borough's Plans? There is a need to balance the growth potential of the area with the need to protect and conserve the Borough's historic environment, how can this be achieved through recognising the value heritage brings to the local economy and community?	■ Reference is made to The Climate Change Vulnerability report in the baseline information in **Appendix C**. ■ Reference is now made to waterlogged archaeology in the baseline information in **Appendix C**. ■ Wording has been strengthened to ensure that heritage is fully considered and included within all sections of the report. It should be noted that the National Park does not have a local list.
Natural England	Natural England consider the scope of the SA to be appropriate and have no specific comment on the baseline information or monitoring of the plan. **Plans, Policies and Programmes** The list of relevant plans, policies and programmes in Appendix 1 is comprehensive; Natural England are pleased to see mention of the Environment Act 2021, and specifically the reference to the Local Nature Recovery Strategies this act has mandated. Whilst LNRS are being prepared at a County level and not yet complete, the Peak District National Park Local Plan should consider the emerging objectives of the relevant LNRS, and the documents should be developed in collaboration to ensure the Local Plan complements the delivery of the LNRS and Nature Recovery network. Natural England would like to take this opportunity to highlight another document that should also be considered alongside the development of the Peak District National Park Local Plan. The publication of Natural England's Green Infrastructure framework (January 2023), comprises of principles, standards, maps, design guides and process journeys, to support the facilitation of high quality green infrastructure to be designed and implemented effectively. Implementation of high quality Green Infrastructure (GI) has an important role to play in both urban and rural environments for improving a wealth of subject matters including health and wellbeing, active and sustainable travel, air quality, nature recovery and	Noted and welcomed. The SA framework has been updated and streamlined. In response to Natural England, further baseline information has been included within **Appendix C**: ■ Reference to improving people's access to nature. ■ Reference to the creation and promotion of GI – for wellbeing, reducing the need to travel, creation of new habitats and access to nature for all.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	resilience to and mitigation of climate change, along with addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline. For further information please see Green Infrastructure Home (naturalengland.org.uk) **Sustainability issues** Natural England consider the list to be suitable but they note that there is no reference to improving people's access to nature (be that to linear routes or open space). This should be included as a key issue. **SA Framework** Generally, Natural England consider the objectives and questions set out in the SA framework to be appropriate. We have a few comments to be made which are set out below: SA Objective 2: 'To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity flourishes'. Within subobjective 2a, Natural England welcomes the inclusion of consideration upon the LNRS. SA Objective 12a:'To support sustainable transport'. Natural England welcomes the reference to sustainable modes of transport. However, Natural England would like to recommend that a reference relating to the creation and promotion of green infrastructure would also be beneficial to include within this sub-objective. Inclusion of a reference to green infrastructure will support a reduction in the need to travel by private vehicle and the associated impacts whilst also enabling equal access for all to high quality green spaces. In addition, this will support the creation of new habitats and enable access to nature for all.	
National Trust	Support is given to the principle of Local Plan reflection and review. The PDNPA acknowledge that the current Local Plan will become out of date (para 4.5), and less able to respond to changing sustainability and environmental matters. Also, noting the age of the Core Strategy. Importantly, the PDNPA have identified biodiversity, nature recovery, climate change and farming practice as areas of greater risk without a Local Plan review. In relation to the trends and key issues identified, it is reassuring to see that the National Trust is recognised as large landowner in the Peak District (p.80). Accordingly, we will be a key stakeholder across a range of policy themes. Noting the climate, economic and biodiversity issues highlighted by the PDNPA in relation to landscapes. The importance and profile of the historic built environment is also recognised, and the related matter of climate change pressure. The National Trust will continue to monitor emerging policy approaches to recreation and woodland, acknowledging the value of these matters in the Local Plan review. The proposed Sustainability Framework incorporates a range of strategic themes, which consolidate the trends and issues identified by the PDNPA. Climate change is considered a cross-cutting theme. This is alongside important areas such as landscape protection and enhancement, nature recovery, cultural heritage, sustainable development, access and economy.	Noted. Whole Estate Plans and changing practices in farming and land management is now referenced in the baseline information.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	Finally, a key part of this scoping stage is to inform the identification of relevant baseline information and evidence. In addition to that already presented we ask that the National Trust's Heritage Records Online (NT HRO) is included as a relevant area of evidence and data, with direct links to cultural and landscape policy areas.	
Peak Park Parishes Forum	■ The document makes little mention of the need for the Local Plan, in support of achieving sustainability, to encourage investment in the Park. This of course needs to be well-targeted in the most appropriate places, but it does need more mention than the draft gives. ■ Paragraph 1.23 says "Monitor the actual effects of the plan during its implementation" – which implies that this will also have been done in respect of the Local Plan which is in force today. It would be useful to see the formal outputs of that monitoring please. ■ On p.97, although 'thriving & sustainable communities' do get a mention in the bottom-right corner of the page, the importance of this concept needs to be more centre-stage in the Housing section, i.e. brought into the wording in the left-hand column. **Appendix 3** ■ Some of the items (1-12) are more convincingly written about than others. Those with more cursory descriptions could do with some expansion. ■ Does the numbering of the items listed represent a priority order? If it does, no.7 (Sustainable land use) should not be so far down the list. ■ No.8 (Communities) needs to be stronger re the importance of development which contributes to the viability of local services and the needs/vibrancy of the local community – it's not just about the needs of the applicant. The housing available should be appropriate for the demographic which is relevant to the key jobs in the local area. Also the use of the word 'young' may be not wholly appropriate – as these days people in their early 40s start families! ■ No. 12 would be better entitled 'Developing & supporting sustainable transport' rather than focusing so clearly on reducing road traffic. The latter is of course an important issue, but the question of sustainable transport is a lot wider than that. The document, inevitably of course, airs a number of potentially-conflicting considerations, where necessary trade-offs will need to be established. There is little hint of how such trade-offs will be addressed in order to create a Local Plan which is workable. The document would benefit from a concluding paragraph which helps place the discussions within the document in a context.	Noted. Further baseline information has now been included within **Appendix C**. This includes: ■ Tourism helps to deliver the second National Park purpose. The contribution this makes to the local economy needs to be achieved in a manner that conserves and enhances the landscape (natural and cultural) whilst contributing to thriving and sustainable communities. ■ Business development in sustainable locations will support a strong rural economy and thriving and sustainable communities. Using the rural services network economic toolkit will help to encourage investment and direct businesses to the best locations. ■ There may be pressure from businesses that overtrade and/or outgrow their premises to expand into the countryside. Whilst their success could make a positive contribution to the local economy, it may put unacceptable pressure on the countryside and a move to larger premises that exist elsewhere may be more suitable. SA objective 11 specifically references thriving and sustainable communities.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
RSPB	The following comments were made on the baseline information: **Landscape** ■ It is noted that the habitats of the National Park vary from moderately vulnerable to highlight vulnerable (like the high open moorland and edges) to climate change and this is particularly highlighted because of the degraded condition of the habitats within the Peak District. **Biodiversity** ■ To note, Short-eared Owl is on the SPA designation, Dunlin is not (however Dunlin is a 'proposed' SPA feature). ■ The Bird of Prey (BoP) initiative has been disbanded due to lack of progress with "continued cases of persecution within the region leading to the initiative 'no longer being able to deliver meaningful change'" according to the PDNPA's press release. Local raptor workers do however still monitor these BoP. ■ Should this reference the Nature Recovery Plan, as the responsible authorities for LNRSs are County Councils or Combined Authorities? ■ Important to note that a species not covered by this, Redshank, are on the verge of or may now have been lost from the Peak District as a breeding species. ■ To note, there are also likely other significant factors affecting Twite, not yet fully understood. ■ Roe deer are present and having impacts on tree establishment in some places so are probably best not being described as 'rare'. ■ Important to point out that Adders are absent from the rest of the Peak District other than the Eastern Moors area. ■ Repeated burning of the landscape has also played a part in the loss of Sphagnum mosses from some areas of upland habitats. **Climate Change** ■ Is there evidence to suggest incidences of fire are increasing? Also, degraded habitats are even more prone to the effects of extreme temperatures and lack of rainfall. ■ Re: moorland fires, the impacts will be more severe in degraded habitats (such as heather dominated, dry blanket bog). Restoration and creation of habitats such as blanket bog and native, broadleaf woodland is key to minimising the impacts of fire. ■ Should reference: And a move towards the most suitable, nature-friendly livestock for grazing.	Noted. The baseline information in **Appendix C** has been amended as follows: ■ Amendments have been made regarding habitats and species in the National Park as per their consultation response. ■ Data on wildfires has been included. The SA framework has also been updated and streamlined.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	Prudent use of resources: ■ Questionable whether it is true that any burning regimes are suitable or 'sustainable' to ensure no damage to organic, peaty soils. Burning is now illegal on peat soils deeper than 40cm within protected sites like those in the Peak District. **The SA Framework** ■ Although nature features as Objective 2, it should be referenced within Objective 1 as well. There is no natural beauty without nature so that needs to be recognised within Objective 1. ■ As with Objectives related to climate in the PDNPA Management Plan, this should reference "while contributing to nature recovery."	
Heaton Planning on behalf of Tarmac Trading Ltd.	**Economy** The Scoping Report identifies (page 104/105) that there are a number of active and disused quarries within the National Park. Whilst acknowledging that mineral extraction continues to provide jobs and revenue for the area, it identifies that the number of local people working in the industry was less than 2% in 2001.The economic impact/key issues identified relates only to the fact that low wage jobs are preventing working age people from living in the National Park. Reference is made to the section on the prudent use of resources and specifically minerals and quarrying (page114/115). This identifies the specific importance of Ballidon and Old Moor for industrial limestone supply and identifies the end uses for that very high purity limestone. Paragraph 177 of the NPPF identifies that permission in National Parks should be refused other than in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of: a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy; b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated. In addition, when determining planning applications, the NPPF (para 211) states that great weight should be given to the benefits of mineral extraction, including to the economy. As well as solely providing jobs within the National Park, mineral operations contribute to the local economy through business rates. They are nationally important for continued industrial limestone supply. Continued supply is of national economic importance and therefore should be given weight. **Minerals and Quarrying**	Noted. The baseline information in **Appendix C** has been updated to remove any aspects of the text that implied a proposed policy position rather than stating facts. Also, the Census data on employment has been updated.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	After referencing the significance of industrial limestone supply from Ballidon and Old Moor Quarry, the key issues identifies that, 'the Authority's preferred approach to the release of additional (my emphasis) limestone for industrial and chemical purposes is informed by the existence of significant permitted reserves of limestone for these purposes, both within the National Park and nearby in Derbyshire. There is therefore no case for identifying additional sites for limestone for industrial and chemical purposes, because prospective applications for planning permission would be unable to demonstrate that other sources are not available'. Firstly It should be clarified in the context of the importance of Ballidon and Old Moor that this is referencing new sites as opposed to development at these existing sites. Secondly, this statement is almost prejudicial to considering on balance, the economic, sustainable, social and environmental benefits that extensions to existing operations or new development could bring (notwithstanding in the framework of paragraph 177 of the NPPF and the exceptional circumstances required for development in the National Park).	

Table A.2 Consultation responses summary table for the Issues and Options SA Report (July 2024)

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
Natural England	Natural England has reviewed the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and considers that it provides a comprehensive assessment of this stage of the Local Plan. We note that the alternative options have been assessed. We are pleased to note that our comments made at the scoping consultation have been considered and we welcome the additions to the baseline information to include access to nature and to emphasise multifunctional benefits of GI. We welcome the inclusion of the reference to Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework within the Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes. Whilst we generally welcome the proposed SA monitoring framework for the PDNPA Local Plan set out in Table 5.1 we would like to see Green Infrastructure included within the monitoring considerations. This should include the provision of GI within developments and the benefits to biodiversity and access to nature that it can include which could feature under SA objective 3; and the contribution that GI and access to nature can make to improve health and wellbeing under objective 13.	Noted. The monitoring indicators have been updated for SA objectives 3 and 13 to include the provision of GI within developments.
CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire	The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) baseline does not provide evidence on a baseline and trends of carbon emissions in relation to the PDNP. Nor does it provide information on the quarrying and cement industry, a nationally significant emitter of greenhouse gases.	The baseline information provides information on each of the SEA topics and is updated each stage of the SA process. The level of detail is considered to be proportionate and appropriate. Minerals and

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	The SA also does not provide questions or indicators that are specific and measurable such as the percentage of new homes meeting net zero carbon (plan defined) standards. Also, it does not acknowledge the actions and timescales recommend by the Climate Change Commission as being necessary for achieving net zero. Pressures for major road building and infrastructure still pose a threat to the natural beauty of the park, and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) is urged to stand firm against major development which would destroy the special qualities and valued characteristics of the Peak District. The charity believes that development should happen in a way that is in line with the statutory purposes of national parks in England, and the proposed broad spatial strategy Local Plan objectives appear to be consistent with such a stance. However, CPRE PDSY recognises the significant and urgent challenges posed by climate change and the increased visitor numbers to the Peak District. CPRE notes that the proposed Local Plan spatial objectives for sustainable development in a national park appear largely silent on both issues. The charity would expect to see strategic objectives and local plan spatial objectives that address this silence, given their strategic and local importance, and given the 15-year period over which the plan will apply. The CPRE PDSY believes that meeting the obligatory national targets for reducing carbon emissions should be supported in the Local Plan by having explicit strategy, objectives and policy. This should be in respect of new development in particular, whilst also covering integrated transport infrastructure and services. Accordingly, a bullet point is suggested to be added as follows (or similar) to the proposed Local Plan spatial objectives for sustainable development:· Reduces carbon emissions in new development in line with national targets for net zero by 2050.The changes proposed currently do not appear to go as far as is possible within a Local Plan, to support the transition to a low carbon future, as required by paragraph 157 of the NPPF, and would not be fully addressed within the scope of a design code. The Written Ministerial Statement does not prohibit the PDNPA from implementing net zero policies, albeit does discourage them. In fact, Schedule 7 (15C) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 requires Local Plans to contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change, and the Planning and Energy Act 2008 gives power to local authorities to set higher energy efficiency standards than Building Regulations. The PDNPA is encouraged to prepare the necessary evidence beyond that existing, and a well-reasoned and robustly costed rationale, for a net zero policy applicable to new development in a manner that would not fall foul of the relevant WMS. Furthermore, the PDNPA is also encouraged to prepare evidence including whole plan viability assessment, a carbon and climate study, integrated transport study, renewable energy study and infrastructure delivery plan, to support plan objectives and policies for reducing carbon emissions that are specific, achievable and measurable Policies GSP1-4 of the current PDNP Core Strategy do not adequately address the urgent issues of reducing carbon emissions and should be amended to do so, albeit with specific, achievable and measurable targets for carbon emission reductions. A changed policy approach in a new local plan should include plan policy requirement for information to be submitted with planning applications to allow the PDNPA to properly assess a developments energy use and emissions. The PDNPA Climate Change and Sustainable Building SPD requirement CC1 would need to be amended accordingly.	quarrying is one of the topics featured in **Appendix C**. The SA has appraised every policy option that the Authority has provided. The remainder of the comment relates to the emerging Local Plan itself rather than the SA.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	At a plan level, identifying areas with potential for small scale (to be defined in the plan) community led development for renewable energy would help promote climate change mitigation, whilst identifying areas where larger scale development would be harmful. A study building on the existing landscape character evidence base would provide more certainty and protection for the National Park, especially if considering its setting. This is especially pertinent given proposed changes to the NPPF. Useful mapping criteria would be primarily based on the special qualities and valued characteristics of the Park, including landscape character and visual amenity, and the historic environment. It should also usefully include the impact on agricultural production, best and most versatile agricultural land, and nature recovery. Further evidence work is needed to support the development of criteria, in particular sensitivity mapping. The forthcoming call for sites should specifically encourage owners and developers to put forward sites for renewable energy. The PDNPA should play as full a part as is possible within the national park purposes, in helping the nation meet the UK's mandatory emission targets and the balanced approach as set out in the Sixth Carbon Budget. The UK is not on track to hit its current internationally agreed targets of reduced emissions, and the operation of the spatial planning system continues to cause issues for delivering net zero.	
Derbyshire County Council	Sustainability Appraisal comments incorrect numbers of schools. Actual numbers were provided to PDNP in September 2023. Scoping consultation comments Appendix A. The actual number of schools is included here in the verbatim consultation response; however, it would be useful to update the main text at C 146. Appendix C it might be worth putting 2023 actuals in here, as above.	Derbyshire County Council provided PDNPA with baseline data on school places and provision which has now been included within the updated baseline information in **Appendix C**.
Nick Parsons	The spatial objectives for Recreation and Tourism are not compatible with the SA objective for Sustainable Transport, as claimed in Table 4.2 of the SA report. The resulting assessments are not explained and presumably thought to be self-evident. We are told that Recreation and Tourism spatial objectives are compatible with the SA objective for Sustainable Transport. A national park, served by a poor public transport system, promoting public enjoyment of its recreational attractions will incur substantial unsustainable car-borne travel and consequential harm to conservative interests. This is an inherent fundamental conflict between the two purposes of a national park. For the Peak District National Park, it would seem counter-intuitive to expect an industry that generates 13-26 million visitors per year, predominantly car-borne, to be compatible with sustainable transport objectives. The PDNPA would seem to be in agreement, recognising under the Challenges for recreation and tourism the need to manage and mitigate impacts of recreation and tourism on the landscape, wildlife and local amenity. These include the impacts of car-borne travel. Further, Car journeys and car parking have serious negative impacts on many of the Peak District's special qualities. However, Table 4.2 is not assessing the sustainability of the Park's recreation and tourism offering per se, but rather its spatial objectives for Recreation and Tourism. It must be assessed if these objectives taken together have a beneficial impact on sustainable travel: To direct recreation development towards settlements and certain existing recreation attractions and hubs. At these places development will	The vision and spatial objectives are aspirational, so most of the effects for this section of the Plan are likely to be positive. The SA assesses the effect of car parking and traffic later on in the report where it is relevant to specific policies and within the cumulative effects section in **Chapter 5**.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	be focussed on new or improved facilities that promote understanding and enjoyment of the National Park, sustainable travel and significant enhancement of the National Park's special qualities. The aggregation of recreation attractions in hubs and settlements will to some degree reduce unsustainable travel within the Park. To support the change of use of traditional buildings (heritage assets) for visitor accommodation, primarily on farmsteads. This will encourage more over-night stays but seems unlikely to reduce unsustainable travel. To support temporary overnight tourist accommodation that is well-suited to its location. This will encourage more over-night stays and may give a limited reduction in unsustainable travel depending on the criteria used to decide if a location is well-suited. To support work that maintains and enhances the rights of way network. Visitors and residents (unless local) using the rights of way network predominantly arrive and depart by car. To safeguard the multi-user recreational trails, and to expand this network. Visitors using the multi-user trails predominantly arrive and depart by car, walkers and cyclists alike. With over half-a-million such visitors to the multi-user trails each year, this generates a substantial increase in unsustainable travel. My conclusion is that, taken together, the proposed spatial objectives for Recreation and Tourism are incompatible with the SA objective for Sustainable Transport in contrast to LUC's findings. Summary of what I would like to see: A recognition that its spatial objectives for Recreation and Tourism taken together are, on balance, incompatible with the SA objective for Sustainable Transport. Safeguarding and protecting multi-user trails on former railway routes. Disagrees with LUC's analysis of the options for travel. Option 1 is concerned with the Travel and Transport related spatial objective to safeguard the Woodhead and Matlock Buxton routes for future railway re-instatement. Option 2 is concerned with the Recreation and Tourism related spatial objective to protect the multi-user recreational trails for their own purposes, and to expand this network. These are not mutually exclusive. The consultee provided their own assessment against the SA objectives, and it varies from the SA report. The consultee would like an updated monitoring indicator for sustainable transport and suggested modifying this metric to exclude predominantly recreational cycleways.	
Iain Banks	There is a lot of reference to Climate change and data but there are no notes on where you have taken the data from to base your statements on. You really need to provide a reference document, or references to where you have obtained the information such that I could check the source and verify it's correct, otherwise it's just a statement with no basis.	The list of data sources that the baseline information is based on is featured at the beginning of **Appendix C**.
Greater Manchester and High Peak Area of the Ramblers	The Appraisal first lists the Key sustainability issues. This contains matters such as: Ensuring a high-quality rights of way network. Protecting each landscape type. What then follows is an Appraisal Framework that lists the questions that the emerging plan will need to address. It is not clear how the individual elements of the Key Issues list read across to the Framework and the issues of right of way and access don't appear in the Assessment Framework. The Appraisal also includes baseline data that will be used to assess the plan going forward. For walking the baseline data is purely	The key sustainability issues and baseline information have fed into creating the SA framework for the Local Plan. Information about the condition of the PRoW network has

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	quantitative for example it notes that there are 1,600 miles of public rights of way in the Peak District, one of the Key issues identified is a High-Quality network. Whilst accepting the difficulties of available data sets, there should be some attempt to consider issues of the quality of the existing network as the base line, if the aim is for High Quality.	been added to the baseline information in **Appendix C**.

Table A.3: Consultation responses summary table for the Preferred Approach SA Report (October 2025)

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire	CPRE PDSY recognises the significant and urgent challenges posed by climate change and the increased visitor numbers to the Peak District. The draft spatial objectives whilst referring to nature recovery and climate change mitigation and adaptation do not address the charities previous comments during the Issues and Options consultation in relation to plan wide specific, measurable and achievable targets for reducing emissions. However, changes to the NPPF may predicate against the use of specific, measurable targets for carbon emissions and it is hoped that the PDNPA will at least use the Sustainability Appraisal process to consider alternative approaches to plan strategy and policies and the likely consequences for carbon emissions despite having reached a preferred option stage. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is still limited as it does not contain specific and measurable indicators for assessing and monitoring the plans effectiveness in reducing climate emissions. It also does not assess the baseline situation in respect of carbon emissions and compare reasonable alternatives to this and the PDNPA should be aware that the draft NPPF suggests that Local Plans can help contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (which can be informed by an assessment of baseline carbon emissions and the potential effect of development options on future emissions and their mitigation). In respect of the Local Plan, the Governments UK Future of Flight Action Plan should be part of the Sustainability Appraisal's 'plans, policies and programmes' section and the issue of 'skyscapes' addressed in the baseline.	The first part of the comment relates to the vision and spatial objectives rather than the SA. **Chapter 6** of the SA report sets out the monitoring indicators for the PDNPA Local Plan. Specifically, the indicators associated with SA objective 1 relate to climate change. The baseline information provides information on each of the SEA topics, including 'climatic factors' and is being updated each stage of the SA process. The baseline information section now includes information on the carbon emission per capita. The level of detail is considered to be proportionate and appropriate. The purpose of the baseline information is to set out the current situation in the National Park with regards to the various topic areas, and it is not the purpose of the SA to identify alternatives to the baseline. Reasonable alternatives in SA terms refers to alternative policy approaches that could be pursued. The UK Government's Future of Flight Action Plan has been added to **Appendix B** of this report.
Hope and Derwent Woodlands Parish Council	List of amendments: P15 'visitation' should this be 'vision'? P16 3.4 Global insecurity - the invasion of Ukraine has not led to large shift in populations into the UK. The wars in the Middle East and uncertainty in Africa has caused this. Brexit - increasing numbers of EU laws apply to the UK and probably more to come in the future. This needs rewriting.	Noted. The typo on page 15 has been amended. The SA has assessed all quantum and spatial options that have been provided.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	Chapter 4 P32/33. option 3 settlement tiers. The rest are too rigid in approach. C222 needs updating. There are no longer any farming subsidies. C223 What evidence do you have to support these statements? Eg Hay meadows are being restored and created under environmental schemes. Has the use of fertilizer increased or decreased since the huge price increases from 2020. The statement is outdated. C224/225 Contradict each other. Is the soil poor or rich? C230/231 In the last 20 years bare peat has been covered to stop erosion. Unsustainable management practices are being reversed. The statement is therefore outdated and the effects of schemes have been ignored. In any event, much of the bare peat has been caused by people walking on it and in the past, by pollution in the atmosphere, not by farmers. C234 This is already happening. The word 'could' would be more appropriate.	Appropriate changes have been made to **Appendix C.**
DDDC - Planning	It is noted that the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal considers that option 3 of the spatial options, more settlement tiers and different types and levels of development, performs most positively. Whilst the Sustainability Appraisal has considered different spatial strategy options, it does not seem to have considered different levels of development, such as meeting objectively assessed housing needs in full.	Additional SA work has now been carried out in relation to the level of housing to be delivered in the National Park.
David Shaw	Section 4.35 in the sustainability plan is contradictory. PDNPA should be actively supporting returning these trails to rail use if it is to meet its air pollution and climate change objectives. There is no mention in the report of the contribution that motor vehicle brakes and tyres make to air pollution and car parking represents poor land use and spoils views in the PDNP.	The SA has assessed all of the options regarding former railway routes that the Authority has provided. To note, the policy approach is regarding safeguarding the Monsal Trail (and the Longdendale Trail) as multi-user trails to provide a consistent approach across the National Park's multi-user routes. It also recognises the popularity of these routes in their current form. The proposed approach does not remove safeguarding; it changes its emphasis. Reference has been added to the baseline information to the contribution of motor vehicle brakes and tyres to air pollution.
Nick Parsons	The Preferred Approach persists in treating the multi-user trails as if they are strategic sustainable transport corridors, even though PDNPA's own evidence, narrative descriptions and baseline information consistently show that the trails:	The vision and spatial objectives are aspirational, so most of the effects for this

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	are used predominantly for recreation; are accessed mainly by private car; do not function as a substitute for public transport; and do not produce measurable modal shift away from car-based travel. This misclassification has significant consequences: it distorts the sustainable transport objectives (Outcome 9); it creates confusion with recreation objectives (Outcome 5); it misdirects the interpretation of Policy 62; it leads to inconsistent and overly positive scoring in the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), particularly SA8; it underpins a flawed approach to safeguarding former railway routes; it risks future policy decisions that fail to prioritise conservation in accordance with the Sandford Principle. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – Effect on SA8 (Sustainable Transport): SA8 evaluates the effects of options on sustainable transport. The Preferred Approach SA assigns positive scores to the Plan on the basis of enhancements to the multi-user trails. However, the SA commentary (e.g., Preferred Approach SA, SA8 table and explanatory text) does not evaluate whether the trails actually reduce car travel. The SA thus overstates the positive transport effects and does not reflect PDNPA's own evidence on car-borne access. An SA that assigns positive transport scores to recreational interventions risks misdirecting decision-making and cannot provide a reliable basis for options appraisal. This issue is compounded by a flawed monitoring indicator - "length of cycleways created or enhanced" - which cannot distinguish between transport and recreation improvements. As a result: progress could be exaggerated; impacts misinterpreted; and the SA could appear more favourable than the underlying evidence warrants. This undermines the SA's statutory purpose of providing a realistic and proportionate assessment of effects. SA scoring and indicators should be aligned with actual transport outcomes, not aspirational or proxy measures. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) plays a core role in shaping and justifying the Preferred Approach. It should provide a proportionate evaluation of reasonable alternatives and demonstrate how decisions were reached. However, the SA's treatment of multi-user trails, particularly under SA8 (Sustainable Transport), reveals methodological issues that compound the wider contradictions in the Plan. Overstated positive effects for sustainable transport (SA8): Across the SA, enhancements to the trail network and PRoW are attributed positive scores for sustainable transport (SA8), often on the basis that they "support" or "facilitate" active travel. Against SA8, Recreation and Tourism are viewed as "compatible"; while Policy 61 (Railway Construction) is considered neutral ("0"), Policy 62 (Routes for Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding, and Waterways) and Policy 63 (Development affecting a public right of way) are both attributed significant positive effects ("+ +"). However, no evidence is presented to demonstrate that: trail use displaces car travel; trail enhancement reduces traffic on local or strategic roads; trails serve functional commuting needs; trails create modal shift consistent with NPPF paras. 109-110. The SA therefore assigns positive transport effects to interventions that PDNPA's own evidence indicates are recreational. This creates a risk that decision-makers may assume transport benefits that do not exist.	section of the Plan are likely to be positive. While the trails do function as described currently, they could also function as strategic sustainable transport corridors. Planning policy supports this alongside delivery of associated infrastructure and management through the Authority's Active Travel Plan and associated development work. The SA assesses the effect of car parking and traffic later on in the report where it is relevant to specific policies and within the cumulative effects section in **Chapter 6**. Furthermore, some of the options provided are high level, so the SA's assessment is proportionate and, where relevant, the SA sets out recommendations in **Chapter 6**. The remainder of the comment relates to the emerging Local Plan itself rather than the SA.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	By focusing exclusively on potential (untested) active travel benefits, the SA does not consider adverse or countervailing effects, including: increased car trips to trailheads; concentration of parking pressures in settlements; additional disturbance to sensitive environments associated with rising visitor numbers. An SA that only records positive effects, while omitting foreseeable negatives, cannot provide the balanced assessment required by the SEA Regulations. The flawed monitoring indicator: "length of cycleways created/enhanced" The continued use of "length of cycleways created/enhanced" as a monitoring indicator for sustainable transport progress is inappropriate and misleading. Length alone provides no information on: the location of cycleways whether they connect origins and destinations; accessibility by residents rather than visitors; functional transport vs recreation purposes. A 10 km recreational route in an isolated valley would score highly under this indicator but produce no measurable transport benefit. Conversely, a 400 m linkway connecting a settlement to a bus stop or school could deliver significant transport improvements but would register negligible progress under a length-based metric. The indicator therefore fails to reflect actual sustainable transport outcomes and risks systematically overstating progress. These SA issues collectively undermine the Preferred Approach by: exaggerating the role of trails in sustainable transport; understating environmental impacts; limiting the appraisal of reasonable alternatives; creating misleading monitoring expectations. This raises concerns under the soundness test of justification, because the evidence does not support the SA conclusions relied upon in selecting preferred policies.	
Oldham Council	It is noted that a Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken. It is not clear if and how the recommendations have been taken into account. Again, this should be undertaken to inform the plan. No separate equality impact assessment was available to view.	SA is an iterative process. The Preferred Approach SA Report made a number of recommendations to the NPA in relation to the Local Plan. At this stage of the SA, the SA report shows how the NPA has considered the recommendations and explains how they have taken them forward or not.
Bradwell Community Land Trust	Outcome 6: The table in Figure 5.2 indicates that the spatial objective for thriving and sustainable communities scores a green tick against the SA objectives for housing and communities. This positive scoring is hard to justify given the plan is based on a strategy which falls well short of meeting housing needs. The SA does not appear to directly assess the reasonable alternatives regarding the calculation of housing need (i.e. the options set out in the plan which include the national standard method and the various approaches on page 32). Nor does it assess reasonable alternatives for the housing requirement (in outcome 6). The preferred option set out in the Plan would score poorly against SA criteria for housing and communities. A revised SA should be used to inform the next iteration of the plan. Draft Policy Direction 2: In addition, the application of a local plan policy should not be dependent on applicants or decision-makers carrying out an assessment against a 'Settlement Capacity and Landscape Assessment' which will not	The vision and spatial objectives are aspirational, so most of the effects for this section of the Plan are likely to be positive. Additional SA work has now been carried out in relation to the level of housing to be delivered in the National Park. The remainder of the comment relates to the emerging Local Plan itself rather than the SA.

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response
	form part of the plan and which will not have been subject to sustainability appraisal, consultation or scrutiny at examination. Draft Policy Direction 3: As noted above, the application of a local plan policy should not be dependent on applicants or decision-makers carrying out an assessment against a 'Settlement Capacity and Landscape Assessment' which will not form part of the plan and which will not have been subject to sustainability appraisal, consultation or scrutiny at examination.	
Mr. Martyn Guiver Peaks and Dales Line Ltd.	The Sustainability Appraisal (SA's) positive scoring under SA8 (Sustainable Transport) relies on an unrealistic aspiration (e.g., that trails "support active travel") without demonstrating displacement of car travel or functional connectivity. It also omits foreseeable and existing demonstrable adverse effects such as increased car trips to trailheads and parking pressure in settlements. There is a need to replace the "length of cycleways created/enhanced" indicator with outcome-based metrics that could include: (i) percentage of visitor/resident trips arriving by car vs public transport; (ii) number and quality of public transport linked settlement-level walking/cycling connectors; (iii) measured reductions in traffic on named corridors; and (iv) integration metrics (e.g., rail/bus headways and interchange quality). Requested Modifications: Update the Sustainability Appraisal to test removal vs. retention with quantified carbon, air quality, accessibility, biodiversity, and traffic outcomes (SEA Regulations 2004 – reasonable alternatives).	The SA has appraised every spatial option that the Authority has provided against the SA framework. It is noted that the aspiration that the trail will support active travel is not unrealistic given the funded programme set out in the Active Travel Plan. The monitoring indicators in the SA have been updated as appropriate to address these suggestions. Final point of the comment is unclear. Reasonable alternatives have been tested in the SA where identified.

Appendix B

Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

International Plans and Programmes of Most Relevance for the Local Plan

B.1 United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the 'Aarhus Convention') (1998) – Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.

B.2 United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration) (2002) – Sets the broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

B.3 European Environmental Noise Directive (2002) – Sets out a hierarchy for the avoidance, prevention and reduction in adverse effects associated with environmental noise, including noise generated by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.

B.4 European Nitrates Directive (1991) – Identifies nitrate vulnerability zones and puts in place measures to reduce water pollution caused by the introduction of nitrates.

B.5 European Urban Waste Water Directive (1991) – Protects the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.

B.6 European Air Quality Framework Directive (1996) and Air Quality Directive (2008) – Put in place measures for the avoidance, prevention, and reduction in harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution and establish legally binding limits for the most common and harmful sources of air pollution.

B.7 European Drinking Water Directive (1998) – Protects human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.

B.8 European Landfill Directive (1999) – Prevents and reduces the negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.

B.9 European Water Framework Directive (2000) – Protects inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.

B.10 European Waste Framework Directive (2008) – Sets out the waste hierarchy requiring the reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation and final disposal that does not harm the environment, including human health.

B.11 European Industrial Emission Directive (2010) – Lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.

B.12 European Floods Directive (2007) – A framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

B.13 European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010) – Aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units. Requires the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.

B.14 United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015) – International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

B.15 International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) (1976) – International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.

B.16 European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) (1979) – Aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).

B.17 International Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) – International commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.

B.18 European Habitats Directive (1992) – Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive sets the standard for nature conservation across the EU and enables all 27 Member States to work together within the same strong legislative framework in order to protect the most vulnerable species and habitat types across their entire natural range within the EU. It also established the Natura 2000 network.

B.19 Aarhus Convention (1998) – Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. This includes the right of everyone to receive environmental information, participate from an early stage in environmental decision making and to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.

B.20 European Birds Directive (2009) – Requires the maintenance of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements.

B.21 United Nations Declaration on Forests (New York Declaration) (2014) – Sets out international commitment to cut natural forest loss by 2020 and end loss by 2030.

B.22 United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention (1972) – Promotes co-operation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.

B.23 European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985) – Defines 'architectural heritage' and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.

B.24 European Landscape Convention (2002) – Promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.

B.25 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002) - Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. It also encourages renewable energy and energy efficiency and the shift towards sustainable consumption and production.

B.26 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) – This initiative, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

B.27 The Glasgow Pact (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2021) – The pact is the first climate

agreement explicitly planning to reduce unabated coal usage. The package of decisions consists of a range of agreed items, including strengthened efforts to build resilience to climate change, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to provide the necessary finance for both.

B.28 The United Nations Declaration on Forests and Land Use (COP26 Declaration) (2021) - An international commitment to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

B.29 COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace (2023) - An international agreement committing to enhanced financial support for climate adaptation and resilience, understanding and improving good practice and programming, and strengthening coordination, collaboration and partnerships.

National Plans and Programmes of Most Relevance for the Local Plan

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

B.30 The Planning and Energy Act (2008) enables local planning authorities to set requirements for carbon reduction and renewable energy provision. It should be noted that while the Housing Standards Review proposed to repeal some of these provisions, at the time of writing there have been no amendments to the Planning and Energy Act.

B.31 Climate Change Act, 2008 (amended 2019) – the Act sets out the UK's framework to achieve its long term goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming net zero by 2050.

B.32 Powering up Britian: Energy Security Plan (2023) – supports the move towards renewables including wind and solar, hydrogen, power with carbon capture, usage and storage and new nuclear plants. It also sets out the department's approach to energy security and net zero, and acts as an introduction to Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan, and Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan.

B.33 The Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (2023) explains how the government intends to meet its legally-binding climate goals, setting out a package of quantified and unquantified proposals and policies, and associated timescales and delivery risks this also includes:

- wider matters in connection with carbon budgets
- the contribution of these proposals and policies to sustainable development
- the impact the package has on sectors of the economy.

B.34 The Environment Improvement Plan 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how we will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country.

B.35 The Future of Flight Action Plan (2024) sets out a shared vision for 2030 to support the UK future of flight industry to become a sustainable and thriving ecosystem.

B.36 The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2021) seek to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, reducing their carbon emissions and lessening the impact of climate change. The Regulations require the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance, reported through Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates.

B.37 Department for Transport, Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020) – Sets out the strategic priorities for a new Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), to be published later in 2020, will set out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting us on a pathway to achieving carbon budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050. This document acknowledges that while there have been recently published strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in individual transport modes, transport as a whole sector needs to go further and more quickly, therefore the TDP will take a coordinated, cross-modal approach to deliver the transport sector's contribution to both carbon budgets and net zero.

B.38 Environment Agency: The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020) – Sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities.

B.39 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (2020) – aims to build back better, support green jobs and accelerate the path to net zero.

B.40 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) – Sets out a number of key planning objectives. It requires that local planning authorities help deliver sustainable development through measures including driving waste management up the waste hierarchy; ensuring that waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns; and providing a framework in which communities can take more responsibility for their own waste.

B.41 Defra, Waste Management Plan for England (2013) – Sets out the measures for England to work towards a zero waste economy.

B.42 HM Government, The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) – Sets out the approach of the government to secure growth of the national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The key policies and proposals of the Strategy sit below a number of overarching principles: acceleration of clean growth including through recommendations for private and public investment to meet carbon budgets; providing support to improve business and industry energy efficiency; improving energy efficiency in the housing stock including through low carbon heating; accelerating the shift to low carbon transport; delivering clean, smart, flexible power; enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources; leading in the public sector to meet emissions targets; and ensure Government leadership to drive clean growth.

B.43 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021) – Sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It sets out strategies to keep the UK on track with carbon budgets, outlines the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050. Its focus includes:

- Policies and proposals for reducing emissions across the economy in key sectors (power, fuel supply and hydrogen, industry, heat and buildings, transport, natural gas and waste); and
- Policies and proposals for supporting transition across the economy through innovation, green investment, green jobs, embedding net-zero in government, local climate action, empowering people and businesses, and international leadership and collaboration.

B.44 The 25 Year Environment Plan – Sets out policy priorities with respect to responding to climate change, are using and managing land sustainably; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
  - Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
  - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

B.45 Defra, The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2023) – Sets out the UK government's vision for climate adaptation, 'for a country that effectively plans for and is fully adapted to the changing climate, with resilience against each of the identified climate risks.' NAP3 represents the start of the work programme to achieve this vision and focuses on 3 main themes: "action", "information" and "coordination". These themes will work to ensure that the government is better-informed, more closely coordinated, and more action-focussed in their delivery over the 5-year NAP period.

B.46 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 (2017) – Sets out six priority areas needing urgent further action over the next five years. These include:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Shortages in public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry with impacts on freshwater ecology;
- Natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals.

B.47 The Energy Efficiency Strategy (2012) – Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

B.48 The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009) – Sets out a five-point plan to tackle climate change. The points are as follows: protecting the public from immediate risk, preparing for the future, limiting the severity of future climate change through a new international climate agreement, building a low carbon UK and supporting individuals, communities and businesses to play their part.

B.49 The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) – Describes out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO2 emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.

Health and Wellbeing

B.50 The Levelling Up Act (2023) - A programme of initiatives to 'level up' the UK. To reduce the disparity in productivity, pay, educational attainment and health across the UK.

B.51 Defra, Unleashing Rural Opportunity (2023) – sets out four broad priorities that are key for rural areas to thrive, these

are: growing the rural economy, connectivity, homes and energy and communities.

B.52 National Design Guide (2021) – Sets out the Government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics: context, identity, built form, movement, nature, public spaces, uses, homes and buildings, resources and lifespan.

B.53 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021) – Sets out the government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the electives backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial assistance will work for those without substantial assets. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

B.54 Covid-19 mental health and wellbeing recovery action plan (2021) – Sets out the governments plan to prevent, mitigate and respond to the mental health impacts of the pandemic during 2021 and 2022. Its main objectives are to support the general population to take action and look after their own mental wellbeing, to take action to address factors which play a crucial role in shaping mental health and wellbeing outcomes, and to support services to meet the need for specialist support.

B.55 A fairer private rented sector White Paper (2022) aims to build upon the vision of the Levelling Up White Paper and reform the Private Rented Sector and improve housing quality. It outlines that everyone deserves a secure and decent home and outlines measures to improve the experience of renters in the Private Rented Sector.

B.56 The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020) – Sets out the Government's actions to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes and have access to redress when things go wrong.

B.57 Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020), Addendum (2021) – Provides a framework and starting point for local authorities to clearly set out in local planning guidance how best to achieve healthy weight environments based on local evidence and needs, by focusing on environments that enable healthier eating and help promote more physical activity as the default. The Addendum provides updates on the implications for planning for a healthier food environment, specifically on the hot food takeaways retail uses, and sets out recommended actions in light of changes to the Use Class Order (UCO) in England from 1 September 2020.

B.58 Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2011) – Investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is *"overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities"*.

B.59 Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report Ready for Ageing? (2013) – Warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report states *"longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises"*. The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

B.60 Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25 (2019) – Identifies PHE's priorities upon which to focus over this five-year period to protect people and help people to live longer in good health.

B.61 HM Government, Laying the foundations: a housing strategy for England (2011) – Aims to provide support to the delivery of new homes and to improve social mobility.

B.62 Homes England Strategic Plan 2023 to 2028 (2023) – Sets out a vision to ensure more homes are built in areas of greatest need, to improve affordability, and make a more resilient and diverse housing market.

B.63 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2024) – To be read in conjunction with the NPPF, this policy document sets out the Government's planning policy for Traveller sites to ensure fair and equal treatment for Travellers.

B.64 Planning for the Future White Paper (2020, updated 2023) – Sets out a series of potential reforms to the English planning system, to deliver growth faster. The White Paper focuses on the following:

- Simplifying the role of Local Plans and the process of producing them;
- Digitising plan-making and development management processes;
- Focus on design, sustainability and infrastructure delivery; and
- Nationally determined, binding housing requirements for local planning authorities to deliver through Local Plans.

B.65 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2024) – Sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal

treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

B.66 The Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas. The Action Plans identify Important Areas (areas exposed to the highest levels of noise) and suggest ways the relevant authorities can reduce these. Major airports and those which affect large urban areas are also required to produce and publish their own Noise Action Plans separately. The Regulations do not apply to noise from domestic activities such as noise created by neighbours; at workplaces; inside means of transport; or military activities in military areas.

Environment (biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape and soils)

B.67 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) (2006) – sets out a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to protect wildlife. It also includes legislation on SSSIs, National Parks, Rights of Way and Inland Waterways.

B.68 Natural England, Green Infrastructure Framework (2023) – comprises of principles, standards, maps and design guides to help facilitate high quality green infrastructure to be designed and implemented effectively.

B.69 The Environment Improvement Plan 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how we will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country. To achieve its vision, the 25YEP set out 10 goals. We have used those 10 goals set out in the 25YEP as the basis for this document: setting out the progress made against all 10, the specific targets and commitments made in relation to each goal, and our plan to continue to deliver these targets and the overarching goals.

B.70 Working with nature (2022) discusses the importance of nature in providing ecosystem services and presents recent and historical trends in biodiversity. It outlines some of the main pressures affecting England's habitats, wildlife and ecosystems: land use; climate change; pollution; invasive non-native species; and hydrological change.

B.71 Establishing the Best Available Techniques for the UK (UK BAT) (2022) sets out a new framework that aims to improve industrial emissions and protect the environment through the introduction of a UK BAT regime. It aims to set up a new structure of governance with a new independent body in the form of Standards Council and the Regulators Group, consisting of government officials and expert regulators from all UK nations. It aims to also establish a new UK Air Quality Governance Group to oversee the work of the Standards Council and the delivery of the requirements under this new framework. It is anticipated that the BATC for the first four industry sectors will be published in the second half of 2023.

B.72 The Environment Act 2021 – Sets out the UK's new framework for environmental protection. It includes the creation of Conservation Covenant agreements between a landowner and a responsible body for the purposes of conservation of the natural environment of the land or its natural resources, or to conserve the place or setting of the land for its 'archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural or historic interest'.

B.73 Defra, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018) – Sets out goals for improving the environment over the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. The gov.uk website notes that the 25 Year Plan sits alongside two other important government strategies: the Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy (the former summarised in the Economic growth section below, the latter under Climate Change above).

B.74 Defra, Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) – Guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks.

B.75 Defra, Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013) – Sets out a framework for biodiversity offsetting. Offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses.

B.76 Defra, Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) – Sets out how England's soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention in tackling degradation threats, including: better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil protection during construction and; dealing with contaminated land.

B.77 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) – Guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks. The Strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors: Agriculture, Forestry, Planning & Development, Water

Management, Marine Management, Fisheries, Air Pollution and Invasive Non-Native Species.

B.78 England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008) – Sets out principles to guide adaptation to climate change. The principles are: take practical action now, maintain and increase ecological resilience, accommodate change, integrate action across all sectors and develop knowledge and plan strategically. The precautionary principle underpin all of these.

B.79 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949 - Provides the framework for the creation of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales, and also addressed public rights of way and access to open land.

B.80 National Parks Accord (2023) – notes the need for critical infrastructure and telecommunications services in National Parks. Whilst there is a need for resilient infrastructure in National Parks it needs to be installed in a manner that respects the environment and in particular the enhanced environmental sensitivities.

B.81 Defra, National Parks England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, 8 Point Plan for England's National Parks (2016) – Aims to put National Parks at the heart of the way we think about the environment and how we manage it for future generations. The special qualities that can be found in these landscapes underpin the economic activities—from traditional upland farming to tourism, food and other businesses—that thrive in our National Parks.

B.82 Defra, Rural Proofing (2017, updated 2022) – to assist policy makers in ensuring policy responds positively to a rural setting.

B.83 Landscapes Review (National Parks and AONBs) (2022) – sets out how protected landscapes can help realise environmental ambitions, including those set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Environment Act 2021 etc.

B.84 RSPB, The State of Nature Report (England) (2023) – overall message is that the abundance and distribution of nature has declined and is continuing to decline. Changes must be made to how we manage land and climate change.

Historic Environment

B.85 The Heritage Alliance, Heritage 2020 – Sets out the historic environment sector's plan for its priorities between 2015 and 2020.

B.86 Historic England, Corporate Plan 2023-2026 – Contains the action plan which sets out how the aims of the corporate plan will be delivered. The plan includes priorities to demonstrate how Historic England will continue to work towards delivering the heritage sector's priorities for the historic environment.

B.87 Historic England, Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016) – Sets out Historic England's guidance and expectations for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment processes.

B.88 Historic England, National Farmstead Assessment Framework (2015) – aimed at helping to secure sustainable development and the conservation of traditional farmsteads and their buildings through the planning system.

B.89 Historic England, The Historic Environment in Local Plans (2015) – Provides information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants, and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG).

B.90 Historic England, The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans – Offers advice to all those involved in the process, to help ensure that the historic environment plays a positive role in allocating sites for development. It offers advice on evidence gathering and site allocation policies, as well as setting out in detail a number of steps to make sure that heritage considerations are fully integrated in any site selection methodology.

B.91 Historic England, The Setting of Heritage Assets (2017) – Sets out guidance, against the background of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG), on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.

Water and Air

B.92 Drought: how it is managed in England (2025) – Details how drought affects England and how the Environment Agency works with government, water companies and others to manage the effects on people, business and the environment. It aims to ensure consistency in the way we co-ordinate drought management across England.

B.93 Environment Agency, Managing Water Abstraction (2016) – Is the overarching document for managing water resources in England and Wales and links together the abstraction licensing strategies.

B.94 Defra, Water White Paper (2012, updated 2021) – Sets out the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

B.95 Defra, Clean Air Strategy (2019) – Sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet goals relating to ensuring cleaner air. This is to be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.

B.96 Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018) – Aims to increase resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2050. The Strategy sets out key targets which include: a 50% recycling rate for household waste by 2020, a 75% recycling rate for packaging by 2030, 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste by 2035 and municipal waste to landfill 10% or less by 2035.

B.97 The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017) – Provides the Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles (ULESvs), a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help local authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.

B.98 The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2016 provides for the designation of land as nitrate vulnerable zones and imposes annual limits on the amount of nitrogen from organic manure that may be applied or spread in a holding in a nitrate vulnerable zone. The Regulations also specify the amount of nitrogen to be spread on a crop and how, where and when to spread nitrogen fertiliser, and how it should be stored. It also establishes closed periods during which the spreading of nitrogen fertiliser is prohibited.

B.99 The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2016 set out limits on concentrations of outdoor air pollutants that impact public health, most notably particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). It also sets out the procedure and requirements for the designation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

B.100 The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (2020) – Amend a range of legislation to prevent waste generation and to monitor and assess the implementation of measures included in waste prevention programmes. They set out requirements to justify not separating waste streams close to source for re-use, recycling or other recovery operations, prohibit incineration and landfilling of waste unless such treatment process represent the best environmental outcome in accordance with the waste hierarchy. The Regulations set out when waste management plans and in waste prevention programmes are required. The Regulations focus on the circular economy as a means for businesses to maximise the value of waste and waste treatment.

B.101 National Chalk Streams Strategy (2021) was built around the "trinity of ecological health": water quantity, water quality and habitat quality and included 30+ recommendations to Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the water companies, NGOs and stakeholders.

B.102 Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources (2020) set the strategic direction for long term regional water resources planning. The framework is built on a shared vision to:

- leave the environment in a better state than we found it
- improve the nation's resilience to drought and minimise interruptions to all water users.

B.103 Environment Agency, National Framework for Water Resources 2025 – Builds on the foundation of the 2020 document (above), in addition to subsequent water resources management and regional resources plans, to ensure the actions within the plans are delivered and enhanced through policies and funding.

B.104 Department of Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) – Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

B.105 The National Policy Statement for Waste Water (2012) sets out Government policy for the provision of major waste water infrastructure. The policy set out in this NPS is, for the most part, intended to make existing policy and practice in consenting nationally significant waste water infrastructure clearer and more transparent.

B.106 The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007) – Sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term; and
- Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment.

B.107 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision for the improved control of pollution to the air, water and land by regulating the management of waste and the control of emissions. Seeks to ensure that decisions pertaining to the environment are made in an integrated manner, in collaboration with appropriate authorities, non-governmental organisations and other persons.

Economic Growth

B.108 National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021 (2016) – Sets out the government's plans for economic infrastructure over a five-year period with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure.

B.109 HM Government, Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future (2017) – Sets out a long-term policy framework for how Britain will be built to be fit for the future in terms of creating successful, competitive and open economy. It is shaped around five 'foundations of productivity' – the essential attributes of every successful economy: Ideas (the world's most innovative economy); People (good jobs and greater earning power for all; Infrastructure (a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure); Business Environment (the best place to start and grow a business); Places (prosperous communities across the UK).

B.110 Infrastructure and Projects Authority, National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021 – Brings together the Government's plans for economic infrastructure over this five year period with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure.

B.111 LEP Network, LEP Network Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017) – Seeks to ensure that all relevant local action and investment is used in a way that maximises the impact it has across the Government's strategy. Consultation responses set out how the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships will work with Government using existing and additional resources to develop and implement a long-term Industrial Strategy.

B.112 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021) – Sets out a plan to 'build back better' tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that delivers high quality jobs across the UK while supporting the transition to net zero. This will build on three core pillars of growth: infrastructure, skills and innovation.

B.113 The Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 aims to drive competitiveness, increase productivity, reduce carbon emissions, and generate fairer returns across the agricultural industry. The Transition Plan introduces several new schemes to improve the environment, animal health and welfare, and farm resilience and productivity (e.g., grants will be available for sustainable farming practices, creating habitats for nature recovery and making landscape-scale changes such as establishing new woodland and other ecosystem services).

B.114 UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2018) – Lays down a vision and foundations for a transformed economy. Areas including artificial intelligence and big data; clean growth; the future of mobility; and meeting the needs of an ageing society are identified as the four 'Grand Challenges' of the future.

Transport

B.115 Better Connected: a strategy for integrated transport (2026) – Sets out UK government's vision for domestic transport in England under eight priorities across urban, rural and suburban areas.

B.116 Future of Transport: supporting rural transport innovation (2023) - shows how innovative and emerging transport technologies could address some of the major challenges in rural communities. It highlights the importance of transport to everyday life rural life and provides guiding principles for the introduction of new technologies and services.

B.117 Transport Investment Strategy (2017) – Sets out four objectives that the strategy aims to achieve:

- Create a more reliable, less congested, and better connected transport network that works for the users who rely on it;
- Build a stronger, more balanced economy by enhancing productivity and responding to local growth priorities;
- Enhance our global competitiveness by making Britain a more attractive place to trade and invest; and
- Support the creation of new housing.

B.118 Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) – Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

B.119 Department for Transport, Gear change: a bold vision for cycling and walking (2020) – key messages include: cycling and walking should be at the heart of decision making.

B.120 Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021) – The Decarbonisation Transport Plan (DTP) sets out the Government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK. It follows on from the Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge report published in 2020. The DTP commits the UK to phasing out the sale of new diesel and petrol heavy goods vehicles by 2040, subject to consultation, in addition to phasing out the sale of polluting cars and vans by 2035. The DPT also sets

out how the government will improve public transport and increase support for active travel, as well as creating a net zero rail network by 2050, ensuring net zero domestic aviation emissions by 2040, and a transition to green shipping.

B.121 Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017) – This strategy is designed to communicate the company's approach and priorities for sustainable development to its key stakeholders. Highways England aims to ensure its action in the future will further reduce the impact of its activities seeking a long-term and sustainable benefit to the environment and the communities it serves. The action plan describes how Highways England will progress the aspirations of their Sustainable Development and Environment Strategies. It describes actions that will enable the company to deliver sustainable development and to help protect and improve the environment.

B.122 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (2020) – aims to build back better, support green jobs and accelerate the path to net zero.

Local

B.123 Peak District Nature Recovery Plan (2026) – this report provides a Nature Recovery Plan for the National Park, outlining ten themes that have been developed to try and address challenges identified by those that are or could be delivering nature recovery.

B.124 Peak District National Park Management Plan (2023) – sets out the importance for the Peak District National Park to achieve net zero by 2040 and how this will be achieved. Key messages include aims to reverse damage to nature, use of the National Park to improve wellbeing and efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions focusing on the largest emitters within the influence of the park.

B.125 State of the Park (2023) – this report assesses the state of the special qualities of the National Park using a variety of data sets available.

B.126 Peak District Nature Recovery Plan (2023) (which will replace the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan 2011) – this guidance provides one Nature Recovery Plan for the Peak District that sits as part of the National Park Management Plan, bringing together international, national and local legislation, policies and strategies. The plan is made up of ten themes, with a series of aims for each. The aims of this plan will seek to deliver other public goods and ecosystem services, alongside biodiversity and nature recovery.

B.127 Peak District Walking, Wheeling, Cycling & Horse-riding Infrastructure Plan 2025-2030 – identifies a high-level strategic network for Active Travel, setting out a number of aspirational routes that build on the existing network.

B.128 Peak District National Park Wildfire Report (2022) – provides an approach to wildfire risk assessment to inform landscape scale wildfire mitigation planning in the Peak District National Park, combining local practitioner knowledge and professional wildfire expertise.

B.129 The Peak District, Derbyshire and Derby Destination Management Plan 2025-2035 – sets out a strategic blueprint designed to maximise the tourism potential of the area while promoting sustainable practices, encouraging community involvement, and providing outstanding experiences for visitors.

B.130 Definition of 'Thriving and Sustainable Communities' in the context of the Peak District National Park Management Plan (2021) – this guidance sets out a definition of what 'thriving and sustainable communities' are to ensure that the vision, aims and objectives of the Local Plan and the Management Plan are aligned with the definition.

B.131 Derbyshire Dales District Council Local Plan (2017) – sets out that the Derbyshire Dales has an ageing population, there is a lack of services and facilities in many villages and limited public transport. Policies are set out to improve the Derbyshire Dales' character, accessibility, employment opportunities and economic growth as well as address climate change.

B.132 High Peak Borough Council Local Plan (2016) – sets out that High Peak will be widely recognised as a distinctive and successful rural area. New development will mitigate against and respond to the changing climate, energy efficiency will increase and new job opportunities will be created.

B.133 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Local Plan (2020) – The plan's vision states that Staffordshire Moorlands will become an exceptional place to live, work and visit. This means balancing the need to foster sustainable growth where it is needed and beneficial, with the need to protect and enhance the District's heritage and its significant built and natural assets.

B.134 Sheffield City Council Local Plan (2009) - The plan aims to set out how the city can be economically prosperous, have attractive sustainable neighbourhoods, improve wellbeing, improve, sustainable forms of transport, reduce the city's impact on climate change and enhance the natural environment and distinctive heritage.

B.135 North East Derbyshire Local Plan (2021) – sets out that by 2034, everyone in North East Derbyshire will enjoy a high quality of life, with residents, businesses and visitors all benefitting from what the District has to offer.

B.136 Kirklees Council Local Plan (2019) – sets out that in 2031, Kirklees will be a great place to live, work and invest in, delivered through an integrated approach to housing and employment. Development will have taken place in a sustainable way, health inequalities will have been reduced,

affordable homes will be available and access to services and green space will be improved.

B.137 Cheshire East Local Plan (2017) – sets out that from 2030 and beyond, Cheshire East will be an economically prosperous area, with improved education and job opportunities. Based on its landscape and heritage assets and historic market towns, the relevance of the area as a visitor and tourism destination will have improved. Heritage and landscape features will be conserved through appropriate development.

B.138 Oldham Borough Council Local Plan (2011) – sets out that Oldham aims to become a prosperous and diverse borough, emphasising regeneration, sustainability, and community cohesion while respecting its natural and historical heritage. It will feature safer and stronger communities, clean green spaces, and quality education and training opportunities and be a desirable place to live.

B.139 Barnsley Local Plan (2019) – sets out how it will create new jobs and protect existing jobs. In addition, it will improve the conditions in which people live, work, travel and take leisure, widen the choice of high-quality homes, improve the design of development, protect and enhance Barnsley's natural assets and achieve net gains in biodiversity.

B.140 Stockport Core Strategy DPD (2011) – sets out a vision for Stockport to provide more opportunities for residents to achieve healthy and sustainable lifestyles, provide additional affordable housing in sustainable locations and enhance the character of the area.

B.141 East Staffordshire Local Plan (2015) – sets out the Borough's development strategy and planning framework that will meet the development needs of the residents over the period 2012 to 2031.

B.142 Tameside Unitary Development Plan – provides an overview of the Council's objectives for the whole of the borough.

B.143 The Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document (2024) – sets out a long-term plan for nine Greater Manchester districts (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) for jobs, new homes, and sustainable growth.

B.144 Derbyshire Gypsy and Travelling Community report, Derbyshire County Council and RRR Consultancy (2022) – this report is a joint report commissioned by the Derbyshire County Council, its constituent authorities and the Peak District National Park Authority. The report assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople established through national guidance contained in Planning Policy for Travellers.

B.145 Derbyshire Working Age Adults Housing, Accommodation and Support Strategy 2023-2035 (2023) - aims to reduce the number of people with complex needs living in residential care and increase the number of people living independently in the community.

B.146 Derbyshire Older People's Housing, Accommodation and Support Strategy 2019-2035 (August 2020) - considers all types of housing and accommodation from age designated housing and housing with care through to residential and nursing care provision. It sets the scene on a district-by-district basis in relation to the different types of housing, accommodation and support required to manage and address that demand.

B.147 Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and Peak District National Park Local Aggregate Assessment (2024) – sets out the levels of aggregate provision, planning for a steady and adequate supply. Key messages include landbanks of non-energy minerals should be maintained, limestone from Derbyshire and the Peak District is a resource of national importance and there will continue to be a 10% reduction in the aggregate crushed rock provision figure for the PDNP and a compensatory increase in its provision figure for aggregate crushed rock of 10%.

B.148 Derbyshire's Flood Risk Local Management Strategy (2015, updated in 2022) - provides information about flooding and flood risk, including how to respond to a flood and how to be more flood resilient. It includes an action plan on how to manage future risks. The aim of the strategy is 'Where possible take proactive steps to reduce social, environmental and economic damages due to flooding'.

B.149 Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Management Plan (2023) – sets out how to support improvements in water quality, facilitate nature recovery, increase habitat connectivity, mitigate climate change, engagement communities and control invasive non-native species.

B.150 North West flood risk management plan 2021-2027 (2022) - a plan to manage significant flood risks within the North West River Basin District (RBD). The plan focuses on areas that have been designated as being at particular risk of flooding from either rivers and sea or surface water. The plan is also aligned with the River Basin Management Plan for the North West RBD. Together, these plans set the strategic goals and approaches to managing water and flood risk within the RBD.

B.151 Humber River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (2022) - the FRMP is aligned with the River Basin Management Plan for the Humber River basin district updated 2022 (RBMP 2022). Together, these plans set the strategic goals and approaches to managing water and flood risk within the RBD.

B.152 Severn Trent Drainage and wastewater management plan (2023) – sets out that by 2050, climate change will increase the risk of flooding. The number of

people using Severn Trent water will grow by 14% by 2050. Most of this growth will be around existing towns and cities, driving up more demand for housing. The plan sets out how river water quality can be protected, how wastewater treatment will be upgraded and how property flood risk will be reduced.

B.153 Yorkshire Water Drainage and wastewater management plan (2023) - a long-term strategic planning framework for the next 25 years and beyond. The plan sets out challenges of population growth, climate change, and rising sea levels. The drainage and wastewater management plan will help to: keep our wastewater and drainage system strong, cope with population growth, adapt to climate change, reduce sewer flooding, manage impact on the environment, understand our customers' expectations, create sustainable drainage systems, create nature-based solutions.

B.154 United Utilities Drainage and wastewater management plan (2023) - sets out the increasing trend of flood risk over the next 25 years due to climate change and hard surface areas. The key messages are the importance of reducing rainfall entering the sewer system, monitoring the wastewater network and engineering to increase capacity.

B.155 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, (2021) - assesses how vulnerable the special qualities of the Peak District National Park (PDNP) are to future climate change. The assessment helps to ensure that activities undertaken to reduce the harmful effects of climate change are effectively and efficiently targeted. The report and its recommendations is useful to everyone interested in caring for and protecting the National Park.

B.156 Peak District National Park Landscape Strategy (2022) - provides a framework to influence and inform farmers, land managers and landowners and partner organisations, both at a strategic and individual case level, to ensure the Authority's landscape objectives are met. It also informs the Authority's approach to managing landscape change across all work areas including planning, input into other regulatory mechanisms, direct delivery, programmes, project work and provision of land management advice and support.

B.157 The Wooded Landscapes Plan: increasing tree and scrub cover in the Peak District National Park landscapes (2022-2032) (2021) - forms part of the Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan and provides strategic direction on future wooded landscape creation in the Peak District National Park over the next 10 years. The Plan aims to demonstrate where the different elements of wooded landscape creation can be realistically achieved while complementing other land uses within the park and not conflicting with landscape character.

B.158 A Landscape Through Time. The Historic Character of the Peak District National Park Landscape (2003) – the document sets out distinctive 'historic character zones' and 'historic character areas' within the National Park. Historic character is also to be detailed on a parish by parish basis. The aim is to use these descriptions to aid sustainable conservation management of the different elements of the historic character that each part of the Park is imbued with.

B.159 Conservation Area Appraisals, PDNPA (various dates) - the Peak District National Park has 109 Conservation Areas. Appraisals identify the special qualities that make a place worthy of designation as a Conservation Area. They look at ways in which the character of a place can be preserved or enhanced and are intended to inform future changes, not to prevent them altogether.

B.160 Farmsteads Assessment Framework, PDNPA (2017) - aims to help secure sustainable development and the conservation of traditional farmsteads and their buildings in the Peak District National Park through the planning system.

B.161 Farmsteads Character Statement, PDNPA (2017) - provides guidance on the character and significance of the Peak District's traditional farmsteads and buildings.

B.162 Derbyshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026, DCC (2011) - seeks to maintain and improve transport infrastructure and safety, provide and promote a good quality public transport service and other non-car modes of transport as environmentally friendly alternatives to travelling by car.

B.163 Derbyshire Bus Improvement Plan (2021) - sets out a high-level vision for bus services in an area such as Derbyshire, the important actions needed to provide it, and how these will achieve the goal of increasing bus use.

B.164 Staffordshire Local Transport Plan, Staffordshire County Council (2011) - sets out proposals for transport provision in the county, including walking, cycling, public transport, car-based travel and freight, together with the management and maintenance of local roads and footways. The Plan seeks to reflect the contribution local transport makes to people's lives in terms of access to jobs, services, community and the environment.

B.165 Cycle Strategy, PDNPA (2015) – supports cyclist infrastructure by identifying gaps in cycle provision and funding, steering the development of cycling with the wider Peak District.

B.166 Transport Strategy 2040 – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (2017) - sets out partners' ambitions for a transport system that serves the needs of businesses and residents as well as enhancing prosperity, health and wellbeing for people and places across West Yorkshire.

B.167 Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy 2018-2040 – Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority (2017) - sets out on a strategic level how we intend to better connect our major urban and economic growth centres to enable the better flow of people, goods, businesses and ideas

across the City Region, as well as promoting our rural and visitor economies.

B.168 Cheshire East Local Transport Plan 2019-2024 – Cheshire East Council (2019) - considers all forms of transport over the 5-year period of 2019-2024. It is a framework for how transport will support wider policies to improve our economy, protect our environment and make attractive places to live, work and play.

B.169 Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 – Transport for Greater Manchester (2020) – provides advice on how to provide a transport system which: supports sustainable economic growth; uses new technology and innovation; is inclusive; integrated and functions well; is affordable; protects the environment and improves air quality; aims to be net zero carbon by 2038.

B.170 Strategic Transport Plan – Transport for the North (2019) – provides an opportunity to drive major improvements in strategic connectivity throughout the North, taking a pan-Northern view for the first time. It encourages trade and inward investment by improving links to the North's ports and airports, and faster links between the economic assets that they serve.

B.171 Transport Decarbonisation Strategy – Transport for the North (2021, updated in 2023) - provides information on understanding, measuring and reducing the emissions from surface transport in the North. Key messages include a zero-carbon transport network must be at the heart of public policy making and investment decisions.

B.172 The future of rural mobility – Midlands Connect (2022) - a toolkit and the concept of rural mobility hubs, which bring together a number of services in one place.

B.173 Fairer, greener, stronger: A strategic transport plan for the Midlands – Midlands Connect (2022) – sets out main priorities to support road, rail, and technology and innovation. Key messages include improving access to jobs, making investments to encourage behaviour change, increasing productivity and economic output.

B.174 D2N2 – Recovery and Growth Strategy (2020) - strategy is closely aligned to the Government's recent announcement of its Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. Initiatives are focused on unleashing the huge potential of people and driving a step change in the economy.

B.175 Strategic economic plan 2020-2040, Sheffield City Region (2020) – the plan looks beyond the economic crisis created by COVID-19 as to how the region will build and sustain a competitive economy that unlocks growth and prosperity, creating a region that can survive and thrive. Objectives are centred around growth, sustainability and inclusion.

B.176 Growth Strategy for High Peak (2017) - aims to encourage investment in the High Peak area. It sets out a plan for sustainable growth and identifies development opportunities for the next 15 years.

B.177 Growth strategy for Staffordshire Moorlands, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (2018) - a joint initiative between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Staffordshire County Council. The Strategy sets out a plan for sustainable growth and identifies development opportunities in the District for the next 13 years.

B.178 Bakewell Employment Land and Retail Review, GL Hearn for PDNPA (2016) – provides a review of the local economy, including the property market and retail provision.

Appendix C

Baseline Information

Data Sources

C.1 The data used to prepare the baseline information and key sustainability issues comes from a range of sources including:

- Peak District Walking, Wheeling, Cycling & Horse-riding Infrastructure Plan 2025-2030
- Peak District National Park Wildfire Report (2022)
- Natural England Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) data (2024)
- The State of the Park Report
- Economic Viability Assessment- Final Report (2025)
- Peak District Monitoring Report (2024)
- Landscape Strategy (2022)
- Office for National Statistics (Census 2021)
- Peak District National Park Authority Plan (2023-2028)
- Peak District National Park Management Plan (2023-2028) and Progress Report (2025)
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (2021)
- UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP19)
- Annual Monitoring Reports
- Parish Statements (2019)
- Topic Papers for the emerging Local Plan (2021 and 2022)
- Staffordshire Older peoples Commissioning Strategy 2024
- Derbyshire Adult social care strategy
- Derbyshire Gypsy and Traveller Study (2023)
- Consultations with stakeholders that informed the early stages of the Local Plan Review (2021)
- Derbyshire Observatory
- Discussions with Peak District National Park Authority staff

Environment

Landscape

C.2 The Peak District National Park covers 555 square miles and covers eight regional character areas: Dark Peak, Dark Peak Western Fringe, Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe, South West Peak, White Peak, Derwent Valley, Eastern Moors, Derbyshire Peak Fringes. It also covers four National Character Areas (see **Figure C.1**). The three main character areas are Dark Peak, the White Peak and the South West Peak.

C.3 The Peak District National Park contains a wide variety of landscapes including broad open moorlands, more intimate enclosed farmlands and wooded valleys. These landscapes have been shaped by variations in geology and landform and the long settlement and use of these landscapes by people. Today's landscapes have a rich diversity of natural and cultural heritage and this diversity is enjoyed by local communities and visitors.

C.4 The majority of the land in the National Park is privately owned. Large landowners; National Trust, Chatsworth and other Estates, and the Water Companies lease out farmland.

C.5 The Natural Zone is an area that defines wilder and more sensitive landscape and habitat identified under Section 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside Amendment Act 1995. It is defined by:

- a quality of 'wilderness'
- relatively natural vegetation which is largely self-sown
- few obvious signs of human influence such as field boundaries
- 'open country' which has particular importance for certain types of recreation associated with adventure and contact with nature
- high wildlife value
- natural beauty.

Dark Peak

C.6 The Dark Peak is an upland, gritstone landscape of open moorlands, reservoir valleys and in-bye pasture. Its unenclosed moorlands sit on peat and mineral soils and are consist of blanket bog, heathland, rocky edges and rough grassland. Most of the moorland is of international value for its habitats and species, especially upland birds, with designations covering almost half the Dark Peak. The blanket bog has a history of poor condition, but conservation work in recent years has started to reverse this.

C.7 Livestock grazing is supported on moorland edges and in-bye on wet rushy or tussocky grassland as well as on more improved grassland lower in the valleys. These fields provide feeding and nesting areas for wading birds like curlew and lapwing. Internationally important populations of grassland fungi are supported on some unimproved pastures.

C.8 Several major Dark Peak reservoir valleys provide drinking water to the surrounding urban populations, such as Sheffield and Nottingham. These valleys are surrounded by large conifer plantations, but their smaller cloughs and valleys with fast-flowing streams have remnants of ancient oak and other broadleaved woodland.

White Peak

C.9 The White Peak is a raised, undulating limestone plateau incised by steep sided dales. It has a strong identity, which has been largely created by the effect of the limestone geology on landform, natural and man-made features.

C.10 The area's dales are of international wildlife value due to their flower-rich grassland, ancient ash woodlands, and clean rivers that supporting various fish, invertebrates and birds. However, only 6% of the White Peak is designated for wildlife, compared to 45% of the Dark Peak. These diverse and special habitats are often small, linear, fragmented and in variable condition.

C.11 There is a rich human history in the White Peak, with centuries of farming and industry creating a higher density of settlements compared to the rest of the Peak District. Characteristic dry stone walls, farmsteads, scattered field barns, lead rakes, dew ponds and ridge and furrow tell the story of how people have interacted with this limestone landscape for generations. The plateau is rich in archaeology, which ranges from prehistoric sites to mineral workings and the more recent quarries. The pattern of drystone walls is unique and reflects different periods of enclosure. In total, the White Peak has an impressive 217 Scheduled Monuments, 803 listed buildings, 46 Conservation Areas and over 6,300 non-designated heritage assets.

C.12 Around 89% of the White Peak is a farmed landscape and 99% of this is grassland, predominantly used to support livestock, with more intensively managed dairy farms on the plateau. The area is recognised as being of national importance in providing public goods relating to wildlife, geology, cultural heritage and recreation. It is also recognised for its importance in providing clean water and regulating the climate.

South West Peak

C.13 The South West Peak is a crossroads where upland meets lowland creating spectacular gritstone edges, and where north meets south and east meets west. It is scenically and distinctly diverse. This upland landscape has open moorland at its core that is dominated by blanket bog and heathland, often enclosed into large parcels. At the fringes, the land falls away to gentle slopes, dissected by steep

wooded cloughs. At lower elevations, fast-flowing streams open out to form wider river valleys characterised by permanent grassland with rushy pasture, species-rich hay meadows and improved productive farmland.

C.14 This traditional working landscape has been created by generations of farming and is dominated by livestock farming. The fields are small or medium and mostly bounded by drystone gritstone walls, although there are some hedgerows lower down the slopes. The settlement pattern is dispersed across the landscape with small settlements, traditional farmsteads and isolated field barns predominantly built of local stone reflecting the geology, history and local building traditions.

C.15 13% of the South West Peak is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The area supports internationally important mosaics of habitats, which in turn host species such as merlin, curlew, lapwing and skylark.

C.16 Where the peaty moorland soils are in good condition, they store significant amounts of carbon and water, with wide-reaching benefits for water quality, climate regulation and wildlife. The area is also important for water supply: eight rivers have their sources in the South West Peak's uplands, with several running into reservoirs that supply water locally and to nearby towns and cities.

C.17 Each landscape type within the National Park is vulnerable to climate change. The habitats of the National Park vary from moderately vulnerable to highly vulnerable to climate change, with blanket bog being very highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly when in degraded condition as much of it is within the Peak District.

C.18 Heavy rainfall and extreme drought could have a significant impact on managed estate lands and the wider National Park landscape. Significant intervention for maintenance, restoration and tree planting would be required for this feature to be resilient to climate change.

C.19 In addition, agricultural intensification has affected the character of many farmsteads with larger buildings erected to facilitate larger farms. Farmland is under pressure to be turned from grazing to arable land and with ploughing comes a loss of flower rich grasslands and meadows and more fodder crops.

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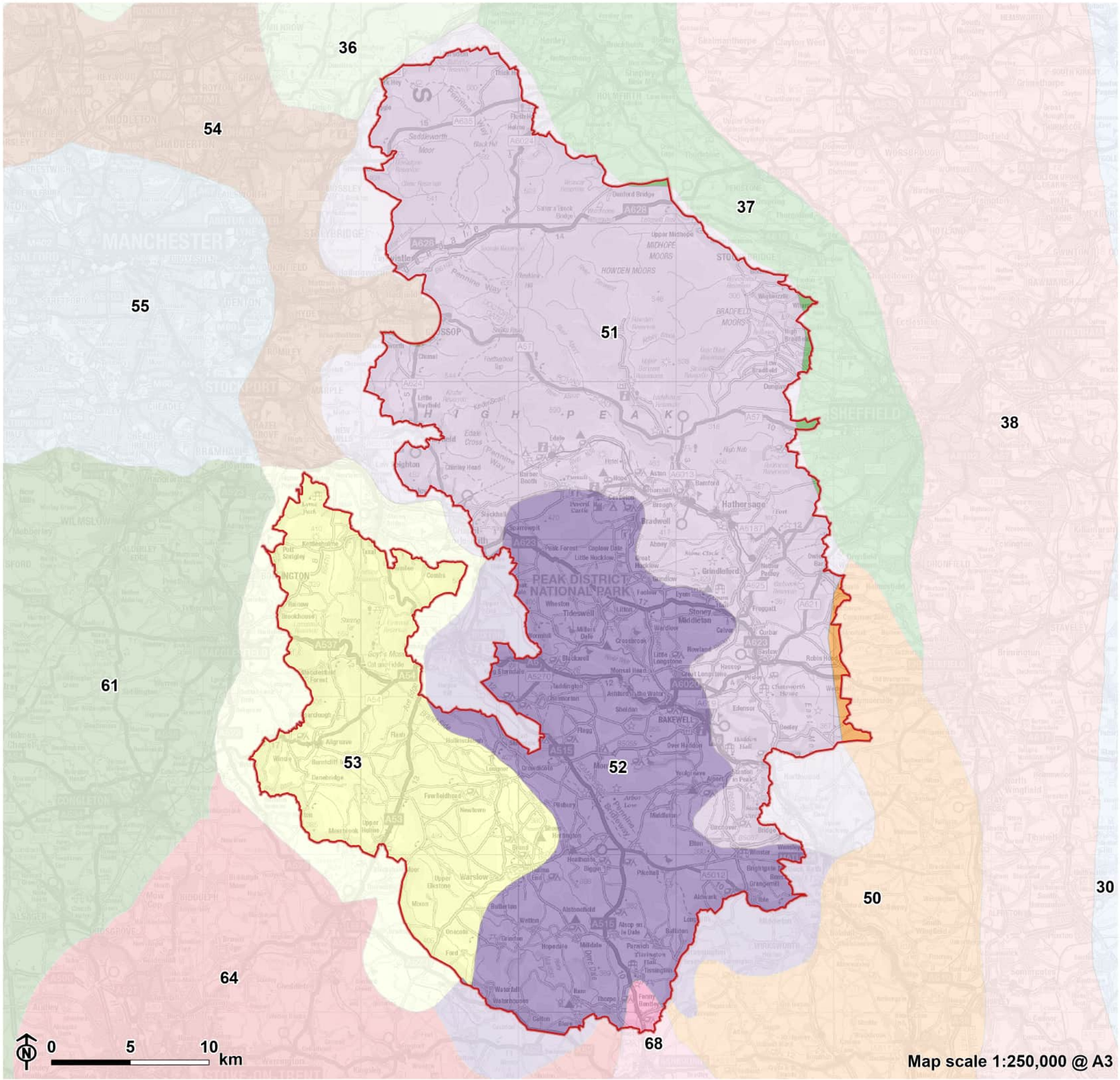
Figure C.1: Landscape Designations



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National Character Area

- 30: Southern Magnesian Limestone
- 36: Southern Pennines
- 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe
- 38: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield
- 50: Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent
- 51: Dark Peak
- 52: White Peak
- 53: South West Peak
- 54: Manchester Pennine Fringe
- 55: Manchester Conurbation
- 61:Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain
- 64: Potteries and Churnet Valley
- 68: Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands

Biodiversity

C.20 Nature Recovery Strategies are being developed at a County level. The National Park covers a number of counties or unitary authority areas that are in charge of producing these strategies. It is important that the National Park Authority is able to contribute to these strategies and be the voice for nature in the National Park. In addition to this, biodiversity net gain is a compulsory requirement of all development from November 2023. Without a new Local Plan the National Park will not be able to respond positively to new legislation on nature recovery and biodiversity.

C.21 More than a third of the National Park (35%) is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (as shown in **Figure C.2**) where important plants, wildlife and geological formations should be conserved. Most are privately-owned though often publicly-accessible. Of the 445 SSSIs within the Park, 24.9% are in favourable condition.

C.22 The National Park supports many bird species, many of which are of local, national or international importance. In particular, those included in the designation of the SPA (golden plover, merlin and short-eared owl) are of international importance for their breeding populations. Additionally, 28 National Park species are classed as a priority under the NERC Act 2006.

- Natura 2000 sites account for 33% of the Park covering 47,022 ha.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) cover 35% (50,000 ha).
- Dovedale National Nature Reserve accounts for 0.25% (356 ha).
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas cover 74,788ha.
- See Water and Flood Risk for nutrient neutrality.

C.23 Species in the National Park have seen mixed fortunes in recent years. Several species have increased, been found or rediscovered, but a number of species have declined or become locally extinct. This mix of fortunes is reflected nationally, although the overall picture for the UK is a decline in both abundance and distribution of species. The wide range of habitats in the National Park support different assemblages of species, which are closely associated with the condition of habitats.

C.24 Sites managed by conservation partnerships and/or organisations are a key driver to sympathetic land management and improved habitats. However, wildlife may be disturbed in areas the public have access. Species that nest or roost on the ground are particularly vulnerable to human activity.

C.25 Also, changes to temperatures and rainfall and the increase in the number of extreme weather events predicted from climate change will have a negative impact on wildlife and their habitats across the National Park. To create resilience and build on existing resilience to climate change, habitats need to be bigger, of better quality to support fauna and flora, and be more joined up; building on the Lawton principles (Making space for nature, 2010). PDNPA's One Plan for Nature will be a key driver in delivering the Lawton principles in partnership with the constituent authorities that are leading on Nature Recovery Strategies in their counties.

Birds

C.26 There is a lack of comprehensive, National Park-wide data on population trends of woodland birds. However, national populations of woodland specialist birds were 46% lower in 2017 than in 1970, with many of the most severe declines being in migratory species.

C.27 Some birds of prey in the National Park's Dark and South West Peak moorlands are thought to have increased in number since 1990. Despite this, many birds of prey species still have populations consistently lower than the carrying capacity of the habitats. Bird of prey numbers are less well studied in the National Park's White Peak.

C.28 The National Park has notable populations of peregrine falcon, goshawk and short-eared owl. The number of breeding pairs of these birds of prey species, plus merlin and hen harrier were being monitored across the Dark Peak and South West Peak as part of the National Park Bird of Prey Initiative but this has now ended as there was not sufficient meaningful change occurring due to their continued persecution. Local raptor workers do however still monitor these Birds of Prey. The numbers remain below the agreed targets, which are based on the levels present in the late 1990s, when the SPA was designated.

C.29 Large scale surveys of waders, especially in the South West Peak, have been carried out and a number of 'wader hotspots' have been identified across the National Park.

C.30 In 2016, PDNPA reported on the presence of five wader species. Golden plover and curlew were noted as 'stable or improving' and lapwing, dunlin and snipe as 'decline probable'. Redshank, are on the verge of or may now have been lost from the Peak District as a breeding species.

C.31 Curlew and lapwing are both priority species, with snipe being a local priority. Curlew breed in most open habitats in the National Park, including moorland and upland pasture. Lapwing is associated with upland hill farming, nesting in a variety of open habitats. Snipe are highly dependent on rush pastures and rough ground. Management of habitats in providing the right conditions for waders is key.

C.32 On the Stanage North Lees estate, breeding birds surveys of the woodlands are carried out annually. Most species show relative stability in populations or are increasing.

Through targeted management and installation of nest boxes, pied flycatcher populations have increased each year since 2016, bucking the national trend of 43% decline. In 2019, 120 pied flycatcher chicks fledged from 25 boxes.

C.33 For moorland birds where targeted conservation and restoration work is occurring, many species can remain stable or increasing. The South Pennine Moors SPA is designated for its nationally important population of golden plover which has increased threefold where blanket bog have been rewetted and dunlin numbers have doubled per square kilometre, but up to threefold in rewetted areas.

C.34 The South Pennine Moors SPA holds a significant proportion of the English population of Twite and is estimated to have declined by 80% between 1990 and 2000. The main cause of decline is likely to be the loss of hay meadows although there are also likely other significant factors affecting Twite, not yet fully understood.

C.35 On the Eastern Moors estate, numbers of whinchat have increased from 25 to 60 pairs between 2010 and 2015. Similarly, ring ouzel increased from 4 to 7-8 pairs on the Burbage Moors between 2010 and 2015. On the Stanage North Lees estate, numbers of ring ouzel appear stable due to engagement between the National Park Authority and the British Mountaineering Council to locate territories and nests and put up signs to alert rock climbers to their presence.

C.36 Black grouse were lost from the Peak District as a breeding bird in 1998, despite conservation efforts. They were re-introduced in 2003 and some breeding was recorded, but all birds have since dispersed, with the last record being in 2013. The reasons for loss are attributed to habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation of the habitat mosaic, but climate change may also be a factor.

Mammals

C.37 Numbers of pine marten, red squirrel and dormouse declined in the National Park during the 20th century. More recently, there has been a reduction in the number of hedgehogs.

C.38 Dormice have subsequently been reintroduced in two locations and there have been recent sightings of pine marten, likely to be recolonising from reintroduction programmes such as that by the Vincent Wildlife Trust in Wales.

C.39 Mountain hares are native to the Highlands of Scotland but were introduced to the Peak District in the 19th century. This remains the only English population. Mountain hare has been lost from some of the smaller, more isolated areas of moorland, such as those in the South West Peak and Eyam Moor in the Dark Peak, but the species seems to be relatively stable in its stronghold between Derwent Edge and Outer Edge in the Dark Peak.

C.40 Water voles losses in the National Park have been in line with the significant national decline and water voles have been lost from many watercourses. However, significant upland populations have been discovered on the Peak District moorlands, which are thought to be thriving due to the lack of mink in these habitats.

C.41 Otter have been recorded since 1992 in the Dove and Derwent catchments and on the Wye-Derwent since 1998. However, recent sightings and work in the nearby city of Sheffield suggest that they are slowly recolonising the National Park, particularly in the Derbyshire Derwent catchment.

C.42 The main deer species in the National Park is red deer. There is a herd on the Eastern Moors, which is increasing in population along with red deer populations in the South West Peak. Fallow deer remain relatively restricted and roe deer are present, affecting tree establishment. The recently introduced non-native Reeve's muntjac deer has been sighted in the area. As there are no natural predators of deer in the National Park, deer numbers can cause significant problems when carrying out woodland restoration or creation works.

Invertebrates

C.43 There is no National Park-wide comprehensive data on invertebrates, but the Peak District is likely to have also seen declines. However, several new invertebrate species have also been recorded in the National Park in recent years, including slender groundhopper, logjammer hoverfly and upland summer mayfly, which is the most southerly record for this species.

C.44 White-clawed crayfish (a protected species) can be found in only a few remaining natural sites in the National Park. The cause of decline is predominantly due to the introduction of the invasive non-native American signal crayfish. The National Park is home to some crayfish ark sites, which are sites where native crayfish are safe from signal crayfish.

Bees and Butterflies

C.45 Bilberry bumblebees are associated with upland areas above 300m in altitude and Peak District is one of their last strongholds however, numbers may decline further due to climate change.

C.46 Several butterfly species have colonised the National Park in recent decades, including speckled wood, ringlet, comma, purple hairstreak, small skipper and most recently Essex skipper. The National Park also has its own race of northern brown argus. However, wall and white-letter hairstreak have declined, and grayling, high brown fritillary, pearl-bordered fritillary and small pearl-bordered fritillary have all gone extinct locally. Several butterfly species that occur in

the National Park are on the priority species list, including small heath and white-letter hairstreak.

Reptiles

C.47 Of the six UK native terrestrial reptiles, five can be found in the National Park. Five species of amphibian can also be found in the National Park, including all three native species of newt.

C.48 The Eastern Moors area is a stronghold for adders (but are absent from the rest of the National Park), with one of the most important concentrations in the English uplands. Populations have declined in many parts of the UK, but land management targeted at the species has meant the adder is doing well in the Eastern Moors area of the National Park, with over 400 recorded in 2017.

C.49 Great crested newts have seen dramatic declines over the last 60 years. The dewponds in the White Peak now hold nationally important populations and cluster populations.

Flora and fungi

C.50 Several species of sphagnum moss can be found in the National Park, crucial to the blanket bog of the Park. Many large areas of sphagnum moss and other mosses were lost from the moorland due to acid rain caused by surrounding industry, burning, and the added pressure of drainage of the bogs, but the amount of sphagnum moss in the National Park is increasing due to restoration of blanket bog

C.51 The National Park has 1,040ha of waxcap grassland, including internationally important sites for grassland fungi assemblages. One site at the National Trust's Longshaw estate is amongst the highest in value in England. The Red Data Book pink waxcap is found in the National Park, along with other rare species such as butter waxcap, limestone waxcap and date waxcap. Over 40 species of waxcap fungi have been recorded in the National Park through targeted grassland surveys.

C.52 Data for higher plants in the National Park reveals a mixed picture. Several new species and new sites for these species have been found in the National Park, some likely due to improving habitat conditions and some due to additional searching. However, 26 species of plant are thought to have become extinct in the National Park in the last two centuries, including eight moorland species and five wet grassland species. 53 species are known to be declining. These figures do not include relatively common species such as common knapweed and ox-eye daisy, which are also known to be declining.

C.53 A reduction in air pollution across the National Park has had a very positive effect on a variety of mosses, liverworts and lichens and there are 39 lichen species new to Derbyshire have been found within the National Park.

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Peak District National Park Authority

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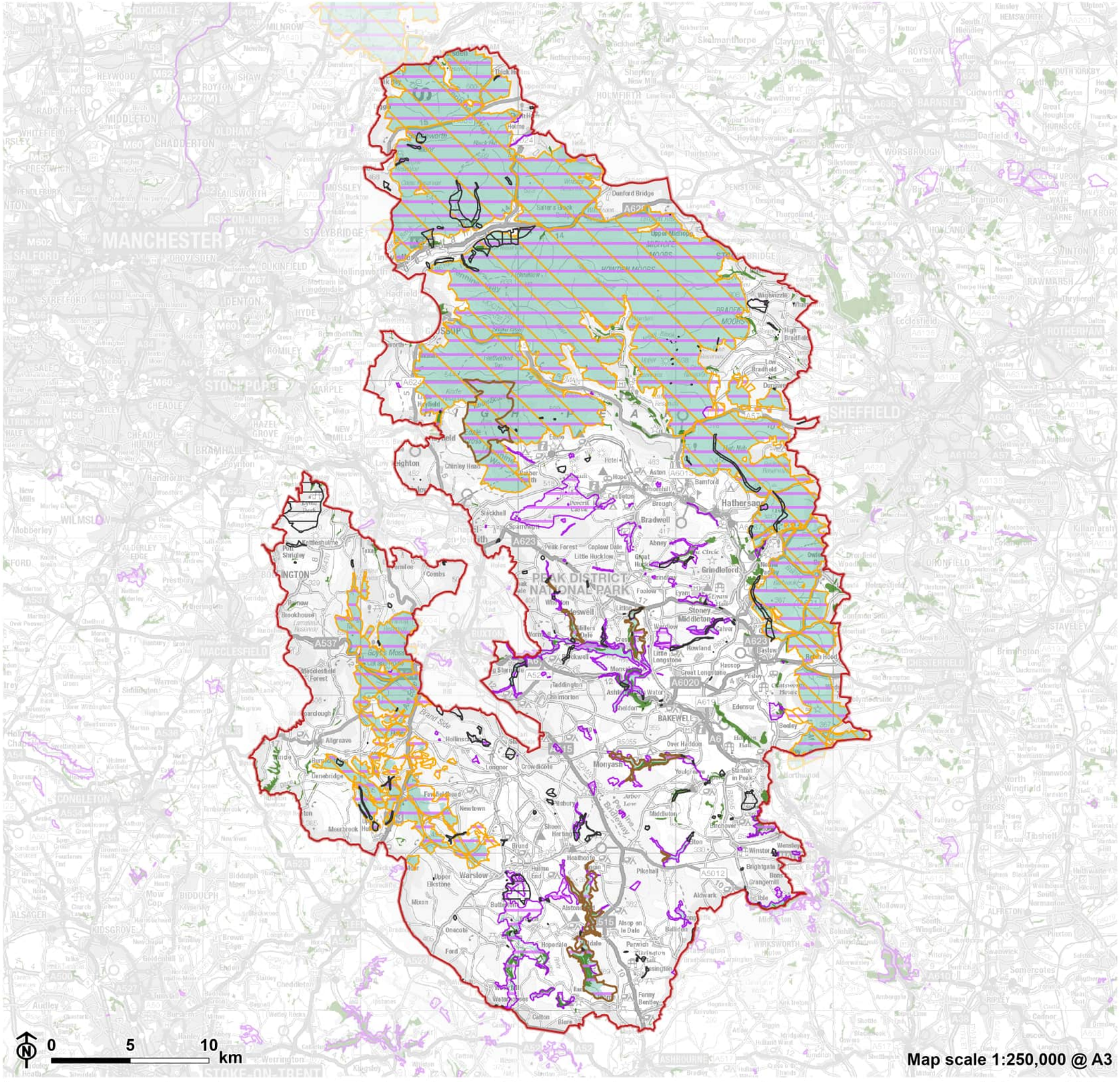
Figure C.2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity Designations



Geology

C.54 The Peak District National Park mostly lies within three National Character Areas: the Dark Peak, the White Peak and the South West Peak, each with distinctive characteristics. The underlying geology is predominantly Carboniferous Limestone in the White Peak and Derbyshire Gritstone in the Dark Peak and gritstone edges at the fringes of the National Park.

C.55 The Dark Peak is an upland, gritstone landscape of open moorlands, reservoir valleys and in-bye pasture.

C.56 The White Peak is a raised, undulating limestone plateau incised by steep sided dales. It has a strong identity, which has been largely created by the effect of the limestone geology on landform, natural and man-made features.

C.57 The South West Peak is a crossroads where upland meets lowland creating spectacular gritstone edges.

C.58 Information on quarries, active and dormant, is included within the Minerals section below.

Historic Environment

C.59 Only 5% of the National Park's cultural heritage assets are designated. This means that 95% of assets are 'non-designated' and have no statutory protection.

C.60 In 2019/2020 there were 37 Grade I, 97 Grade II* and 2009 Grade II buildings/structures in the National Park as shown in **Figure C.3**. This equates to almost 3,000 individual buildings and structures (sometimes several are covered by a single listing).

C.61 There are 473 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the National Park.

C.62 There are four Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. These are Chatsworth Park, Haddon Hall, Lyme Park and Thornbridge Hall. None are considered to be at risk.

C.63 There are 109 Conservation Areas, of which 19 have an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal, 80 have Conservation Area Appraisal that requires reviewing, and six do not have a Conservation Area Appraisal.

C.64 There are 14,599 Sites of archaeological interest (monuments) held on our internal historic environment register, not including thousands of features that have been recorded by archaeological surveys that cover around 60% of the National Park.

C.65 The landscape is rich in prehistoric monuments, grassy dales, open moorland and historic field patterns created by agriculture, relics of past industry including quarries, mills and mining, and trade and transport routes. The park's most famous monuments and buildings include the Bronze Age Nine Ladies stone circle, the 11th century Peveril Castle, and the stately houses and parkland of Chatsworth, Haddon Hall and Lyme Park.

C.66 Some field boundaries are medieval in origin, but most field patterns that exist today, date back to 250 to 150 years with 'ruler-straight' walls from when many of the region's commons were enclosed.

C.67 PDNPA's Landscape Strategy sets out the key characteristics that reflect the special qualities of the National Park, including cultural heritage.

C.68 Only a handful of parishes have adopted Neighbourhood Plans (Bradwell, Leekfrith, Chapel, Dore, Whaley Bridge, Brampton and Holme). They designate important local green spaces and have some site-specific policies, but no local lists.

C.69 Farmsteads in the White Peak have the highest levels of survival (87%) and the lowest % of farmsteads completely lost from the landscape since c1900 (3%). In the SWP, 83% of farmsteads have survived, while the Dark Peak has 79% of farmsteads surviving, and a higher level of complete loss of farmsteads (11%).

C.70 It has become apparent that dry stone walls are being lost as a result of changes in farming practices and this is set to continue.

C.71 The need to adapt and mitigate to climate change has led to planning applications for alterations to designated and non-designated heritage assets that seek to introduce low carbon or carbon neutral technologies.

C.72 The approach to farming and land management is changing how land and buildings associated with farming and land management are used. Whole Estate Plans (WEP) are a mechanism for owners of large estates to manage change in a sustainable way. Chatsworth and the National Trust are both large land owners that are proposing to use WEPs.

C.73 It should also be noted that changes in weather patterns due to climate change may erode features/buildings/monuments of historic and archaeological importance. The Climate Change Vulnerability report references the condition of buried soils and archaeological remains is difficult to ascertain, as there are many that are still to be discovered; however there are factors known that help highlight areas at greatest risk.

C.74 The survival of archaeological remains and deposits is dependent on the environment into which it was originally buried. It has been found that certain materials are better preserved in acidic environments while others are better preserved in alkaline environments.

C.75 In the Dark and South West Peak for example, peat bogs are a very important due to their value in preserving buried archaeology. This is because numerous materials survive better in anoxic environments i.e. those without oxygen. The waterlogged nature of these bogs means that the majority of

soil microorganisms along with fungi are not able to operate as decomposers.

C.76 Unfortunately, peat bogs in the National Park are generally in an extremely poor condition with a low or erratic water table (see assessment of 'Blanket Bog') which means it is likely that some items have already been lost or degraded. Previous human drainage of bogs and other soils across the National Park will have already degraded or destroyed buried soils and some archaeological deposits. In addition, ploughing, development and other farming practices are very likely to have affected the condition of these features.

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Peak District National Park Authority

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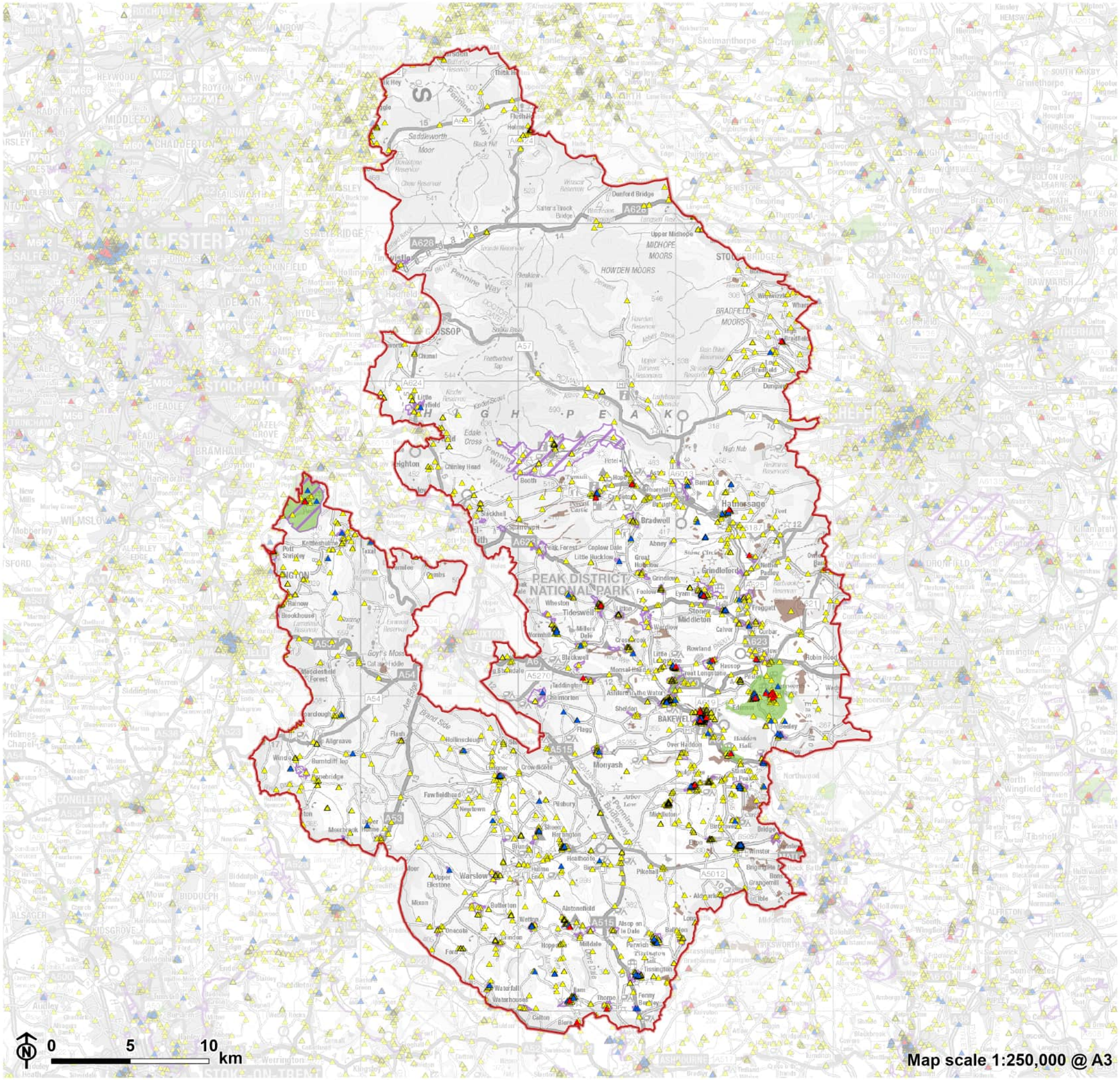
Figure C.3: Historic Environment



Climate Change

C.77 Climate change is the greatest long-term threat to the Park's upland landscapes. It has the potential to change the features that make up the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Climate change will modify the Peak District National Park's special qualities and alter the opportunities for the public to enjoy them. It will alter the benefits the Peak District National Park provides as it will impact on farming, tourism and the economy.

C.78 The National Park's location and altitude of between 100m and 623m above sea level dictates the climate. This means there is higher rainfall, lower temperature and lower sunshine hours overall than the average for England and Wales.

C.79 The average rainfall within the National Park is 1025mm a year (Eng/Wales av. 985mm), sunshine 3.9 hours a day (Eng/Wales av. 4.3), and average temperature 10.3ºC (Eng/Wales 10.3ºC).

C.80 Global temperatures are increasing and more areas are warming than cooling. Land and ocean temperatures have increased by 2oF since 1850, and much faster than ever since 1982. Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020.

C.81 The likely range of total human-caused global surface temperature increase from 1850–1900 to 2010–2019 is 0.8°C to 1.3°C, with a best estimate of 1.07°C [2.01 ˚F]. Over this period, it is likely that well-mixed greenhouse gases (GHGs) contributed a warming of 1.0°C to 2.0°C, and other human drivers (principally aerosols) contributed a cooling of 0.0°C to 0.8°C, natural (solar and volcanic) drivers changed global surface temperature by –0.1°C to +0.1°C, and internal variability changed it by –0.2°C to +0.2°C.

C.82 The National Park experiences wildfires. The extent of the fires can be aggravated by extreme temperatures, lack of rainfall, and degraded habitats, which allows fires to spread quickly and cause more damage. It is likely that the likelihood and frequency of the fires will increase with warmer and drier weather conditions. **Table C.1** below outlines the number of moorland fires which have occurred since 2010 in the National Park. The table highlights significant variation in the number of moorland wildfires from 2010-2021, but with warmer and drier conditions resulting from climate change, the likelihood of these events is likely to increase.

Table C.1 Number of Moorland Fires from 2010 to 2021

Year	Number of fires
2010	64
2011	48
2012	18
2013	33
2014	17
2015	33
2016	17
2017	18
2018	51
2019	22
2020	40
2021	21

C.83 In 2024, over 100 hectares of wildfire damage were recorded in the PDNPA wildfire log. The danger of wildfires may increase across the moorlands as peat soils dry out and woodlands suffer from summer drought. Increased drought could impact on calcareous grasslands, especially on thin soils and river habitats. Drier conditions may result in rivers and streams becoming increasingly seasonal and at risk of drying up, with the risk of losing ponds altogether, especially dew ponds. Climate change could also play a role in the increase of invasive pests and diseases, which could impact on trees and moorland dwarf shrubs. Moorland wildfires over peatlands can emit vast amounts of CO2 previously contained in the soil. For example, the wildfire on Saddleworth Moor in 2018 affected 2,400 acres with a loss of some 40,000 tonnes of CO2.

C.84 The National Park falls into the Midland and Northern areas for rainfall recording areas. **Tables C.2 and C.3** below outline the annual rainfall (mm) in both areas, which shows increases since records began.

C.85 There have also been some of the 20 driest ever years since 2000 (Midlands 2 and 1 for Northern), so six extreme years for the Midlands since 2000 (25%) and nine for the Northern area (38%).

Table C.2 Northern annual rainfall

Year	Annual Rainfall (mm)
2012	1,276.1
2000	1,243.1
1954	1,181.6
2023	1,178.7

Year	Annual Rainfall (mm)
2008	1,164.5
1903	1,149.8
2019	1,142.4
2020	1,134.0
2002	1,117.6
1960	1,095.3
1998	1,094.0
1928	1,089.5
2015	1,088.2
1912	1,077.2
1930	1,073.4
1967	1,065.2
1927	1,065.1
1966	1,065.0
1980	1,064.0

Table C.3 Midlands annual rainfall

Year	Annual Rainfall (mm)
1903	158.3
1912	157.7
1960	157.4
1951	157.2
2000	156.2
2012	155.6
1927	155.5
1916	155.3
1900	154.1
2014	153.4
2023	153.1
1923	152.6
1954	152.3
1924	151.6
1930	151.6
1910	150.0
1999	150.0
1958	149.6
1966	149.6

C.86 Extreme weather events increase the risk of flooding to business premises and attractions such as trails and public footpaths, as well as increasing the risk of damage to the transport network from flash flooding, erosion, blocked drains and gullies on roads, and the formation of potholes. Severe flooding events such as in the summer of 2007 and several cold and snowy winters from 2010 onwards have resulted in road and rail closures. There are also a large number of communities at a higher risk of flooding both within and immediately downstream of the Peak District National Park, with major cities (Derby, Manchester and Sheffield) potentially affected by flood waters originating in the Peak District National Park. The amount of the National Park that falls within Flood Zones 2 and 3 is shown in **Figure C.4**.

C.87 The Peak District National Park is a refuge for many species that used to be widespread across the UK, like the small heath butterfly, water vole, curlew and a range of hay meadow plants. Climate change will make this role ever more important. Increasing temperatures, changing habitats and unpredictable weather may force wildlife to move in search of suitable homes. Protected areas like the Peak District National Park where wildlife can thrive are vital to sustaining resilient habitats, particularly as they may then repopulate other areas in the future.

C.88 It is likely that there will be direct climate change effects on species such as moorland birds and habitats such as blanket bogs. For example, the sphagnum moss Sphagnum cuspidatum is highly susceptible to environmental changes and faces extinction in the event of severe climatic changes. Climate change could result in species migration and loss of diversity especially for small or isolated habitats. By 2080, the Dark Peak may lie south of the climatic envelope for many characteristic moorland birds (such as merlin and golden plover) while others will be at the climatic limits of their range (including lapwing, snipe and curlew).

C.89 Climate change may also reduce the ability of Peak District National Park habitats to store carbon through the loss of important carbon sinks such as peat, soils and plants. Climate change may reduce the area and sustainability of peat-forming blanket bog systems within the UK and research

shows that the Peak District National Park is the third most vulnerable region for this in Great Britain.

C.90 As a result of milder winters, hotter summers and more extreme weather events, patterns and sites for farming and forestry may change to ensure continued sustainable income generation and land use.

C.91 Potential implications for farmers and land managers include:

- a desire for more and better winter livestock housing;
- increased pests and diseases and risks to livestock health;
- longer ripening season for crops;
- smaller yields because of reduced soil moisture and fertility; and
- reduced area of viable land available for grazing because of either droughts or waterlogged and flooded fields.

C.92 The Peak District National Park has signed up to the UN-backed Race to Zero pledge, an initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the UK's National Parks, turning them into net carbon sinks. The National Parks are intended to transition from releasing 11.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year, to 'absorbing' around 3.5 million tonnes by 2050. This transition will drive towards the achievement of net zero landscapes by 2050. According to Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, for the year 2023, the Peak District National Park had an average of 47.4t CO2e per capita which is higher than the average for National Parks,12.4t CO2e per capita. The total greenhouse gas emissions across the National Park for all sectors was 1699.2kt CO2e. The Peak District has the largest total emissions out of the 15 National Parks with 64% of which coming from the industry sector, likely due to the Hope Cement Works as noted in the Air Quality section below.

C.93 The Peak District National Park has a target set for 2,878 tonnes net decrease in carbon emissions from moorlands by 2028, based on 'avoided loss' because of restoration works. Where the 2024-2025 target was a decrease of 488 tonnes, the achieved net decrease was 2,258 tonnes.

Peak District NPA Local Plan Review SA
Peak District National Park Authority

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Figure C.4: Flood risk

Peak District National Park Authority
Flood Zone 2
Flood Zone 3

0 5 10 km

Map scale 1:250,000 @ A3

Air Quality

C.94 Air quality in the UK has significantly improved in recent decades, with levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) – the most harmful pollutant to human health – falling by 10% and NO2 by 45% since 2010.

C.95 Levels of ammonia have steadily dropped by 14% since 1980 but remained stable between 2008-2013. Further reductions occurred until between 2013-2017 when they increased by 7%. A 5% decreased followed between 2017-2020, and then an increase in 2021 of 2%. The increases are largely a result of agriculture practices and herd sizes.

C.96 The majority of emissions (62%) come from road transport which includes air pollution caused by tyres and brake dust. However, 37% of greenhouse gas emissions comes from methane, of which 81% comes from farming and agriculture. Methane emissions are concentrated in the White Peak and parts of the South West Peak.

C.97 82% of all NO2 emissions in the Peak District are from the agricultural sector.

C.98 The cement works in the Hope Valley accounts for 266,179 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This accounts for nearly three quarters (73%) of carbon dioxide emissions in the Peak District National Park.

Noise and Light Pollution

C.99 The most tranquil areas of the National Park are in the open moorland, away from settlements, crowded honeypots and roads. Compared to the surrounding area the Peak District is an oasis of tranquillity. The dark skies of the Peak District are an oasis within Northern England. However, compared to other rural areas, the Peak District could do much better.

C.100 Light pollution is a generic term referring to artificial light that shines where it is neither wanted nor needed. In broad terms, there are three types of light pollution:

- Skyglow - the pink or orange glow which is seen for miles around towns and cities, spreading deep into the countryside, caused by a scattering of artificial light by airborne dust and water droplets),
- Glare - the uncomfortable brightness of a light source,
- Light intrusion - light spilling beyond the boundary of the property on which a light is located, sometimes shining through windows and curtains.

C.101 Bakewell, Castleton and the larger settlements experience higher levels of light pollution than more remote areas.

C.102 The Peak District National Park has no major roads due to its designation as a protected landscape in 1951. The A628 and the A6 do have a significant impact in road noise. The latter much more likely to affect residents of the Peak District. There is a major railway through the Hope Valley, which will cause some noise disturbance.

C.103 The noise from exploitation of stone and mineral resources, especially limestone and gritstone, has occurred in the Peak District landscape since prehistoric times.

C.104 The introduction of a passing loop on the Hope Valley train line will result in some localised increases in noise pollution as freight trains pull off the line to allow passenger trains to go past but then need to regain their speed once back on the line.

C.105 There is noise disturbance from quarry activity, from blasting and freight movement.

C.106 The noise disturbance from quarrying should reduce over time as permissions expire. Although, existing policy position allows for the development of small-scale building stone sites in the National Park where a demonstrable need exists that cannot be met from existing permissions, and where the stone will be used in the National Park and the impacts on amenity and the environment can be mitigated.

Social

Population

C.107 Based on the 2021 Census, the total estimated population for the Peak District National Park was 42,000. The 2024 mid-year estimate for the National Park's population was 35,832. This together with an ageing population is reducing the number of people who are actively working and living in the National Park. Anecdotally, it is thought that young people are leaving the National Park as they cannot afford to buy or rent property there. Without a Local Plan the National Park cannot seek to positively influence to type and tenure of housing across the area.

C.108 The Annual Monitoring Report (2006/07) estimated that between 2001 and 2026 the likely scenario was that the population of the National Park would fall by around 6%; the working age population would fall by around 29%; and the population aged 60 years would rise by around 47%.

C.109 The National Park has an aging population with the majority of residents over 50 years of age. Based on Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) data, the average age in the National Park is 48, which is similar to the rest of the National Parks in England. Additionally, the National Park is less ethnically diverse than other areas of the UK, around 2% of the population is reported to be from an ethnically diverse background. This is a shared commonality with other National Parks across the UK.

C.110 The impact of Covid has yet to be fully realised but anecdotally there has been a significant change in shopping behaviour and an increase in online shopping which will have

an impact on services. The Census recorded economic activity as: employed 38.8%, self-employed 16%, unemployed 1.6%, economically inactive (retired) 33.1%. economically inactive (other reasons: disabled, student, long term sick, looking after family or home) 10.3%. National Park residents were more likely to work mainly at or from home than those elsewhere.

Housing

C.111 Whilst the delivery of housing has largely been in line with the anticipated levels set out in the Core Strategy the National Park consistently under delivers affordable housing for local people. Without a new local plan, this situation could continue and could result in local people having to move away from the National Park. This would not support the National Parks ambition for thriving and sustainable communities.

C.112 According to the 2021 Census, in the National Park, 51.3% of people own their home outright, 15.2% rent privately and 9.9% rent from a Local Housing Authority or other registered provider.). The 2021 Census also shows that 2,131 dwellings are unoccupied as a primary residence, this is equal to 11.6% of the total number of dwellings in the National Park. Other commercially available data suggests that this figure is significantly lower than the true number because it ignores the recent boom in short-term lets and holiday rentals which have increased by 24% since 2022.

C.113 The types of housing are as follows:

- Living in a caravan or similar temporary accommodation: 0.2%
- Detached property: 45.7%
- Semi-detached property: 29.3%
- Terrace: 17.9%
- Flat/tenement: 3.9%
- Converted building (church etc): 1.4%
- In a commercial property (e.g. hotel/over a shop): 0.9%
- Converted/shared house/bedsit: 0.8%

Core Strategy indicative housing figures for the plan period 2006/2026 were:

- White Peak and Derwent Valley: 1015
- South West Peak: 160
- Dar Peak and Eastern Moors: 110
- Total: 1285

C.114 Between 2006/07 and 2018/19 there were 997 housing completions giving an average of 77 dwellings per year.

C.115 The most productive years for both commitments and completions were 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 with an average of 562 per annum. This was just before the economic crash in 2008, from which the numbers of commitments and completions has not recovered, averaging around 321 per annum between 2009/10 and 2018/19.

C.116 The delivery of open market housing consistently outstrips additional affordable housing. Most housing is delivered through conversions. Between 2006/7 and 2018/19 competitions totalled: 383 open market dwellings, 265 holiday homes, 216 local needs affordable homes, 45 agricultural workers dwellings.

C.117 Since the Core Strategy was adopted in 2011, the levels of grant available for social housing has reduced markedly, though there are once again encouraging signs. The reduction in grant availability overall has inhibited delivery by Housing Associations. Where it does still occur, it has often relied on heavy subsidy from Derbyshire Dales District Council as the constituent housing authority with the largest numbers of their residents living inside the National Park. However, the two housing authorities with the next largest populations in the National Park (High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands) have not been able to provide such support, so social housing delivery in these parts of the National Park has been limited.

C.118 The mix of all types of houses added to the housing stock has not put downward pressure on house prices, or put any significant dent in the figures of unmet housing need in the National Park.

C.119 According to Rightmove, the average price for a home in the Peak District over the last year (2025-2026) was £380,770. The number of holiday homes is of concern to residents of the National Park. This is in part because the cost of housing is a big issue for local people, in that house prices are out of reach for many of those living in the National Park. Also, holiday homes can remove rental properties from the market.

C.120 The viability of a range of housing typologies has been modelled across the Park Authority Area, which are representative of the types of development anticipated to come forward over the upcoming local plan period. On new build brownfield sites across the Park Authority Area, it is considered that an affordable contribution of 30% is achievable on most typologies of over 10-dwellings. For sites of fewer than 10 dwellings, a 10-20% affordable housing contribution is achievable, either through on-site delivery or collected as a commuted sum. Conversion typologies on brownfield sites of 1+ dwelling are expected to deliver 30-40% affordable housing. Greenfield sites with 100% affordable housing were not found to be viable without any market housing element, substantial grant or similar. With an ‘average’ grant level, it is predicted that approximately 30% of homes would need to be sold at market rate to achieve viability. If no grant was available, this would rise to around 70% of units for market sale.

Access to Services

C.121 Gains and losses of community facilities are recorded as follows:

Table C.4 Gains and losses of community facilities

Amenity	2010 (no.)	2020 (no.)	Gain	Loss
Convenience shop	34	28		6
Post Office (inc visiting)	33	28		5
Primary School	43	39		4
Community Hall	50	54	4	
Playground/Playing field	42	48	6	
Industrial units	15	18	3	
Distance to nearest GP	1.5 miles (av)	1.8 miles (av)		
Within 1 mile of A or B road	62	62		
Good public transport service	44	45	1	
Public House	54	54		
Post box	63	63		
Church	60	60		

C.122 The largest service loss has been convenience stores, post offices and primary schools. Parish surveys note a positive trend of locating post office services within community buildings. Anecdotally, whilst the number of churches has stayed the same, congregations have become smaller and this has prompted a reduction in services as churches group together.

C.123 The distance to the nearest GP practice has increased from an average of 1.5 miles to 1.8 miles.

C.124 A new supermarket has been built and is now well established in Bakewell.

Health

C.125 Levels of radon are relatively high within the Peak District. Half the Park's parishes need full radon precautions, and a further fifth need secondary radon precautions to be incorporated into the design of new dwellings. The effects of prolonged exposure to radon from underlying rock strata could increase the risks of lung cancer on the population.

C.126 Derbyshire Dales District Council, where the majority of the National Park's population live, is rated as 237 out of 317 authorities based on the health of population (1 being most deprived). **Figure C.5** shows the Indices of Deprivation for the National Park.

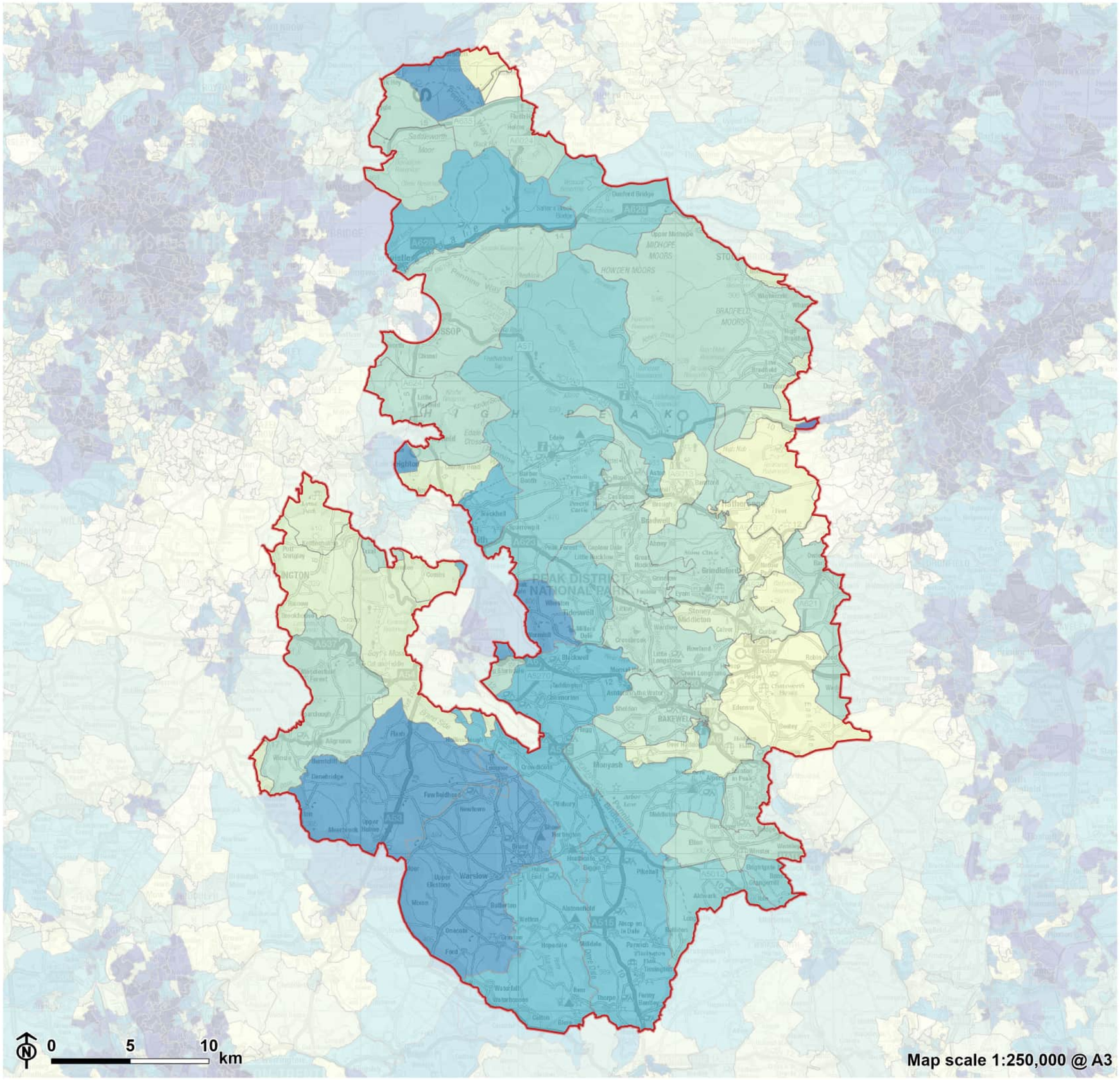
C.127 The 2021 Census recorded the health of residents of the National Park as: very bad health 0.7%, bad health 2.6%, fair health 10%, good health 31.7%, and very good health 54.7%. The number of people who reported that they were in "very good" health was higher in every National Park than it was elsewhere in England (47.5%) and Wales (46.5%).

C.128 As the population of 65+ year olds is increasing and expected to increase in the coming years, Derbyshire and Staffordshire County Councils have prepared strategies that promote health and wellbeing and support people to be independent for as long as possible and receive care at home before moving into a care home/nursing home.

Peak District NPA Local Plan Review SA
Peak District National Park Authority

LUC

Figure C.5: Indices of Deprivation



Data produced by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Boundaries used for data provided by Office of National Statistics (ONS).

Access to nature/ green infrastructure

C.129 Green infrastructure is a term used in the NPPF and defined as '*A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity*' (NPPF, Annex 2, Glossary).

C.130 The NPPF requires local plans to have strategic policies to make sufficient provision for green infrastructure (para 20), to support healthy, safe and inclusive places (para 92), avoid increased vulnerability to climate change (para 154), maintain and enhance green infrastructure (para 175), use green infrastructure to help towards improved air quality.

C.131 The Peak District has 202 square miles (524 km²) of access land, 1,867 miles (3,005 km) of public rights of way for walking, cycling and horse-riding, 58 miles (93 km) of dedicated off-road cycling trails based on former railway lines such as the High Peak and Tissington Trails.

C.132 It has national and local long distance trails for walking, cycling and horse riding – including the Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway, Trans Pennine Trail, Limestone Way and Derwent Valley Heritage Way.

C.133 PDNPA surveys the PRoW network biannually. The survey includes signposting, waymarking, condition of the path, structures, and obstructions and is undertaken by Rangers and Ranger volunteers using a field-based app. The survey consists of a randomised survey of 5% of the rights of way network and the most recent has provided a pass rate of 85.64% of footpaths and other rights of way in the National Park being easy to use.

C.134 PDNPA does not identify its green infrastructure, as it is a predominantly rural with a landscaped focus with one town and a number of villages and hamlets. However, across the 114 parishes there:

- 11 allotments
- 57 playgrounds
- 56 playing fields

C.135 The focus of the authority area as a National Park is to conserve and enhance its natural beauty and cultural heritage, promote opportunities for people to enjoy the National Park and to support the socio-economy of its communities.

C.136 The National Park relies on the Open Space Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategies for each overlaying local government area.

Derbyshire Dales

C.137 The Derbyshire Dales Open Space Assessment Report identifies deficiencies and surpluses in existing and future provision and sets an approach to securing open space facilities and their long-term maintenance through new housing development.

C.138 It states that in low population areas within the National Park, parks, gardens and amenity greenspace are not well provided. The quality and general appearance of amenity greenspaces could be improved, particularly with regard to Burton Closes Hall, Castle Mount and Birchover Recreation Ground. Two areas of natural/semi-natural greenspace at Catcliffe Woods and Endcliffe Woods could be improved. Children and young people are well provided, although two areas - Winster Play Area and Youlgrave Play Area require improvement.

C.139 It finds that there is a deficiency in allotments and should be provided across the National Park. Four existing sites scored low on quality; Youlgreave, Over Haddon, Trinkley Lane in Stoney Middleton and Haddon Road in Bakewell.

C.140 The Derbyshire Dales Playing Pitch Strategy outlines improvements needed at the following sites across the National Park:

- Alport Lane;
- Baslow Sports Field;
- Bridge Playing Field;
- Great Longstone;
- Lady Manners;
- Bakewell Recreation Ground;
- The Avenue;
- Stoney Middleton;
- Calver.

C.141 It highlights that the lack of capacity in Bakewell could be offset by allowing community use at Lady Manners School.

C.142 The football/rugby pitches at Bakewell Recreation Ground and showground are poor quality due to a range of uses on the site and insecure tenure (showground).

High Peak

C.143 The High Peak assessment identified a lack of amenity greenspace but states that this is off-set by the easy access to natural space. It should, however, be noted that since this report in 2017 COVD-19 has brought a renewed pressure on these formal amenity spaces. The assessment also noted that the allotment areas required some improvement.

C.144 The High Peak Open Space Strategy identified a lack of amenity greenspace but states that this is off-set by easy access to the natural environment. There is no children's play area in Castleton centre. The allotments on New Road, Hope

Valley and Rowarth play area are low quality and require improvement.

C.145 The High Peak Playing Pitch Strategy highlights that Rugby Union is not well provided. The tennis facilities at Edale require improved surfacing and floodlights. The Bowls facilities at Hope Works require improvements. Hope Valley Rugby Club has a poor quality pitch without floodlights and has aspirations to re-locate.

Staffordshire Moorlands

C.146 The Staffordshire Moorlands assessment identified that some amenity greenspaces and allotments within the National Park require improvement. The Playing Pitch Strategy identified that while demand is being met within the National Park area, improvements are required to pitches at Waterhouses and currently Hollinsclough CoE Academy as they do not accommodate community use.

C.147 Publicly accessible open spaces are therefore insufficient enough for the National Park's communities. In addition, in order to deliver biodiversity net gain, an increased level of space will be needed purely for nature recovery purposes.

Crime and Safety

C.148 There are low levels of crime reported in the National Park. Total crime (rate per 1000 population, 2019)

- Derbyshire District Dales Council = 45.2.
- High Peak = 59.6 (Derbyshire Observatory)

Education and Engagement

Education

C.149 The 2021 Census reported that the National Park has the (joint) highest percentage (36.6%) of residents with a Level 4 qualification (a Bachelor's degree, Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, or postgraduate qualifications).

C.150 Within the National Park there is one nursery school, 33 primary phase schools (primary/infant/junior), and two secondary schools. Eight of the primary schools are expected to exceed capacity, this is due to parental choice rather than lack of local places.

C.151 There are no areas where County Council have concerns about capacity at a Planning Area level. However, the County Council considers that many of the schools in the National Park offer no scope for expansion, due to site and planning constrictions. However, as there are no major housing developments this is not currently an issue. The ageing population is a challenge for many schools., although, their remoteness generally mean that re-organisations are far less likely to be pursued due to travel distances for families.

Engagement

C.152 Approximately 1/3 of the population of England and Wales live within an hours' travel time of the Peak District National Park boundary. The Peak District National Park receives between 13 - 26 million visitors per year.

C.153 There are six ranger hubs which act as a base for NPA staff and members of the public to engage in activities and opportunities to volunteer, these are:

- Central: Aldern House, serving the Bakewell area, with outreach areas of Buxton and Stockport.
- Northern: Longdendale, serving Longdendale and Dovestones, with outreach areas of Greater Manchester, Oldham, Tameside and Huddersfield.
- Western: Macclesfield Forest, serving Macclesfield Forest, Goyt and Hayfield.
- Eastern: Brunts Barn and the Moorland Discovery Centre, serving Sheffield Moors and Langsett, with outreach areas of Sheffield, Chesterfield, Rotherham, Barnsley and Huddersfield.
- Hope Valley, Fairholmes, serving Upper Derwent, Castleton and Edale, with outreach areas of Sheffield and Glossop.

C.154 Residents engage with the National Park in a variety of ways, including engagement in local community events or groups, visiting different areas of the National Park, volunteering for local organisations and seeking planning permission or commenting on an application.

C.155 On average across 2019-21, an estimated 20% of the adult population reported having visited the National Park in the last two years. Those who had visited were asked to list the aspects of the National Park they engaged with during their visit. The most popular aspects were natural beauty (63%), nature (50%), opportunity for escape, tranquillity and lack of development (47%) and wellbeing (44%). In a 2024 visitor survey commissioned by the National Park Authority, over 70% of respondents stated that Scenery/landscape were their motivation for visiting the Peak District National Park. 96% of the respondents agreed that a visit to the National Park positively contributed to their mental health and general wellbeing. 94% of respondents agreed that their physical health benefitted from a visit.

C.156 Beyond simply visiting and enjoying the National Park, many people feel a connection to the place. In 2021, 29% of people said they felt connected to the National Park. This is particularly significant, as only 20% of respondents reported having visited the National Park in the last two years. Those least likely to feel a connection with the National Park are

those from the lowest social grade (DE). Furthermore, 65% of people anticipated feeling welcome if they did visit and 50% would recommend visiting to a friend or colleague.

C.157 The engagement team offers a monthly programme of events that include; accessible health walks; craft workshops; family events; family friendly activities; history, archaeology and culture; historical aircraft wrecks; iconic landscapes; mindfulness walks; navigation training; wildlife and environmental walks.

C.158 The engagement team also provides training for teachers.

C.159 The National Park has four visitor centres at Bakewell, Castleton, Edale and Upper Derwent where staff provide visitor advice, maps, books and guides.

C.160 There has been a focus on building new partnerships and networks especial in the health sector regionally and with Sheffield City Council. This foundation work is showing in the projects planned for 2022/23.

- Funding has been secured for through Peak District Foundation through Hydro Flask for Ambassador Schools.
- Funding has been secured through Peak District Foundation for health and wellbeing delivery including, through Sheffield Test and learn pilot working with SOAR a community organization in Sheffield and funding for Wellbeing in Nature Session at Longdendale Environmental Centre.
- Funding has been secured for Peak Park Health Walks to continue through 2022/23 and better links made with local social prescribers to grow the attendance.
- Funding through Forest holidays to deliver family volunteering sessions during summer 2022.
- Working with Darnall Wellbeing and Peak District MOSAIC enabling groups from ethnically diverse backgrounds to access the National Park.
- Working with Peak District MOSIAC, Yorkshire Dales NP and North York Moors NP on ‘Championing National Parks for All’.

Tourism and Recreation

C.161 Approximately 1/3 of the population of England & Wales live within an hours’ travel time of the Peak District National Park boundary. The Peak District National Park receives between 13m - 26 million visitors per year.

C.162 The National Park has 6 ranger hubs and 4 visitor centres (see above section).

C.163 The most popular leisure activities are: walking, climbing, cycling, mountain-biking, caving, angling, photography, nature-watching, gliding, visiting historic houses, country pubs and tearooms.

C.164 A new hotel has been approved in Bakewell and the Rising Sun hotel in Bamford has been redeveloped.

C.165 There are a number of gateway sites on the fringes of the National Park that provide easy access from surrounding urban areas. The Peak District saw visitor volumes hit a record high in 2019, with 14.09 million visitor days recorded representing a growth in visitor days of 19% since 2009. Tourism expenditure also reached record levels, with £730 million generated from tourism in 2019. Representing a real term growth of 5.1% since 2018.

C.166 The Peak District attracts 12.64 million visitor days per annum and 13.43 million to the wider influence area. However, in reality, tourist numbers for the Peak District are much higher as leisure day visitors are not counted as part of the STEAM model the National Park use. Overall, this represents an increase of 19% of visitor days between 2009 and 2019.

C.167 Absolute tourist numbers have also increased (2009-2019) and, importantly for the tourism economy, there has been a growth in the proportion of overnight staying visitors to the area (9.6% growth between 2009-2019).

C.168 Like many areas and destinations similar to the Peak District, tourist numbers (or volume) are highly seasonal. However, the geographical location of the Peak District means this area will always attract large volumes of people for short periods throughout the year.

C.169 The National Park Management Plan (2023-28) focuses on supporting a sustainable visitor economy, creating opportunities for young people and those from under-served communities, and promoting the National Park as a place where people are able to improve their health and wellbeing.

C.170 A visitor survey in early 2025 found that the most common types of accommodation used by visitors in Derbyshire and the Peak District were staying with friends or relatives (35%) and 33% of visitors used self-catering options such as cottages, houses, or lodges.

C.171 There has been a rise in the number of shepherd’s huts as a form of holiday accommodation. The number and location of these is restricted through planning policy but they are becoming more prevalent.

C.172 Whilst it is acknowledged that holiday accommodation contributes to the economy of the National Park, the number of holiday homes is having a negative impact for some communities as reported in the Parish Council Survey, 2022.

C.173 Tourism helps to deliver the second National Park purpose. The contribution this makes to the local economy needs to be achieved in a manner that conserves and enhances the landscape (natural and cultural) whilst contributing to thriving and sustainable communities.

C.174 Public transport access to many popular recreational sites has declined. An increase in visitor numbers using cars has resulted in problems such as dangerous or obstructive parking, dangerous or antisocial driving, fly camping, littering and other anti-social behaviours were reported during the easing of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Right of Way and Open Access

C.175 The National Park has 1,600 miles of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways and tracks) including 64 miles accessible to disabled people.

C.176 It has 65 miles of off-road dedicated cycling and walking trails and owns 34 miles of disused railways: High Peak Trail, Tissington Trail and Monsal Trail, with cycle-hire centres at Ashbourne, Parsley Hay, Derwent Valley and Middleton Top.

C.177 The starting point at the southern end of the Pennine Way, Britain's oldest long-distance national walking trail, is at Edale in the Peak District National Park. Completed in 1965, it stretches 268 miles from the Nag's Head pub in Edale to the Border Hotel, Kirk Yetholm, Scotland.

C.178 Around 520 sq km (202 sq miles) is open access land – open to walkers without having to stick to paths.

C.179 The Highways Authority is the responsible body for repairs to public rights of way and has carried out significant repairs in recent years in Derbyshire. PDNPA supports their work, including replacing styles.

C.180 The National Park National Park has seen a significant increase in the number of visitors since pre-covid, which has resulted in greater usage of public rights of way, pressure on car parking facilities and parking in non-designated areas. The National Park National Parkis involved in efforts to make increased visitor use more sustainable, including securing funding for funding for footpath repairs and improving car parking facilities.

C.181 Finally, climate change is and will continue to have an impact on public rights of way. For example, drier spells of weather and more intensive rainfall is leading to footpaths washing away and drainage issues.

Leisure and Culture

C.182 Intangible heritage is important to the National Park where there are distinctive customs. For example, well dressing – originally a pagan ceremony to honour water gods, now a summer tradition in dozens of villages.

C.183 Village organisations within the National Park organise their own events, for example the Grindleford Gallop.

C.184 The National Park organises walks and events by rangers for the public to book online, telephone or at visitor centres. The National Park also advertises events run by other organisations, those that feature heavily are running, walking, cycling and endurance events.

Economy

Employment Characteristics

C.185 It should be noted that Census 2021 took place during a period of unparalleled change because of the coronavirus pandemic. On Census Day, 21 March 2021, a nationwide lockdown was still in place, with government guidance requiring people to work from home wherever possible. Due to the circumstances in which Census 2021 data were collected, the data are not directly comparable due to definitional and behavioural differences.

C.186 The 2021 Census identified that Peak District residents are most likely to work in Human health and social work activities (12.3%), wholesale and retail (11.8%), education (10.4%), manufacturing (8.3%), or accommodation and food services (7.3%), which together account for more than half of all resident employment. The industries least well represented amongst residents are real estate activities (1.7%) and financial and insurance activities (2.0%). Low wage jobs are preventing working age people from living in the National Park.

C.187 The 2021 Census identified that out of all residents aged 16 years and over, 55.2% were economically active (excluding full time students) within the Peak District, 17,115 in total and 25.5% are employed in full-time positions, 7,919 in total. The 2021 Census also identified that 16% of Peak District residents are self-employed, a similar rate to English National Parks (16.9%), but almost double the national levels of self-employment (9%).

C.188 The main industries in the National Park are tourism, quarrying, farming and, manufacturing. Nearly 90 per cent of the National Park is farmland (around 1,800 farms).

C.189 At least one in every 10 jobs in the Peak District is in farming. In 2021, the DEFRA census showed there were 3,064 individuals employed in the farming industry. This is approximately 17.9% of the total estimated people in employment in the Peak District.

C.190 Despite agriculture being the predominant land use (124,863 hectares or 87% of the Peak District), all of this land is classed as a 'Less Favoured Area' for farming. For Less Favoured Areas (LFA), average farm income fell by 42% to £15,500 between 2017/18 and 2018/19. This highlights the economic difficulty in farming in upland areas like the Peak District and highlights the importance of farming subsidies to the sector.

C.191 Some farmers are diversifying their businesses to respond to the changing economy, for example by providing

tourist accommodation and meeting the growing market for locally-produced food and drink.

C.192 Between 2008 and 2019, there was an average of 32 applications per annum relating to a use class of A or B in the Peak District.

C.193 National Park residents were more likely to work mainly at or from home than those elsewhere. The Census (2021) defines home workers as individuals who work mainly at or from home, or do not have a fixed place of work, in their usual residence area. Rural areas such as the Peak District National Park have the highest rates of home working, 39.6%, compared with 25.9% of the population in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

C.194 The National Park has 70 active and disused quarry sites - more than all other UK National Parks put together. This is due to centuries of mineral extraction, abundance of sought-after stone and central location. Only a minority of sites are now active. Some are very large (eg: Hope Cement Works, Tunstead, Ballidon), some small to provide traditional building stone. Modern conditions require sites to be restored.

C.195 The National Park has 14 safeguarded employment sites. The majority of businesses are small and medium sized.

Transport and Access

C.196 According to the 2021 Census, 90.1% of resident households have access to a car or van.

C.197 Average annual daily flows across Peak District roads gradually increased from 2020 to 2023, with the latest average annual daily traffic count being 6,117. This represents a +15.79% percentage change compared to 2012.

C.198 When compared to the other English National Parks, the Peak District is joint 4th in terms of the percentage of households with access to a car which is 90%. The three National Parks where household access to a car or van is higher are; Northumberland (94%), New Forest (93%) and Yorkshire Dales (92%).

C.199 Since 2011, there has been a reduction in public transport services providing access to, from and within the National Park. This decline reflects budgetary constraints experienced by the National Park's constituent transport authorities. Leisure and evening services have been the hardest hit.

C.200 The number of subsidised bus services serving the Peak District National Park has steadily declined in recent years, with most public transport authorities withdrawing some publicly subsidised bus services as a result of austerity and declining local authority funding.

C.201 Derbyshire County Council is the main local authority provider of National Park bus services and helps support an important core network, although there has been an overall reduction in services – particularly on evenings, weekends and bank holidays. In recent years, scheduled bus services in the Staffordshire area of the National Park have greatly reduced, with demand responsive services filling the gap. Cheshire East Council made the largest withdrawal of funding, no longer providing any subsidised bus services to areas within the Peak District National Park. West Yorkshire Combined Authority still subsidises some services to Holme Village and South Yorkshire Combined Authority provides scheduled services to National Park villages such as Low Bradfield and Langsett, although these vary in availability. Greater Manchester Combined Authority still provides some bus services, but these are limited and the withdrawal of others has severely impacted some areas.

C.202 Train travel has however increased, with annual use of rail stations within the National Park increasing by 7% during 2018/19, with passenger numbers continuing to increase on all four cross-Park and gateway lines. Of the five railway stations located within the National Park (all on the Hope Valley line), all but one saw increased passenger numbers compared to 2017/18: Bamford by 9.1%, Edale by 5.1%, Hathersage by 14.3% and Hope by 2.5%. Only Grindleford saw a reduction of -6.5%.

C.203 Walking is the most popular recreational activity for visitors and residents in the National Park. Over half (58%) of all visitors listed walking as their main reason for visiting in 2015, while a 2016 survey of recreation hubs found that almost four out of five (79%) respondents were going for a walk during their visit. Similarly, 79% of residents listed walking as their most frequently undertaken activity in the National Park.

C.204 The National Park has seen an increase in the number of cyclists using roads and multi-user trails and hosts popular cycling events such as Eroica. Cycling was the second most popular activity (27%) for residents, while one in five (19.7%) respondents at recreation hub sites were cycling during their visit.

C.205 There are currently six existing multi-user trails in the Peak District which are suitable for a range of users including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and wheelers, these are:

- High Peak Trail – 17.5 miles, Dowlow to Cromford.
- Longdendale Trail – 6.5 miles, Hadfield to Woodhead Station.
- Manifold Track – 8 miles, Hulme End to Waterhouses.
- Monsal Trail – 8.5 miles, Bakewell to Blackwell Mill.
- Thornhill Trail – 2 miles, Thornhill to Yorkshire Bridged.
- Tissington Trail – 13 miles, Ashbourne to Parsley Hay Junction.

C.206 Overall, access to and within the National Park has continued to be an issue and more so since public transport has been declining. The National Park will need to work with Derbyshire County Council and community groups (e.g. Hope Valley) to support people to access and move around the National Park sustainably.

C.207 Residents are concerned about parking provision in settlements and wider traffic and visitor management issues (Peak District National Park Residents Survey 2019 and Parish Survey 2022).

C.208 The National Park's close proximity to urban areas also means that there is a desire for improved connectivity between neighbouring towns and cities, with the most direct routes often crossing the National Park. There are two strategic east to west cross-Park transport routes. These are the A628 Trunk Road and the Sheffield to Manchester railway (the Hope Valley Line).

C.209 During the life of the current Local Plan, the Authority has supported structural improvements relating to the safety and integrity of the Park's road network. This has included remedial schemes relating to subsidence on the A54, A619 and A628 within the National Park. During this time, the Highways England Trans Pennine Upgrade Programme included a proposal for two climbing lanes along the A628 within the National Park. However, whilst these formed part of a non-statutory public consultation in 2017, the proposals did not form part of the two subsequent statutory public consultations in 2018 and 2020. Separately, Highways England and Transport for the North have engaged with the Peak District National Park Authority in relation to further proposals along the A57 / A628 Woodhead strategic route.

C.210 The majority of visitors to the National Park arrive by private car (83%) because it is most convenient for them. There are however locations within the National Park where bus and train offer convenient access. For example, the Hope Valley Railway allows easy rail access from Sheffield and Manchester to Edale, Hope, Bamford, Hathersage and Grindleford. The Buxton, Derwent Valley, Glossop and Trans Pennine lines also offer access to National Park Gateway settlements. Similarly, Bakewell acts as a hub for bus travel from a number of starting points including Buxton, Chesterfield, Matlock and Sheffield. **Figure C.6** below shows the transport network within the National Park.

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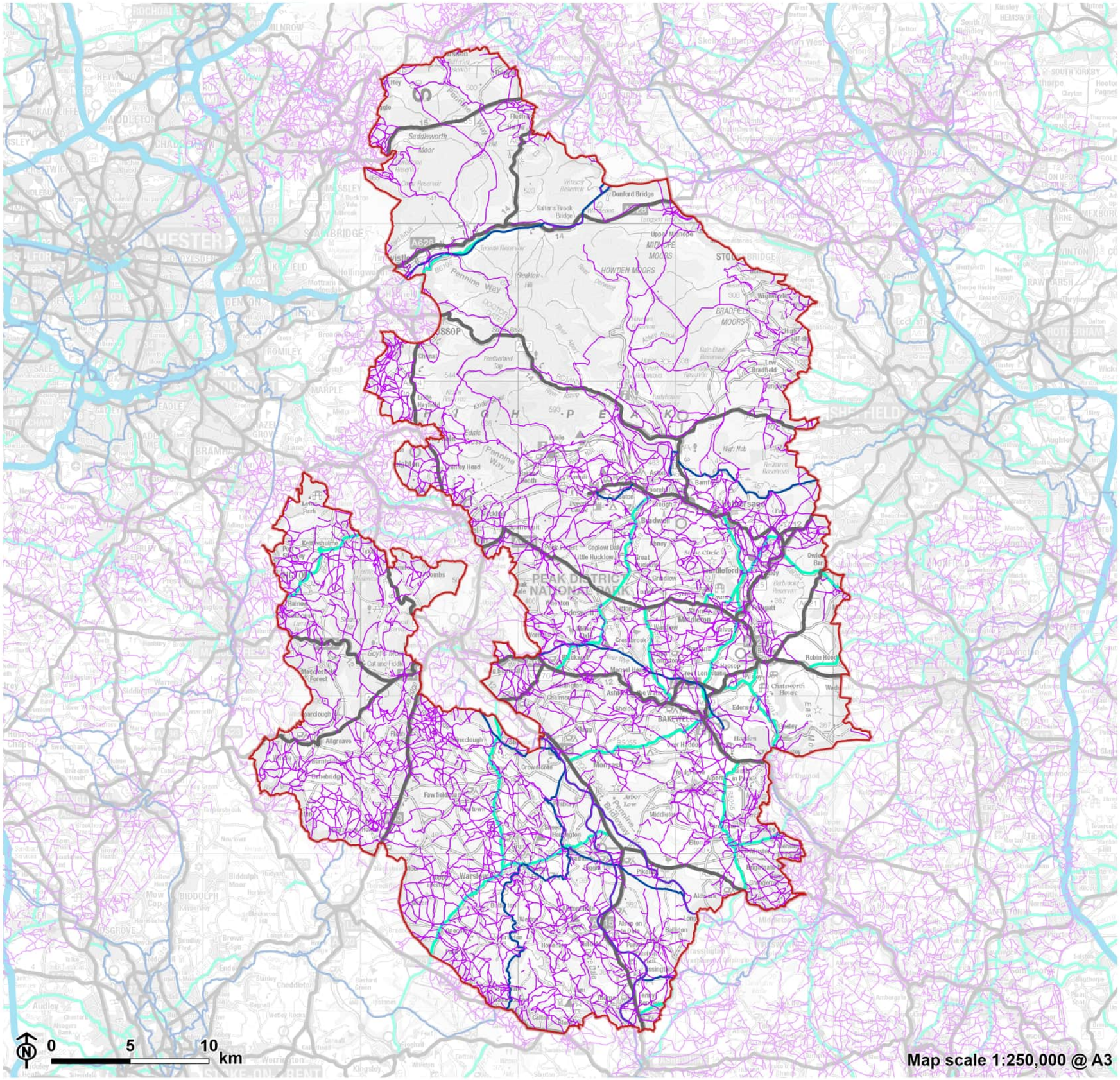
Figure C.6: Transport Network



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Market Towns and Villages and Rural Deprivation

C.211 Market towns surrounding the Peak District boundary are strategically significant and serve a vital role for the rural economy. They act as focal points for business investment and economic development outside the National Park boundary, helping to reduce pressure within it. Market towns such as Matlock, Buxton, Glossop and Leek serve Peak District residents as well as benefiting visitors to the Peak District, acting as gateways into different areas of the National Park.

C.212 Bakewell is the only market town within the Peak District (the only settlement with a population of more than 3,700), containing a larger range of services and retail and business opportunities than anywhere else in the National Park. It acts as a significant service hub for local residents as well as for many other rural and farming communities dispersed in the hinterland.

C.213 The town also serves as a significant visitor destination, being a popular location in its own right as well as a starting point for further exploration of the Peak District. Bakewell's distinctive character as both agricultural market town and business centre highlights its unique role and importance to the economy of the area. However, the Bakewell neighbourhood plan (withdrawn) highlighted concerns about the increasing number of cafes in the town and the loss of traditional convenience and comparison shops.

C.214 There are low levels of economic inactivity within the Peak District and the area performs well with regards to income and employment deprivation, ranking amongst the least deprived areas in the country

C.215 As of early 2020, there were 600 people unemployed within the Peak District, equating to an unemployment rate of 1.1% of the economically active population. This is the first time since 2014 the unemployment rate has gone above 1%. Between 2016 and 2020, unemployment increased by 57% amongst the 16-24 age group, by 77% amongst those aged 25-49, and by 60% amongst the over 50s. Rural unemployment has traditionally been high among the young, yet the 16-24 age group's share of all unemployment across the Peak District has fallen from 27% in 2013 to 18% in 2020.

C.216 The Peak District unemployment rate of 1.1% is significantly lower than either East Midlands (3.4%) or England overall (3.7%). Overall unemployment levels declined across all areas between 2013 and 2016-17, but have increased year on year between 2017 and 2020.

C.217 Income deprivation indicators show that the Peak District, ranking as one of the least income deprived areas in the country in 2025, in the 9th decile of income deprivation. Similarly, the Peak District ranked amongst the least employment deprived areas in the country, also in the 9th decile, during 2025. This equated to an estimated 5% of Peak District households with at least one adult of working age involuntarily excluded from the labour market.

C.218 Whilst unemployment is relatively low, wages are characteristically low due to the type of industry present in the National Park (see employment). A focus on higher skilled and paid jobs and the provision of good quality employment space may help to address this issue.

C.219 As part of the parish statements, communities were asked their aspirations for their village. With regards to services and facilities, communities most commonly referenced creating or maintaining an area of open space (31%), followed by broadband (23%) and safeguarding services (23%).

C.220 South West Peak is less well provided that other areas in terms of access to services, in particular social/leisure activities and clubs for young teenagers.

C.221 Broadband coverage of the National Park is improving gradually, but isolated areas still not well provided. The roll-out of improved mobile coverage to more remote areas is starting to show improvements in the parts of the National Park that were previously poorly covered such as Monyash.

Prudent Use of Resources

Agriculture and Soils

C.222 Around 86% of land in the National Park is managed for agriculture. Despite this, all of this land is classed as a 'Less Favoured Area' for farming, as shown in **Figure C.7**. This highlights the economic difficulty in farming in upland areas like the Peak District.

C.223 General intensification of agriculture has increased since WWII across the National Park and has had a negative impact on soil health including the conversion of semi-natural grassland to agriculturally 'improved' grassland, the loss of hay meadows, the introduction of conifer plantations and the increase in the use of fertilisers.

C.224 The Peak District contains vast expanses of upland peat, which stores millions of tonnes of carbon. However, due to centuries of industrial pollution, wildfires and overgrazing, roughly 80% of the moorland has suffered severe damage. The Moors for the Future Partnership works on the Peak District and South Pennine moors to improve their condition. Their work includes: planting native moorland species, planting native trees, improving rights of way on the moors, re-wetting the moors, recording and monitoring flora and fauna and raising awareness.

White Peak

C.225 The main agricultural products from the area are dairy products and meat (beef, lamb and pork). There have been

recent increases in the average size of dairy farms. Although some of the land on the plateau has productive soils and a long history of cultivation, 85% of soils are Grade 4 or 5 (poor or very poor-quality agricultural land). There is now very little arable production and few mixed farms.

C.226 The White Peak is an important area for livestock grazing. The deep, rich loam soils, over 1m thick in places, were deposited by strong winds at the end of the last ice age. They provide unusually productive agricultural land for 300 m+ altitude.

C.227 There are 7 main soilscape types in the NCA:

- Freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils (71% of NCA).
- Shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (8%).
- Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils (8%).
- Very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface (5%).
- Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (3%).
- Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (2%).
- Slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface (2%).

South West Peak

C.228 This is an important area for livestock farming, contributing to employment, economy and maintenance of important habitats. 97% of the commercial agricultural land is permanent grass or uncultivated land. 93% of farmland is grades 4 and 5 (poor), and there is little opportunity for arable crops due to climate, topography, altitude and steep slopes. In 2009, there were 30,400 cattle (beef and dairy), 138,200 sheep and 6,500 pigs. Between 2000 and 2009, livestock numbers declined: sheep by 16%, cattle by 15% and pigs by a third.

C.229 Livestock farming is the dominant agricultural system and with good animal husbandry, appropriate stocking levels, grazing regimes and sustainable increases in livestock there is the potential to increase the overall food provision of this NCA while safeguarding biodiversity, soil erosion, water quality, water storage, carbon sequestration and climate regulation

C.230 There are 9 main soilscape types in this NCA:

- Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils, covering just under a third of the NCA.
- Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (just under a fifth).
- Slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface (just under a fifth).
- Very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface (just above a tenth.
- Blanket bog peat soils (under a tenth).
- Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (less than a tenth).
- Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (less than a tenth).
- Freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils (less than a tenth).
- Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock (less than a tenth).

Dark Peak

C.231 The Dark Peak peat soils are in poor condition as a result of the Industrial Revolution which stripped vegetation and left large areas of bare peat exposed. These areas are still heavily contaminated and acidified and the soil has suffered from erosion. 95% of the land is Agricultural Grade 4 or 5 (poor or very poor-quality agricultural land).

C.232 The slowly permeable, wet, very acid upland soils and the blanket bog peat soils contain significant volumes of organic matter. However, these soils are at risk of losing their organic matter through a combination of unsustainable management practices, climate change and soil erosion.

C.233 The impact of and vulnerability to climate change is moderate to high for soil and agriculture in the National Park. Changes to rainfall, both in the amount it and through extreme weather events could lead to soil erosion, a change in soil composition, peat oxidation and carbon loss. Increased amounts of sediment may be washed into watercourses, reducing soil fertility and having a negative impact on water habitats as a result of the increase in dissolved organic compounds. Increases in carbon dioxide and nitrogen may affect plant growth and speed up nutrient cycling. Dryer summers may delay plant regrowth or attract invasive species, for example grass species in areas of blanket bog that are home to heather.

C.234 Some soils can recover from damage without intervention; however, those that have suffered serious damage will require some management intervention to support their resilience to climate change.

C.235 Farming methods could include a reduction in ploughing and use of fertilisers and pesticides, planting vegetation over eroded areas, a reduction in the use of machinery, a reduction in livestock density, and a move towards the most suitable, nature-friendly livestock for grazing.

C.236

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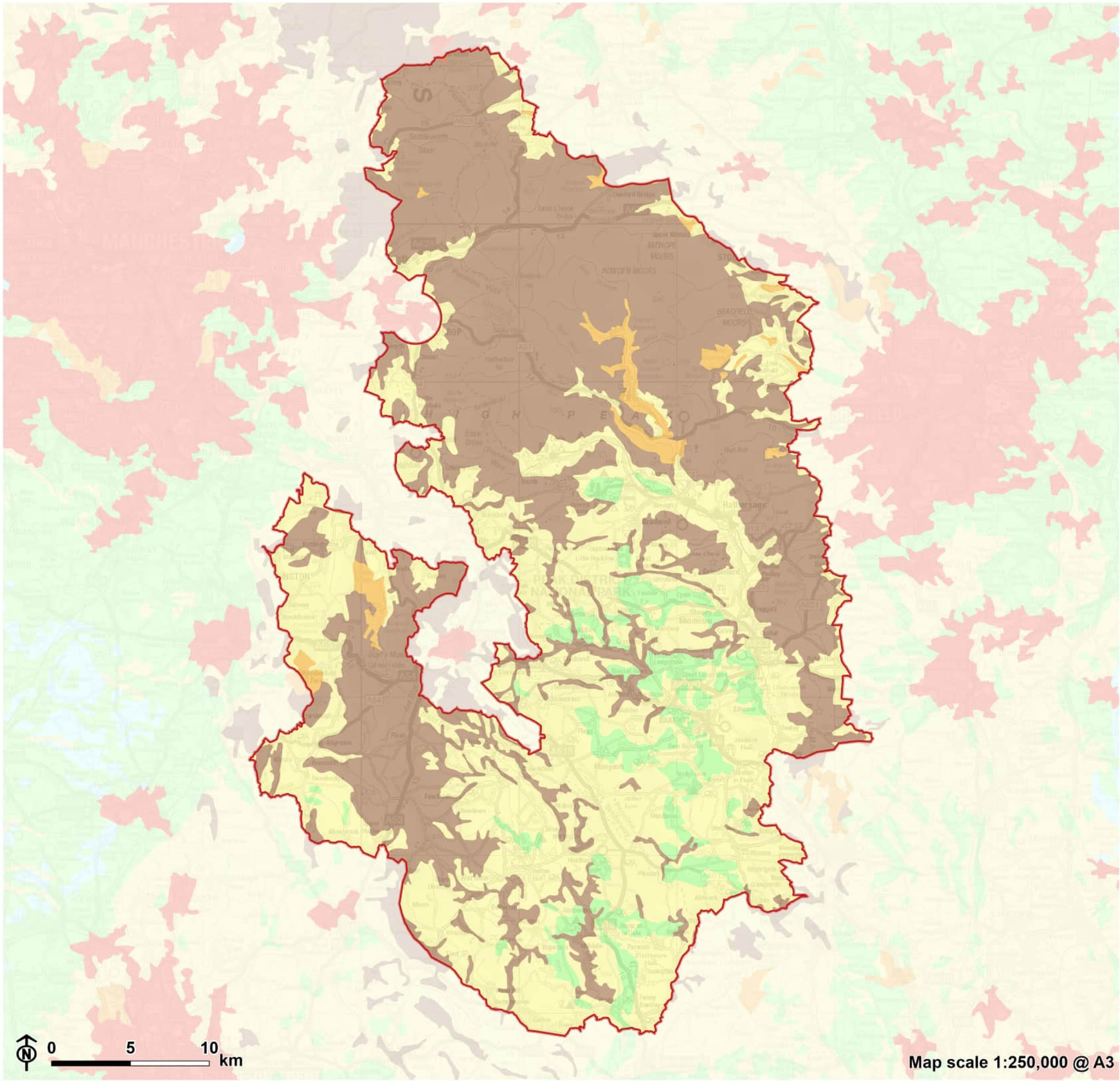
Figure C.7: Agricultural Land Classification



Woodlands

C.237 There is 12,005ha of woodland cover (as defined by Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory) within the Peak District National Park as of March 2017. Around 7,840ha of the woodland in the Park is managed, with the large majority of that managed privately.

C.238 Of the overall 1,437km2 area of the park, woodland therefore covers approximately 8.35%. This is significantly lower than the national average of 13% and the average for all English National Parks of 16.7%. Of the English National Parks, the Peak District has the lowest woodland cover of any of the parks except the Yorkshire Dales. For comparison, the Lake District National Park has 12.6% and the North York Moors 22.2% woodland cover.

C.239 Historically, the overall level of 'closed canopy woodland' in the Peak District landscape has not significantly changed over the last 1000 years. While some areas have greater tree cover now than in other historic periods (the change in tree cover Monsal Dale over the last 100 years is a good example), what has changed significantly over a longer period of human history is a general reduction in the level of tree cover in the wider landscape, and the subsequent erosion of diversity and ecological interest. The Peak District has five special woodland habitat types - upland mixed ashwoods, upland oakwood, wet woodland, parkland and lowland mixed deciduous woods.

C.240 The Reservoir Valleys with Woodland LCT is a landscape of generally steep sided valleys, often dominated by large reservoirs. It is extensively wooded, mostly recent conifer plantations, some of which were planted on the site of cleared ancient woodlands. In places, patches of ancient semi-natural woodland are now linked by the areas of plantation woodland to create a heavily wooded landscape.

C.241 Ash Dieback *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* will significantly adversely affect the population of ash trees within the park over the next 10 years. Other tree diseases, such as *Phytophthora ramorum* are starting to have significant effects on other species, such as Larch.

C.242 The PDNPA supports the natural recolonisation and appropriate creation of new wooded landscape elements where the impact on other important and sensitive elements of the landscape (including species, habitats, cultural heritage and access) can be managed.

C.243 The new Environmental Land Management support may provide the opportunity for a more integrated land use system which encourages wooded landscape creation as one of its outcomes.

C.244 Within the next 10 years there will be:

- continuing landscape evolution as a result of climate change
- extensive loss of ash woodland, farmland, roadside, village and townscape trees due to Ash Dieback. Larch will likely also be significantly affected by Phytophthora, while new pests and diseases may potentially affect other tree species.
- potential opportunities to accommodate 'wooded landscape' creation opportunities as part of the Sustainable Farming Incentive, Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery schemes.
- opportunities to accommodate woodland as part of woodland creation schemes to mitigate and offset carbon emissions (WCC).
- potential reduction in intensity of agricultural management in some areas (which could lead to opportunities for nature and landscape recovery).
- potential pressure for agricultural intensification in some areas (which could lead to the further loss of trees and scrub).

C.245 Enhancement of wooded landscapes should form part of a sustainable land management system capable of supporting the farming and land management sector and enhancing climate resilience while protecting the existing network of habitats, species, access and cultural heritage features.

C.246 Increasing tree cover in agricultural landscapes – either as a well-located economic crop (through small scale productive forestry) or as complimentary wooded landscape elements (such as field corner planting, trees along linear features or widened hedgerows) integrated into the farmed landscape – can deliver essential ecosystem services and are vital for maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

Renewable Energy

C.247 Only small installations are permitted in the National Park providing they are sensitively located, do not contribute towards a greater cumulative impact and do not conflict with the purposes of the National Park.

C.248 Evidence shows a steady rate of planning applications and approvals for appropriate, small-scale renewable/low carbon installations. However, the use of renewable/low carbon technologies in new development has been variable.

C.249 The Landscape Strategy identifies the landscape character types that could facilitate renewable installations.

C.250 Retrofitting the National Park's existing built stock with energy efficiency measures will be key to meeting the 2050 net zero national target. Some of this will be achieved through permitted development, but it is anticipated planning permission will be required for some alterations affecting Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. Whichever route required, a revised Design Guide will be a key driver in helping

people to make changes which are sensitive to the National Park landscape.

Minerals and Quarrying

C.251 The exploitation of stone and mineral resources, especially limestone and gritstone, has shaped the Peak District landscape since prehistoric times and continues to do so. Zinc, lead and copper ores are located on the limestone plateau, and coal, fireclays and ganister have been mined on the western and east gritstone uplands. Rare evidence for Bronze Age copper mining is found at Ecton, and the lead orefield is one of the most important in Britain, with extraction taking place from Roman times to the 20th century.

C.252 The Peak District National Park's landscape is formed from the underlying geology. This is predominantly Carboniferous Limestone in the White Peak and Derbyshire Gritstone in the Dark Peak and gritstone edges at the fringes of the National Park.

C.253 While most of the remaining quarries have permissions to continue operation until around 2040 the reserves may be exhausted before this date at some quarries. At other sites, the reserve will exceed the volume that can be extracted in the period available and operators may seek planning permission to continue to extract the remaining reserves. **Figure C.8** shows the active mines and mineral safeguarding areas within the National Park.

Flurospar

C.254 Fluorspar is the other mineral worked commercially in the National Park. Fluorspar is extracted for use in the chemical industry. It is used to make hydrofluorocarbons which are used in the production of refrigerants, solvents, aerosol propellants and anaesthetics. Barytes and calcite are also found in the same geological deposits as fluorspar and where these occur they are extracted as a secondary mineral to the fluorspar. Barytes is processed by the chemical industry and is used as a fluid in oil and gas drilling, in paint manufacture and in other industrial products. Calcite is a crystalline from of calcium carbonate (limestone) and is used as a decorative aggregate. These are collectively known as 'vein minerals' as they occur in geological vein structures within host limestone.

C.255 There is a national need for fluorspar to be met by the National Park because it is an industrial mineral, which in the UK, only exists in economically viable deposits in the National Park. It is therefore not practicable for extraction to take place outside of the National Park. Due to environmental sensitivities, future extraction of fluorspar is to be met by underground resources.

Limestone

C.256 Limestone is extracted for use as crushed rock aggregate, for cement production, for production of industrial powders and for building stone.

C.257 The two main quarries in the National Park supplying industrial limestone are Ballidon and the Old Moor extension to Tunstead, both operated by Tarmac. The specific importance of Ballidon for industrial limestone is acknowledged through a legal agreement which requires that at least 40% of the production is used for non-aggregate (i.e. industrial) purposes, reflecting the geology of the site.

C.258 The main industrial uses to which very high purity limestone from Ballidon and Old Moor includes fillers (in animal feeds, polymers, paints, paper and pharmaceuticals), chemical manufacture, lime mortar, flux in iron and steel and other metal manufacture and agriculture and horticulture uses.

C.259 The Lead Legacy Project undertaken by the PDNPA, mapped all the known extant and removed surface remains of historic leadworking. These are important habitats (e.g. supporting lead-loving plant species) as well as significant heritage. About three-quarters of these important features have been removed or are in significantly damaged condition. Only a small percentage of identified high-priority examples are protected, some through statutory designation and others conserved short-term by agri-environment schemes.

C.260 Since 2011, permissions for limestone aggregate production have expired at Longstone Edge West in 2010, Ivonbrook in 2011, Goddards in 2012 and at Darlton in 2013, without significant reduction in total output figures.

C.261 An agreement was reached with Derbyshire County Council in the course of adopting the Development Management Policy Document and through the Joint Local Aggregate Assessment. This agreement acknowledges the national policy position and agrees that the future allocation of sites for extraction of limestone aggregate in Derbyshire County Council's MPA area will be sufficient to replace supply from sites in the National Park as they reach the end of their permitted reserves and/or consented operational periods. This ensures a continued sustainable supply of limestone for society but, in line with the NPPF, ensures that it is delivered from outside the National Park in future.

C.262 For limestone aggregates, there is an estimated land bank of around 48 years. There is the capacity available within existing permissions for the National Park to satisfy its apportionment.

C.263 Shale and limestone are found in close proximity at Hope (in the central east area of the National Park), where a cement works was first established in 1929. This is the only cement works in the National Park. The mineral permissions for the site expire just after the end of the current Local Plan period, which together with the huge amount of secured

reserved needed and an ageing site means there is no long-term viability.

Gritstone

C.264 Gritstone is extracted predominantly for use as a building stone. A small amount of gritstone is used as an aggregate although its lack of hardness does not make it suitable for many aggregate uses.

C.265 Gritstone has been a sought after building material for many years. It's suitability for masonry uses means that not only is it a material common to the National Park but also far beyond it. Gritstone features prominently in buildings in nearby cities of Sheffield, Derby, Birmingham and beyond. There are a number of large scale gritstone sites which had resulted from old mineral permissions granted in the first half of the 20th Century which had few conditions controlling the impacts of the development.

C.266 Limestone and gritstone building stone is an important feature in the built heritage of the Peak District National Park. A sustainable supply of local stone ensures that the built environment continues to be a key part of the character of the National Park.

C.267 Gritstone reserves, around the northern and eastern fringes of the National Park in particular, have also been used to provide stone slate for roofing. The diminishing availability of stone slate has led to loss of stone slate from non-listed buildings and an overall reduction in stone slate in the built environment of the National Park which is harmful to the historic environment.

Stone Slate

C.268 There are no sites permitted at the moment which are producing stone slate in the National Park and there are concerns that the skills needed to produce this material are being lost.

C.269 The site at Bretton Moor was permitted in part because it was hoped to deliver stone slates but this has not occurred. There is a site outside the National Park at Moorhay Quarry, Brampton which is delivering stone slates commercially.

C.270 Permissions at New Pilhough and Dale View will come to an end. Reserves at Birchover and Wattscliffe are diminishing over time and may be exhausted prior to the permission end dates. There is a range of other established sandstone quarries in the National Park producing building stone, with sites at Chinley Moor (Hayfield), Shire Hill (Glossop), Stoke Hall (Grindleford) and Wimberry Moss (Rainow).

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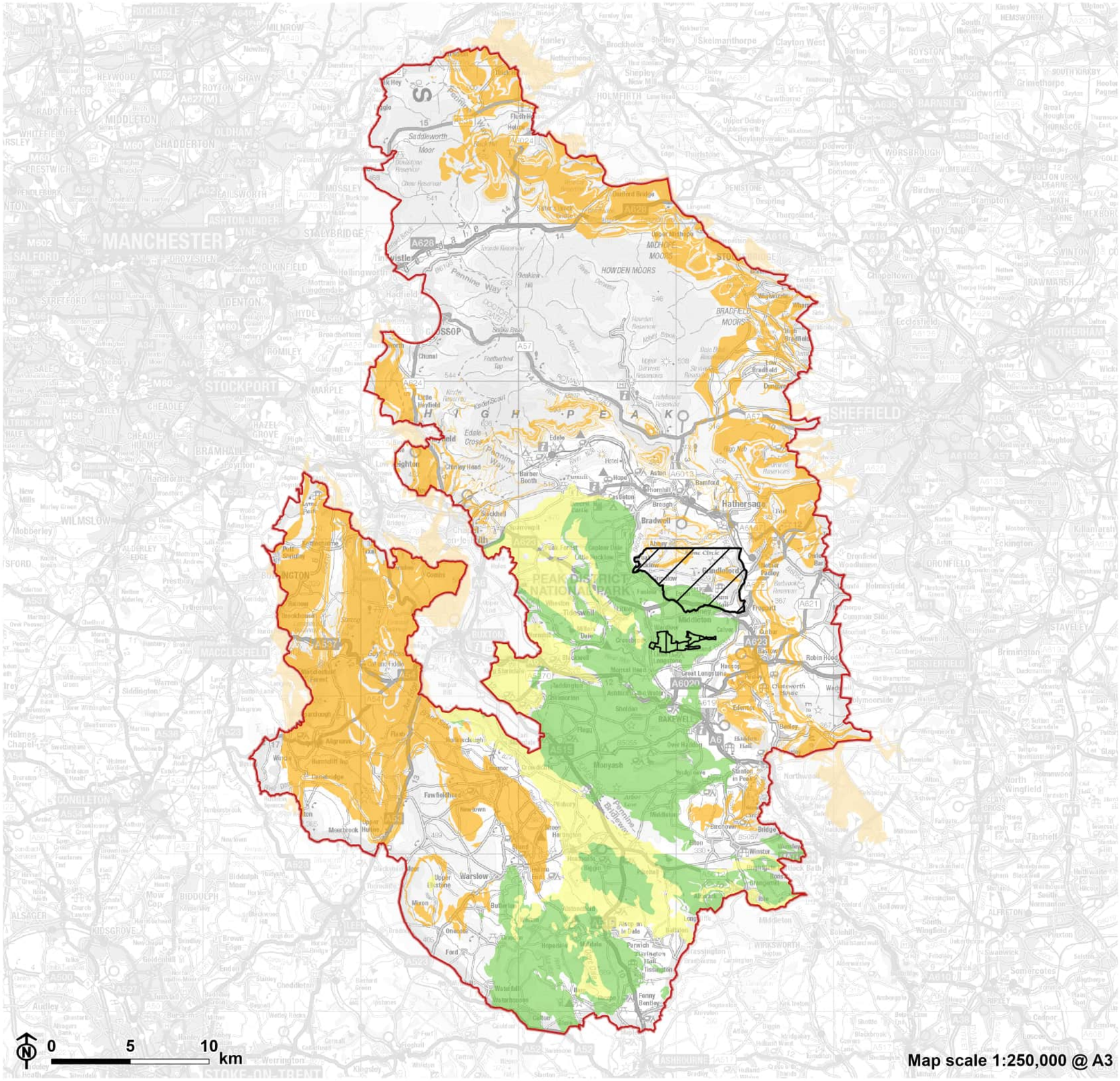
Figure C.8: Minerals



Waste Planning

C.271 The quantity and variety of types of waste generated within the National Park are relatively low and limited when compared with the surrounding areas due to the Park's rural nature, economy and relatively low density of population. They are generally restricted to inert, domestic, commercial and industrial waste categories.

C.272 There is one 'active waste disposal site' in the Park. There is some recycling of construction and demolition waste on a few small sites. There are increasing numbers of unauthorised waste disposal sorting and/or treatment operations.

Water and Flood Risk

Rivers and streams

C.273 Six river catchments cover the National Park: the Dove, Derbyshire Derwent, Don and Rother, and Aire and Calder, which flow into the Humber; and the Upper Mersey and Weaver Gowy, which flow into the Mersey. There are estimated to be 757.2km of rivers and 3,361.5km of streams that run through the National Park from one landscape character area to another from upland streams to lowland gritstone river and limestone dale.

C.274 The Peak District National Park is situated in a highly sensitive area with respect to controlled waters and is located on a Principal Aquifer with designated Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1 located at several locations. The site is also situated on drift geology comprising secondary aquifers which may contain groundwater or influence the groundwater regime in the area of the site. The River Wye and Derwent Rivers and other surface water bodies been identified in the Peak District which are considered to be controlled waters.

Water management features

C.275 There are reservoirs, dams, weirs, goyts, soughs and millponds found across the National Park signalling current and past methods of water management. There are 46 reservoirs covering more than 1,100 hectares in the National Park. Of which, 42 are in the Dark Peak and four are in the South West Peak. The largest is Ladybower Reservoir covering an area of 210 ha and holding up to 27.9 million cubic metres of water. Together with Howden and Derwent Reservoirs, this waterbody dominates the Upper Derwent Valley.

C.276 The Dark Peak NCA is a valuable drinking water catchment area, and contains a large number of reservoirs, such as in the Longdendale and Derwent Valleys. These provide drinking water to adjacent NCAs and distant conurbations such as Manchester, Sheffield, Derby and Leicester.

Good water quality

C.277 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) aims for surface and ground waters to be of 'good' status and in the National Park there are approximately 482km of surface and ground water within this category. Based on PLTOF data from 2024, approximately 41.4% are rated high or good, 14% moderate and 1% bad in the National Park.

C.278 Ground and surface waters suffer contamination due to dissolved organic carbon during high water flow events (Derwent Reservoir catchment), and farming practices (herbicides, pesticides, phosphates) Tittesworth Reservoir catchment and Wye catchment. Quarrying and mining activity also has a knock-on effect, and the chemical status of some groundwater bodies is poor (Derwent Carboniferous Limestone and the Derwent Secondary Combined catchments). These fall within the greater Humber River Basin catchment.

C.279 In the White Peak NCA, groundwater and surface water are closely linked due to the many fissures and underground passages in the limestone. This makes groundwater particularly vulnerable to pollution by anything applied to or spilt on the land. For example, nitrate concentrations in groundwater more than doubled between 1967/68 and 2005 and in the Castleton area presence of faecal bacteria in cave water has been a problem in the past.

C.280 The rivers Wye and Dove are of 'good' ecological status, whereas the River Manifold, between Hopedale and Ilam, is of 'poor' ecological status (poor for diatoms and moderate for fish). The chemical quality of the River Dove is 'good'. The chemical quality of the River Wye within the NCA has only been assessed between Buxton and Miller's Dale, where it is good, and the River Manifold has not been assessed.

C.281 The majority of rivers in the Dark Peak NCA have been assessed as either 'moderate' or 'poor' ecological quality, though some have also been assessed as 'good'. Many rivers suffer significantly from artificial modification which is one of the main reasons for the moderate or poor designations (under Water Framework Directive requirements). In addition, diffuse pollution from agricultural activities and other sources can impact the quality of the water.

C.282 In the South West Peak NCA, 39,611 ha (93%) is classified as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). Water quality for the majority of the NCA is classed as very good to fair.

C.283 Natural England issued new advice to the National Park Authority that planning applications for certain types of development on land that is within the water catchment of the upper River Wye must demonstrate 'nutrient neutrality' in order to receive planning permission. This is to protect water quality in the Derbyshire Dales SAC - an area rich in rare flora and fauna including notable aquatic species such as white-

clawed crayfish. This is because an excess of nutrients – in particular phosphates – is harming the delicate ecosystem. The main cause of phosphate pollution is treated wastewater, agricultural runoff and urbanisation

C.284 The risk of nutrient enrichment in the upper Wye catchment also impacts upon the conservation status of designated species within the riverine units of the Wye Valley SSSI. These sites are protected by the Habitats regulations and actions to improve this situation and return the SSSI to 'favourable condition' for these species are managed by a Diffuse Water Pollution Plan.