

CONSULTATION ON CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Sheet 2

Valued Characteristics SPRING 2007



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Your comments and views on this options paper are welcomed up to 29 June 2007. Enquiries can be directed to Brian Taylor, Policy Planning Manager on 01629 816 303. This report is also accessible from our website located under www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/plansandpolicies.htm .

We are happy to provide this information in alternative formats on request where reasonable.

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Issue	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statutory duty to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage 2. Loss of traditional features and habitats 3. Pressures on natural resources
Evidence	<p>European</p> <p>European Directive 2001/42/EC.</p> <p>This directive outlines how authorities should assess the impacts of development on the environment. The National Park Authority is required to undertake sustainability appraisal (SA) and strategic environmental assessment. (SEA) SA is broad and requires assessment of each policy against environmental social and economic objectives. SEA is more focussed on assessing impacts of development on the environment.</p> <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1995 Environment Act; (National Park purposes and associated duty) <p>National park purposes, as defined in the 1995 Environment Act, are:</p> <p>to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage [of the national parks]; and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.</p> <p>The duty of the National Park Authority and other organisations as defined in the 1995 Environment Act is:</p> <p>to 'seek to foster the economic and social well-being' of their local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Sustainable Development Strategy; <p>outlines what steps the Government wants local authorities to take to combat climate change and bring about sustainable development. The principle steps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within Environmental Limits • Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society • Achieving a Sustainable Economy • Using Sound Science Responsibly • Promoting Good Governance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS7, Sustainable development in rural areas; <p>Emphasises the importance of protecting wildlife and cultural heritage as an integral part of sustainable development. Apart from NationalPark designation itself, 38% of the area has additional national or international nature conservation designation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS1, Climate Change <p>This is still in draft stages but outlines how we should tackle this issue through the planning system</p>

- [MPS1, Minerals](#)

Outlines the protection afforded to National Parks and other statutorily protected areas. It provides for land banks (appropriate levels of permitted reserves) for non energy minerals as far as is practicable from outside the National Park.

- [ENPAA Position Statement on Climate Change.](#)

“We believe urgent action is needed to reduce emissions, to adapt to those changes in our climate that are inevitable, and to raise awareness amongst residents, visitors and decision makers of the effects of climate change on these special areas. The National Park Authorities of England are committed to do their bit and becoming carbon neutral, as part of a wider co-ordinated response to climate change”

In the context of the Peak District there is enormous potential to lock in carbon in the moorland areas which cover large parts of the north and south west of the Park.

- [UK Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

- is the UK Government's response to the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) signed in 1992
- describes the UK's biological resources
- commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources
- has 391 Species Action Plans, 45 Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans with targeted actions
- major reviews of the Priority Species and Habitats are underway, and the Targets for these priorities are complete.

- [Culture at the Heart of Regeneration \(DCMS\)](#)

“the revitalisation of the historic environment, including buildings, parks and waterways helps to achieve successful regeneration because people want to live in an interesting and attractive place;”

- [Water Framework Directive \(Environment Agency\)](#)

The Water Framework Directive is a new piece of European legislation which promotes a new approach to water management through river basin planning. It will help us to improve and protect inland and coastal waters; drive wiser, sustainable use of water as a natural resource; and create better habitats for wildlife that lives in and around water.

Regional

- [East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy \(RSS8\)](#)

The regional strategy identifies the Peak sub area (which includes the National Park) as an area of constraint. This recognises the high landscape character of the area and its value to the region for biodiversity, recreation, tourism etc. It is also of value to other city regions (Manchester and Sheffield) The constraint applies equally to these regions.

Local

[Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#) -

This plan outlines priority habitats and species and targets for these by 2010. It is implemented by a wide range of partners and it is our responsibility to help ensure that land use planning enables land managers and owners to meet the targets

[Peak District Cultural Heritage Strategy](#)

The cultural heritage of the Peak District National Park includes all the evidence of past human activity – sites, monuments, buildings, landscapes and settlements – as well as local customs and traditions, and music, art and literature inspired by the area. The cultural heritage is a key element in the social, economic and environmental development of the Peak District.

Society is constantly developing and, as a result, the cultural heritage is always under threat. In response to this, the National Park Authority and a wide range of partners and stakeholders have collaborated on producing this Cultural Heritage Strategy for the Peak District National Park.

[Structure Plan](#)

GS1 plus C8, C9, C10, C11, C12 ensure that sites, features and species of wildlife and cultural importance are protected because potential adverse impacts are evaluated before planning applications are determined

[Local Plan](#)

policy LC6, LC7, LC8, LC9, LC15, LC16, LC17, LC18, LC19 expands on the practical detail including specific policies for listed buildings and other buildings of vernacular merit

[National Park Management Plan outcomes](#)

1. Dynamic partnerships have achieved outcomes for biodiversity and increased its resilience to the impacts of climate change, having especially

reached the Public Services Agreement target of 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in target condition by 2010 ;

increased the quality and quantity of Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species, especially moorland restoration and condition status; and

increased distinctive White Peak wetland and farmland habitats; and key local biodiversity action plan species.

2. Cultural Heritage

People, communities and organisations have worked together to conserve and enhance distinctive characteristics of landscape and settlements, especially in the White Peak

3. The natural beauty of the landscape means it is still :

an attractive place to live in and visit and an asset to communities and the economy; and

	<p>there is a clear characterisation of the whole of the landscape and it is conserved and enhanced in accordance with that characterisation</p> <p>4. The natural resources of the National Park have been conserved and managed sustainably so that they provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a diverse, healthy and resilient natural environment; and • they are the basis for our survival, well being and prosperity <p>5. The impact of mineral working on the special qualities of the National Park and on communities has been reduced because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are fewer quarries; • those that remain are worked to the highest modern environmental standards with established operating end- dates and restoration schemes; and • there is an agreed definition of national need for mineral working. <p>“Help Shape the Future” (consultation results not web based but available by email)</p> <p>Stakeholders emphasised the need to conserve and enhance the National Park and its valued characteristics. No particular concern has been raised during the consultation process to date that suggests areas of inappropriate or ineffectual policy.</p>
Option 2.1	Retain current approach to conserving and enhancing valued characteristics as defined by saved policies
Option 2.2	<p>Seek stronger approach to conserving and enhancing valued characteristics in the context of General Spatial Strategy and informed by Landscape Character Assessment , Biodiversity Action Plan and Cultural Heritage Strategy</p> <p>Explore other routes such as Planning Gain to fund other improvements</p>

Do you have a preferred option or is there another option you would prefer to see.