

Upper Derwent Valley

Woodlands Regeneration Project

Management Plan

“Regeneration, Celebration, Integration”



May 2006



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



UPPER DERWENT VALLEY WOODLANDS

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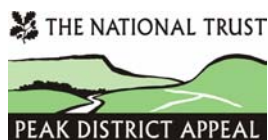
APPENDIX

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 In October 2005 a consortium of specialist consultants were commissioned by Working Woodlands Ltd on behalf of the Upper Derwent Valley Partnership to develop an integrated conservation management plan, audience and access development plan and training plan for the Upper Derwent Valley 2006 – 2026. The consortium included ECUS Ltd and TellTale with Associates Andrew McCloy, Margi Bryant and David Mount CTP. The following section forms a 'link plan' that describes the background to the project, the role of key partners and clearly sets out the shared vision that the projects aims to achieve. Each of the plans sets out in detail baseline evidence of the need for this woodland regeneration project. A series of recommendations are laid out for work required, methods to use and projects that together with continued commitment from the Partners will achieve the ambitious vision for the Upper Derwent Valley.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the following 'Link Plan' is to act as an executive summary for the main body of the management plan. The Link Plan aims to 'set the scene' for readers – explaining how and why the woodlands regeneration project idea has developed and outlining the aims and objectives of the project Partnership.

1.2 Project Background - The Upper Derwent Valley Partnership

- 1.2.1 The Upper Derwent Valley Partnership brings together three major landowners and woodland managers – the National Trust, the Forestry Commission and Severn Trent Water. This Plan represents the joint efforts of these three agencies, together with the Peak District National Park Authority and Working Woodlands Ltd, to develop a common management approach to conserving and enhancing the important wooded landscape of the Upper Derwent Valley.



- 1.2.2 These agencies have been active members of a long-standing Partnership dedicated to the conservation and management of the Upper Derwent Landscape for over 25 years. In that time, each agency has continued its own contribution to the management of the area, including extensive ecological and archaeological surveys, forest/woodland management and a joint Ranger service operated in partnership between Severn Trent Water and the National Park. The extensive efforts of these agencies - to diversify species and improve the shape of existing forest and woodland, along with new tree planting to improve the landscape and nature conservation interest – has been recognised through awards such as Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC).
- 1.2.3 The three key landowners have consulted each other closely whilst developing their own forest/woodland management plans for the area. However, until now, there has been no integrated approach to planning the future of the valley's wooded landscape. This Plan seeks to address that gap, draw together and build on the existing plans prepared by each of the agencies. Importantly the Plan seeks opportunities to integrate further enhancements to existing woodland plans, by incorporating additional recommendations to improve the conservation and management of the valley's biodiversity and cultural heritage. It also reviews the way in which the visiting public are catered for in the valley, in terms of access, information and interpretative provision and makes recommendations as to how this provision can be improved. It reviews the current audiences and makes recommendations as to how the valley and especially its woodlands can be made more accessible, especially

to the sectors of the community that have been identified by government as a high priority to engage in countryside access and recreation. It does the latter in the spirit of “the Sandford principle”, seeking to avoid irreconcilable conflict between recreation and conservation.

1.3 Working Woodlands Ltd

- 1.3.1 Since 2002, Working Woodlands Ltd (WWL) has developed an active relationship with key land managers in the valley through developing woodland management training courses, woodland craft activities and events in the Valley. WWL was established as the Working Woodlands Trust in 1997 by a group of Professional woodland workers, managers and interested woodland crafts practitioners. The WWT evolved after years of involvement with practical woodland management in and around South Yorkshire and Derbyshire. WWL sees itself as a key woodland initiative for this area, and represents a ‘community of interest’ of both small businesses and individuals. It is open to anyone with an interest in pursuing the aims and objectives of the company and is now operating as a not for profit social enterprise. The WWL has for sometime sought to establish ‘woodland centres’ where its aims and objectives can be realised in a complementary environment. www.workingwoodlands.info
- 1.3.2 Working Woodlands Ltd aims to promote the sustainable use of woodlands and their products for the benefit of both wildlife and people. Its objectives are:
- To promote the use of locally produced woodland products
 - To provide support for sustainable wood based businesses
 - To provide innovative and enjoyable educational events relating to the sustainable use of woodlands.
 - To provide advice and support for community based initiatives that relate to woodlands.
- 1.3.3 The Working Woodlands Ltd has been working with partner organisations in the Upper Derwent Officer group since 2002. Early in 2004 WWL joined the partnership to assist in the development of the first stage bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. A Project Planning Grant was awarded to the WWL in April 2005 and it is envisaged that this will be the first stage in the development of a full bid to the HLF for a much larger regeneration project in due course.

2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UPPER DERWENT VALLEY

2.1 Ecological significance

- 2.1.1 The Upper Derwent Valley is of exceptional landscape, wildlife and cultural significance within the Peak District National Park and the Dark Peak Natural Area.
- 2.1.2 The upper valley slopes and open moorland plateau lie within the Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest and the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area for Birds. It is also a Special Area for Conservation. These have been designated by English Nature to protect the area's natural interest: its assemblage of breeding birds; the variety of semi-natural upland habitats and for features of geological and geomorphological interest. Alport Castles is a classic example of a rotational landslide. The Upper Derwent also lies within the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

Wildlife significance

- 2.1.3 The Upper Derwent valley contains a number of important habitats and locally uncommon species. The Upper Derwent Ecological Survey (1986-1988) highlighted the importance of this diversity, rather than the presence of any individual rare species. Habitats range from bilberry heath and acid grassland to rich flushes and ancient semi-natural woodlands. Extensive plantation woodlands support relict ancient woodland flora and important breeding birds such as goshawk. The upper fringes of woodland/moorland habitat are of importance to recently re-introduced black grouse. Rivers and upland streams provide important aquatic habitats and associated floodplains and open cloughs, which support many wild flowers, such as the common spotted and marsh orchids, amphibians, insects, and birds such as the common sandpiper. A very high diversity of invertebrates and fungi have been identified in the Alport Valley. In addition to goshawk, the woodlands and surrounding valleys support sparrowhawk, merlin, peregrine falcon and long-eared owl.

Landscape significance

- 2.1.4 The landscape of the Upper Derwent is both dramatic and beautiful. The valley, with its steep valley sides and open reservoirs, forms a deep valley system, cutting into the surrounding moorland plateau and an extensive open wooded valley of high visual appeal. Much of the valley is dominated by conifer woodland and some areas of broadleaved woodland, in contrast to the small fields of inbye land with occasional field barns and small settlements. The fields are enclosed variously by hedges or dry stone walls. The area includes examples of naturally functioning, meandering river systems. The upper valley slopes and associated edges provide breathtaking panoramic views, including the surrounding Derwent Moors, the Bleaklow-Kinder plateau, and the Hope Valley and White Peak to the south, as well as the Derwent Woodlands and Alport Valleys themselves.

Heritage significance

- 2.1.5 The landscape is rich in cultural history with many interesting archaeological sites. The planting of conifers and the advent of the reservoirs in the valley bottoms, have brought significant change in the character of the landscape in the last 100 years. Elsewhere, elements of the historic landscape structure have changed much less, with a network of walls which is thought to date back in places to the 16th Century and has been little altered. The old sled runs, down which peat was brought from the high moors, are still visible through the plantations. Boundary lynchets, hedges, a packhorse route, hollow-ways, dry stone walls, old pollarded alders, and previously ploughed fields all tell of the rural past.

2.2 Significance to community and visitors

- 2.2.1 From the visitor point of view, the Valley's most important qualities are its scenery and landscape, clean air, good walking and interesting glimpses of wildlife and history, all within easy reach of the Sheffield conurbation. Given the policy commitment of the managing agencies, the Valley has immense potential to become an exemplar site for outreach and engagement work with "priority groups". It also offers a wealth of opportunities to improve, expand and deepen the experience for current visitors, both city-based and local.
- 2.2.2 The Valley's coniferous woodlands, however, are one of its least exciting assets from the visitor point of view. There are dense conifer plantations, which are neither very accessible, with a limited number of paths and bridleways, nor very inviting. It is well known that conifer plantations inspire generally negative reactions, compared to mixed or deciduous woodland, and people do not choose to spend time in them. Our proposals for increasing visitors' interest in the woodlands go hand-in-hand with the Conservation Management Plan's proposals for greater landscape diversity.

3. LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEGISLATION AND STRATEGIES THAT AFFECT THE UPPER DERWENT VALLEY.

Ecology and Biodiversity

- 3.1.1 Forest and woodland management in the UK is the subject of extensive policy and guidance, developed over many years by a number of agencies, including the Forestry Commission, English Nature and others. Land management in general is also the subject of policy in relation to biodiversity and heritage conservation, with policy and guidance developed by government agencies such as English Nature and English Heritage, National Parks and local authorities, in partnership with a wide range of other organisations in the voluntary and private commercial sectors. Many agencies, including the Forestry Commission, Severn Trent Water, Peak National Park Authority and the National Trust, have developed their own plans for biodiversity action and conservation. The key policies and visions of these agencies are outlined in Section 2 of the Conservation Management Plan. An indication of local, regional, national and European strategies affecting the Upper Derwent Valley and how and where these strategies impact on the Valley is also provided in the body of the Conservation Management Plan.

Audience and Access Development

- 3.1.2 It is now a national priority that all sections of society should have opportunities to experience and enjoy the UK's natural and cultural heritage. There is a particular focus on the most consistently under-represented groups: people with disabilities; ethnic minorities; low-income families and young people aged 16-24.
- 3.1.3 This approach is underpinned by two Acts of Parliament - The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 that are enshrined in the policies of the main advisory and funding bodies for countryside and heritage, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, Countryside Agency and English Heritage. It is also reflected in the policies of the organisations managing the Upper Derwent Valley. A central issue for access and audience development is the degree to which these policies are put into practice. How and where these strategies impact on the Valley are described in the body of the Audience and Access Development Plan.

4. THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND'S PROJECT PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1.1 'Heritage' includes many different things that have been, and can be, passed on from one generation to another, including buildings, parks, collections, countryside, ecology, and objects and sites linked to our industrial, maritime and transport history. What makes something part of the heritage is its value or significance to people. Conserving heritage means looking after it, both for ourselves and for future generations. This does not mean freezing it, but does mean caring for it, using it, enjoying it and making it accessible to others in a way that does not damage what is important about it.
- 4.1.2 **Conservation management** is described by the Heritage Lottery Fund as a action taken that helps people look after the heritage of their site. It can include the heritage of both built environments and natural environments. It explains why the heritage matters to people and sets out what can be done to look after it in any future use, alteration, development, management or repair. The overall aim is to attract and retain people's interest in the heritage, and help them enjoy it and learn more about it.
- 4.1.3 HLF requirements complement **UK Forest Strategy: Forestry for the Environment and Conservation** - one of the four key government programmes. It lays out the policy approach to protecting existing woodlands promoting the environmental benefits of trees and woodlands. Of particular relevance for this Plan, this section of the Forestry Strategy also provides the following strategic action points:
- **Use the Biodiversity Action Plan to guide nature conservation** - in particular, to target grants through the Woodland Grant Scheme to reverse the fragmentation of existing native woodlands, conserve priority species, and help with the preparation of management plans for semi-natural woods.
 - **Protect Cultural Heritage** – by working with archaeological authorities and others to identify sites of historical importance, to make sure that proposals for new planting that might affect such sites are evaluated.
- 4.1.4 **Audience development** is described by the Heritage Lottery Fund as action taken by heritage-related organisations to involve people, to understand their needs and interests and to create an environment and experience that appeals to them. The overall aim is to attract and retain people's interest in the heritage, and help them enjoy it and learn more about it.
- 4.1.5 It is now a national priority that all sections of society should have opportunities to experience and enjoy the UK's natural and cultural heritage. There is a particular focus on the most consistently under-represented groups: people with disabilities; ethnic minorities; low-income families and young people aged 16-24. These are the 'priority groups'. The growing emphasis on equal opportunities and social inclusion has cast a spotlight on "under-representation", revealing a number of barriers and obstacles to participation. Our report considers the implications and opportunities of this for the Upper Derwent Valley.
- 4.1.6 The need for a Training plan
The Heritage Lottery fund's recent research (Sustaining Our Living Heritage) found that there is a need to:
- support the development of skills among the heritage workforce;
 - support new employees in the heritage workforce; and
 - increase the awareness and involvement of a wider range of people in heritage skills.

The projects that HLF fund provide ideal opportunities for tackling these needs. HLF requires a written plan that focuses on the training and development needs and opportunities in a project. Setting out what people propose to do and what the results will be also helps to deliver a good quality project.

4.2 Project Time Line

- Project Planning Grant secured for Integrated Plan development Oct 2005
- Conservation, Audience and Access Development and Training integrated management plans developed Feb 2006
- First stage consultation undertaken with stakeholders and local Communities March 2006
- Priority actions / projects planned and cost estimated April 2006
- Integrated Management Plan completed May 2006
- Plan used to form the basis of funding bids From mid-2006
- Further stakeholder and community consultation as projects developed in more detail and funding secured From mid-2006
- Management Plan projects agreed with consultees and implemented incrementally as and when funding secured Funding Secured 2006 onwards

5. PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

5.1.1 The Partnership has commissioned this plan to provide evidence and make recommendations for how their common Vision for the Valley can be achieved through a series of projects over the coming years. A key outcome of this project is the production of a Geographic Information System (GIS) database that rationalises the vast amount of collected data used by each project partner. Viewable as a single database, this newly organised data now provides the Partnership with an information system that can be used to develop, monitor and evaluate this project for many years to come. The overall plan consists of 3 sections that provide robust evidence that will form the basis of a series of funding bids that will enable projects to take place.

- A. Conservation Management Plan
- B. Audience and Access Development Plan
- C. Training Plan
- D. Future projects and cost estimates

The Plan is the first stage in a longer process that will include detailed project development, securing of funding and detailed consultation with stakeholders and local communities.

The project processes and intended lines of communication are illustrated simply on the following diagram:

2026 Vision for the Upper Derwent Valley
"Regeneration, Celebration, Integration!"

Potential projects may include:

- Ecological survey and monitoring work
- Bracken and grazing management
- Coniferous plantation felling works
- Native woodland planting works
- Walling and fencing works
- Creation of rides and viewpoints
- Assessment of buried archaeological resources
- Building improvement projects. etc

Potential projects may include:

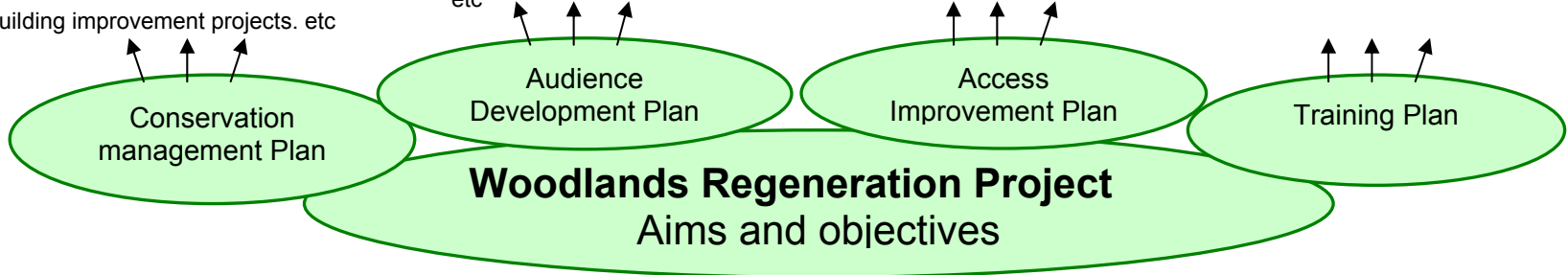
- New woodlands discovery trails
- New leaflets
- Art and craft activities
- Ranger-led woodland activities
- Appointment of an outreach officer
- Accessibility code of practice developed
- Review of interpretation and events. etc

Potential projects may include:

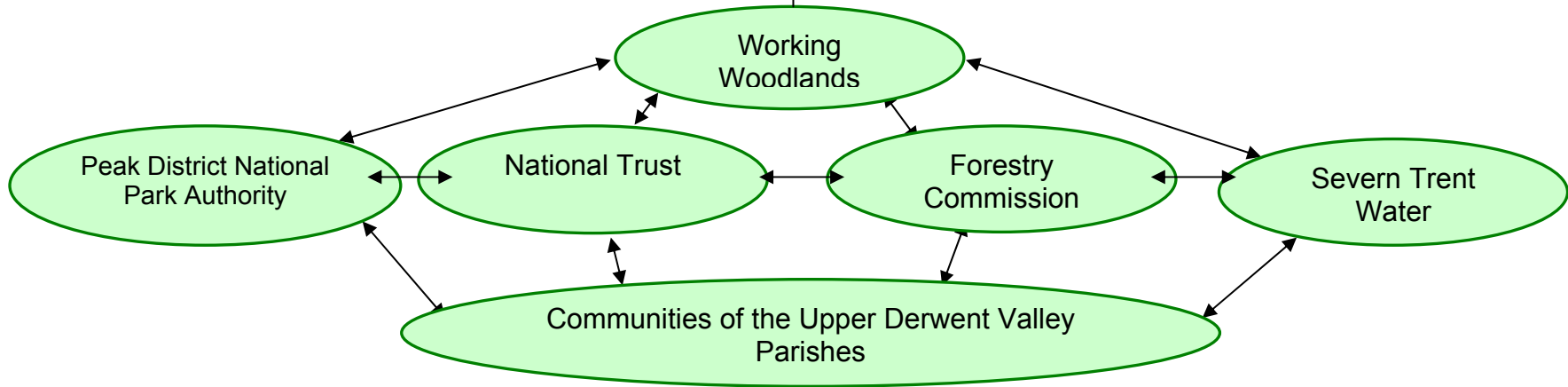
- Walking links improvements
- Cycle/ horse riding links
- Main road safety improvements
- New woodland trails and facilities
- Routes for people with disabilities
- Maximising use of public transport
- etc

Potential projects may include:

- Training to support the conservation management plan delivery
- Training to support the AADP plan
- Development
- Activities that will capitalise on the Upper Derwent Valley as a training / community resource. etc



HLF Project Planning Grant
May 2005 – May 2006



5.2 The Vision

“Regeneration, Celebration, Integration”

“In 50 years time, the woodlands of the Upper Derwent Valley will not only have had their beauty enhanced, through further extensive conservation and habitat re-creation, they will also be celebrated, understood and cherished by both visitors and local people alike. By better integrating them into the Peak District landscape in a sustainable manner, through traditional methods and the involvement of communities, we are securing their unique heritage and biodiversity for generations to come.”

The Upper Derwent Valley Partnership 2004

5.2.1 The imagined future of the Valley 2056 is described in the above long term Vision. This is an ambitious expression of how, with good management of change this valley might appear in 2056. The Vision represents the ‘goal’ that the Partnership aims to achieve through its management aims and objectives. This overall vision is expanded further as detailed visions for Woodlands Conservation Management, Audience and Access Development and Training:

In the long term the Upper Derwent Valley will be:

The long term vision for landscape and land management of the Upper Derwent Valley.....

- A well managed working landscape
- The national and international importance of the area is appreciated and the need for positive management is understood.
- The Valley’s special character is enhanced
- There will be a good balance between open moorland and wooded valleys
- Careful stewardship of natural resources which will ensure their sustainability
- The landscape will be a well cared for landscape
- Traditional rural management skills (such as walling and fencing) are highly valued
- Farming will use sustainable methods to enhance the landscape’s beauty rather than harm
- Woodland recreation will be enjoyed by a wide range of audiences
- Woodland enterprises will use sustainable methods to enhance the landscape’s and be open and responsive to new markets as and when they arise.

The long term vision for the natural heritage

- The Valley’s wonderfully rich natural wildlife habitats will be well managed
- The range of nationally rare and protected species will remain
- Species will be protected by international, national and local designations.
- The Valley will increase in importance as a core national and regional biodiversity resource is recognised, protected and enhanced.
- The area will be enjoyed and appreciated for its inherent wildlife value and for the contribution it makes to the nationally important Peak District National Park.

The long term vision for the heritage

- There is widespread understanding that the valley is a wonderfully rich cultural landscape, shaped over thousands of years by human activity in combination with natural processes.
- The heritage assets of the valley are sensitively managed and accessible for the public to enjoy.

The long term vision for communities – people, jobs and services

- Thriving local communities that appreciate and respect the special qualities of the Valley's landscape and play an active part in its conservation.
- Education and training opportunities are available to enable a varied and viable local economy.
- Local businesses can contribute to the conservation of the Valley through the production and use of a diverse range of local sustainable goods through sustainable tourism.
- Local businesses will have developed the heritage skills to enable them to undertake specialist works throughout the Valley.

The long term vision for access and recreation

- All visitors will have more and better opportunities to use, enjoy, appreciate and learn about the Upper Derwent woodlands.
- Current visitors, particularly families with children and short-distance "strollers", will be more aware of the woodlands, make more use of them, and get involved in a range of woodland-related activities.
- More people from nationally identified "priority groups" (people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, young people and low-income families) will know about, visit and appreciate the Upper Derwent Valley and its woodlands.

The long term vision for travel and transport

Integrated and sustainable public transport easily accessible and well used by both visitors and local people.

- The impact of traffic on people's lives is minimised.
- Network of roads and tracks through the valley has a quiet character with ample space for pedestrians, people with limited mobility, cyclists and horse riders.
- Parking is well maintained and designed to fit with, not detract from the character of the Valley.

5.3 Derwent Officers Working Group

5.3.1 The Partnership has worked together with the local communities of Derwent Parish, Bamford with Thornhill Parish and Hope Woodlands Parish for over 25 years and representatives from these partner organisations and local communities form the Derwent Officer Group. The Group have developed a shared vision for the Valley and agreed aims and objectives for achieving the vision. This shared vision has emerged along with recognition of the joint aspirations of this group to fulfil the potential for the area can only be realised if external resources are secured. As part of this process, the Group has broadly identified a range of potential conservation and regeneration projects that could achieve the vision for the Valley. This plan provides evidence of need for these projects and explores project feasibilities and costs, suggesting project priorities that will achieve the conservation, audience and access and training visions for the Valley.

5.4 Aims and Objectives for the Upper Derwent Valley Regeneration Project

Aim 1: Further enhance the unique natural and cultural heritage of the project area through extensive native woodland regeneration, restoration and creation on appropriate sites.

Aim 2: Provide public benefit by encouraging involvement in the project, leading to better use, understanding and enjoyment of the area.

Aim 3: Develop skills and competences of individuals within the community and the partnership to deliver the project in a sustainable manner.

Aim 4: To provide an integrated and holistic approach to the future management of the Upper Derwent Valley.

Objective 1: Maximise benefits to biodiversity and contribute to the goals of the Peak District Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Objective 2: Protect and enhance the landscape setting of the Derwent Woodlands

Objective 3: Encourage the creation of woodlands that will be sustained through natural processes

Objective 4: Improve the quality of physical, intellectual and emotional access to the area

Objective 5: Integrate sustainable timber production into the management of the woodlands wherever possible

Objective 6: Improve the quality of the water in the catchment area

Objective 7: Contribute to the economic sustainability of the local area

The following section provides a summary of each of the main plans for this project.

5.5 SECTION A: Conservation Management

- 5.5.1 This study details the comprehensive and far-reaching ambitions of the Partnership for woodland regeneration and forest management in the Upper Derwent. In line with relevant legislation and best practice guidelines it recommends management techniques and operations that will enable the Partnership to regenerate the woodlands in ways that maximise the long term benefit to the ecology, wildlife, landscape and heritage. The team consulted with numerous organisations and interested individuals during the production of this report and the Plan proposals reflect the results of these consultations.
- 5.5.2 In time, the Partnership's management vision for the Valley will entail transformation at the landscape scale. Most notably, this will include the removal of extensive areas of coniferous plantations and their replacement by new broadleaved woodlands and open habitats which complement the wildlife and landscape value of the woodlands and adjacent upland fringes.
- 5.5.3 Broadleaved woodlands represent the natural woodland cover of the Upper Derwent and present a more naturalistic landscape character than the existing coniferous plantations. Broadleaved woodlands are also generally of higher value for wildlife since they represent the natural habitats of characteristic native woodland species of plants and animals. In particular, ancient woodlands (those which have been continuously wooded for several centuries) are of high biodiversity value and one of the Partnership's priorities will be to return ancient woodlands which have been planted with conifers to a more natural condition.

5.6 Timescales

- 5.6.1 This transformation will not happen overnight. It will require long-term commitment and considerable resources to achieve the scale of change envisaged. It will also be necessary to effect change in a planned and well managed fashion, to maintain the current high visual and amenity value of the Valley. It will be a key operational objective for all Partners to ensure that felling work, in particular, does not result in significant impacts to the natural and cultural heritage of the Valley. It will be equally important to ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts upon the Valley's visual and recreational attractiveness - as a key visitor venue in the National Park.
- 5.6.2 The Upper Derwent partners are also all key partners in the delivery of UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans and are keen to promote the conservation of protected, scarce and characteristic local species. The Plan will provide important opportunities for active management to promote conservation of these species and will take into account their habitat requirements during felling, planting or other potentially disturbing operations.
- 5.6.3 The conservation plan proposes a series of projects recommended to conserve the quality of existing valuable habitats and improve existing habitats where necessary. Cost estimates are provided as an indication of the resources that will be required.



Photo: Dense coniferous woodland edge on the upper valley slopes (TellTale)



Photo: Selective thinning of conifers and replanting with deciduous native species encourages diversity and provides a colourful mosaic of wildlife habitats (Tell Tale)



Photo: Dense conifers block popular views of the valley sides and reservoirs (TellTale)

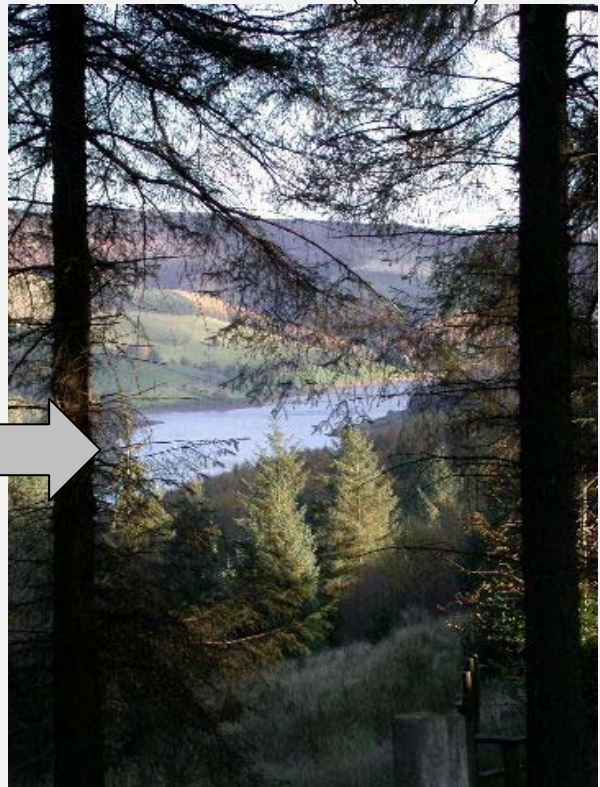


Photo: Selective thinning of conifers at key focal points will open up popular views and encourage visitors into the woods (Tell Tale)



Photo: dense coniferous plantations obscure views and stifle flora and fauna (TellTale)



Photo: Views to archaeological heritage revealed (AMcCloy)



Photo: Dense conifers are dark and unwelcoming (Tell Tale)



Photo: Widened rides through plantations allow light through and the glades entice visitors to explore woods (AMcCloy)



Photo: Large scale mechanical extraction of timber is likely to be uneconomical in remote areas (WWLtd)



Photo: Conifers thinned and timber left 'to waste' – allowing natural regeneration (AMcCloy)

5.7 SECTION B: Audience and Access Development

5.7.1 This study looks specifically at helping visitors and local people understand, celebrate, and cherish the woodlands of the Upper Derwent Valley. It advises on how best to involve people in the valley and on how to achieve better use, understanding and enjoyment of the area by improving the quality of physical, intellectual and emotional access. TellTale consulted with numerous interested individuals and organisations during the production of this report. Our proposals reflect the results of these consultations.

5.7.2 Audience development is described by the Heritage Lottery Fund as action taken by heritage-related organisations to involve people, to understand their needs and interests, and to create an environment and experience that appeals to them. The overall aim is to attract and retain people’s interest in the heritage, and help them enjoy it and learn more about it.



Photo: Visitors arrive by motorbike (Tell Tale)



Photo: Walking group rendezvous (Tell Tale)



Photo: Feeding the ducks in the car park (TT)



Photo: Queuing at the ‘café’ (Tell Tale)



Photo: Picnicking in the car park (Tell Tale)



Photo: Family BBQ in the evening (Tell Tale)

5.7.3 It is now a national priority that all sections of society should have opportunities to experience and enjoy the UK's natural and cultural heritage. There is a particular focus on the most consistently under-represented groups: people with disabilities; ethnic minorities; low-income families and young people aged 16-24. These are the 'priority groups'. The growing emphasis on equal opportunities and social inclusion has cast a spotlight on "under-representation", revealing a number of barriers and obstacles to participation. Our report considers the implications and opportunities of this for the Upper Derwent Valley.



Photo: Getting ready for a ride (PDNPA)



Photo: Cycling along the reservoir edge (PDNPA)

5.7.4 None of the Upper Derwent Valley's managing agencies are seeking an increase in visitor numbers. There are also considerable infrastructure issues that mean that visitors' activities can have a negative impact on local residents. Local people generally feel that more visitors would be problematic. However, national legislation and the policies of the UDV managing agencies mean that a targeted emphasis on certain new audience sectors is appropriate. Experience elsewhere indicates that carefully targeted work with these sectors is likely to lead not to large increases in overall visitor numbers, but to a more diverse range of visitors.

Access development: organisational, cultural & intellectual access

5.7.5 Access and participation can be limited or prevented by organisational, cultural, intellectual, social, and financial factors. These can either prevent people from visiting heritage or countryside sites, or inhibit their enjoyment and understanding during a visit. Improving access means identifying such barriers and doing everything possible to remove them.

5.7.6 We carried out an audit of “non-physical” access (Section 4.0), looking at pre-visit information, on-site information, on-site interpretation, publications, guided walks and events. We concluded that all these types of provision, in their current form, have shortcomings in terms of accessibility, and we have made a range of recommendations for improvement (Section 4.6)

Access development: physical access

5.7.7 Section 5.0 includes an audit of current access provision for walkers, cyclists, and horse-riders, including those with disabilities, identifying barriers to access, and the public transport to the site. Our recommended projects (Section 5.4) include improved walking, cycling and horse-riding links in the access network, the creation of dedicated off-road cycle routes, orientation courses and woodland walking trails and routes for people with disabilities.



Photo: Getting ready for a ride (PDNPA)



Photo: Cycling along the reservoir edge (PDNPA)



Photo: Families enjoying a walk (PDNPA)



Photo: Cycle hire for all

5.8 SECTION C: Training plan

5.8.1 This section of the plan complements the Conservation Management Plan and the Audience and Access Development Plan. Analysis of recent training events in the Valley has revealed that there is both potential and demand for an even wider range of training opportunities based around the woodland regeneration in the Valley. This has highlighted to the Partnership the need for a co-ordinated approach to developing a training programme that makes the most of the opportunities that the Valley offers.

5.8.2 This plan identifies the following training required to ensure an appropriately high standard of activity on the ground;

- Those involved in managing the project will need to become expert in the production of 'environmentally proofed' woodland management specifications
- Contractors working in the Valley will need to produce and follow suitably detailed method statements.
- Project managers will need to ensure method statements are adequate. In addition they need to monitor the works to ensure work on the ground is carried out in line with what has been agreed.
- Considerable knowledge and hands-on expertise already exists within the partnership organisations. Through the proposed training this expertise will be shared amongst all involved, and agreed practice will be documented.

5.8.3 The plan makes a series of recommendations to support implementation of the Conservation Management Plan, the implementation of the Audience & Access Development Plan and finally, activities which will capitalise on the Upper Derwent Valley as a training / community resource. The last group of proposals enables a wide range of people to become strongly engaged with this special place, while opening up opportunities for them to develop new skills relating - for example - to conservation, woodland craft or environmental art.

5.9 SECTION D: Project Proposals and Cost Estimates

Proposals for projects are integrated into each section of the plan as well as summarised in section D spreadsheets. Generally the individual elements of each project type have been individually considered and combined to provide an inclusive figure (for example – costs for leaflet production include typesetting where required and specialist text content development. Staff revenue costs include basic over heads, national insurance and pension contributions). The cost estimates have been developed using information from comparable recent capital works schemes and revenue projects – as well as data provided by the Partnership from past projects (such as typical contractor rates and material prices). The illustration below shows the information contained in the cost spreadsheets in Section D.

Action	Area/Activity	Output	Lead partner	Cost estimate
Planning and management				Ex Vat
Implementation				

To undertake the cost estimate exercise as logically and as accurately as possible, potential projects have been grouped into 2 sections – planning projects and implementation projects.

Project types range from the development of a relatively low capital investment of £200 for a new way-marker to £400,000 for the creation of fully functioning sawmill premises and workshops. Revenue costs vary from £2,000 for some extended survey work and £36,000 for co-ordinating project officers per annum. Due to the large range of tasks involved and the intricate requirements of project planning in such a sensitive environment, projects have been costed wherever possible but there are instances where project requirements could be so variable that providing 'ball park' figures for the cost plan would be particularly difficult and ultimately misleading for future funding bids. Most projects have been costed but where not feasible, projects have been identified and suggestions made regarding how to take forward their development.

Projects have been grouped as:

- a) Project Planning and Management and
- b) Implementation
 - Conservation management plan
 - Audience and access development plan
 - Training projects

It should be noted that these costs are reasonable to use as a guide but it is recommended that they are further considered and verified prior to incorporation into future funding bids.

6. WORKING WOODLANDS

6.1.1 To be able to take this plan forward and sustainably manage the Valley's woodlands is recognised as very exciting and inspirational opportunity by all the project partners, visitors and the local communities:

"Woods and woodlands everywhere have an important future. We start this new millennium facing the considerable challenges of human induced climate change. Under the banner of global warming the fate of the woodlands of the Upper Derwent Valley and of ourselves are entwined. Trees, woods and the benefits they can supply are one of our greatest allies in relearning how to live in a sustainable way. This valuable wooded landscape has the potential to show the nation how woodland management can be undertaken in a very effective way. The Valley is a place of stunning beauty, peace, and tranquillity whilst co-existing as a hive of industry and skills, a centre of learning, a place of inspiration and a place to have fun. The challenge before us is real. If we can take that step forward to managing these woodlands in a truly sustainable manner then we will have saved them and ourselves in the process." T. Talbot WWL Chair Jan 2006.

6.1.2 Although the Sawmill is not currently commercially viable managers at Severn Trent Water are supporting Working Woodlands in seeking to rejuvenate this site as a working sawmill and in delivering additional benefits locally and regionally. The vision for the sawmill site is its potential to link with other initiatives, such as ongoing work at Ecclesall Woods and also the East Derbyshire Woodland Project will provide a spring board for new woodland initiatives that could make substantial environmental, social, health, education and economic contributions. A detailed feasibility report has been produced: *Project Silva ECUS 2004 for WWLtd.*

6.1.3 The current Forester based in the sawmill has been a key asset for Severn Trent Water; actively promoting and developing new ideas to support STW's wider social interests and giving support and commitment for taking any ideas for the site forward. The vision for the site is, therefore, in keeping with Severn Trent Water's current commitment to social goals under its caring for the environment and communities work. The current focus is based on looking at sustainable management of both the UDV and the infrastructure that the company owns. This includes the potential redevelopment of the sawmill at Ashopton, aiming to add value to local timber to sell into local markets.

6.2 Commercial viability of the woodland

6.2.1 “It is clear that the Ashopton Sawmill is not suitable for cutting either softwood or hardwood economically in the International Timber Market. I believe it is suitable as a base for the craft industry to cut locally grown timber on a collective basis alongside the further development of the whole site. It must be understood that it could not operate as a purely stand alone profit centre and would always require support financially and, just as importantly, it will require tight control through a project manager who has skills to give a creative business environment.”

Roger Venables, Timber consultant, for Project Silva ECUS 2004 for WWLtd.

6.2.2 The presumption against new development within the National Park and expanding current use of the site would be contrary to policy therefore any planning application would need to be for uses clearly linked to the sawmill and although new build would not be welcomed there may be support for new build on the existing footprint. The most ‘attractive package’ to the Authority would be ongoing use of the sawmill (although any change of scale of use could possibly require permission), use of the existing buildings and linkages to sustainable woodland management.

6.2.3 The Partnership recognises that sustainable management of the Upper Derwent Valley woodlands has the potential to form links across the various different projects taking place in the valley. Through this project the sustainable management of the woodlands will enable:

- breaking down perceptions and improving visitor and community understanding of sustainable woodland management
- links to be created in the chain between wood production and its end uses
- the wider Partnership and Working Woodlands to take an active role in promoting the local use of wood, including links to other sawmills in the area
- local people to have more accessibility to the purchase of local wood
- the partnership bodies to further develop their purchasing policies to encourage local suppliers and contractors to take a more substantial place in the local economy
- creation of a ‘community’ of woodland workers e.g. collective purchase of machinery, milling of timber, exchanging information, bidding for contracts together working with and benefiting from other, complementary initiatives in the region including the Environmental Quality Mark, Small Woods Association, Peak Products etc.

6.3 Creative business management

A wide, creative range of opportunities for activities have been identified for the site of the Ashopton Sawmill and should be developed by a creative team with vision, energy and enthusiasm to see the Valley’s wood resources used in creative, sustainable ways. Project ideas suggested by recent feasibility studies are inspiring and show that the sawmill has the potential to become the hub of lively woodland activity for the Valley. A creative director could take forward the following enterprising project ideas:

- Regeneration of the working sawmill supplying woodland management skills and products for the long term sustainable management of the Valley.
- Renting of space on site for holiday accommodation / chalets
- Creation of office and workshop space for the project team, Rangers and Forester staff



Photo: Restoration of existing buildings using traditional skills and local labour in the UDV



Photo: Structural use of timber in the UDV



Photo: Timber Frame course UDV (WWLtd)



Photo: Creative seating in the UDV (ECUS)



Photo: Locally produced timber gate, Derbyshire



Photo: Creative stonework in the UDV



Photo: Sculptural seating, Grizedale (ECUS)



Photo: Timber post and wire fencing (ECUS)



Photo: Timber bench (WWLtd)



Photo: Timber shelters (ECUS)

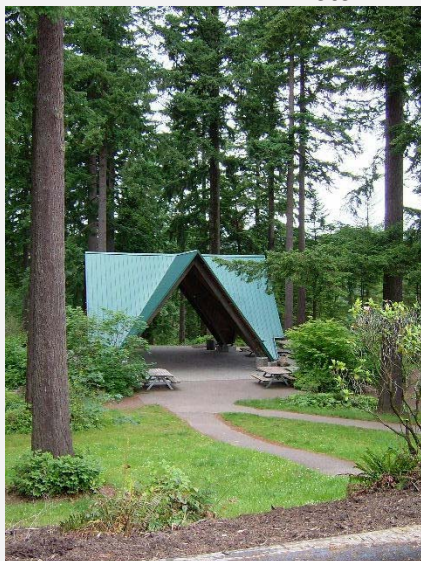
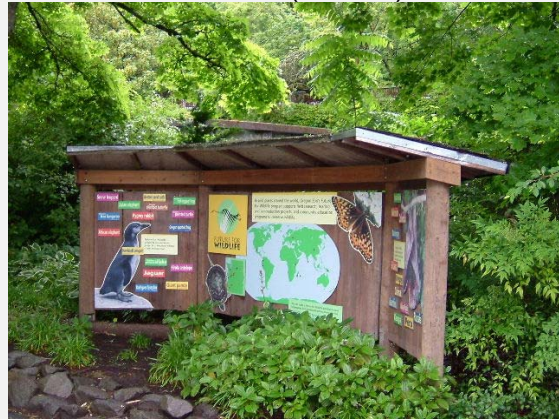


Photo: Woodland shelter, Portland (ECUS)



Photo: Timber steps (ECUS)



Photo: Timber and cob shelter (WWLtd)



Photo: Timber roof frame (WWLtd)

6.4 Wood as Inspiration

The Valley and its natural heritage are awe-inspiring and rich in resources for creative activities. The project management team could consider the following opportunities:

- Strengthening links to Bamford Arts Festival and local galleries such as 'Tree 37', South Yorkshire's 'Open Up' open studio events, South Yorkshire and Derbyshire's Environment Week Programme of activities
- Creating and using workshop space for wood workers or tree surgeons
- Encourage small craft enterprises creating garden/site furniture and sculpture-trail features



Photo: Furniture (WWLtd)



Photo: Timber bench (WWLtd)



Photo: Bench (ECUS)



Photo: Working Woodlands Ltd



Photo: Grizedale Forest Park



Photo: 'Shelter' artwork Ecclesall Woods (WWLtd)



Photo: Carved Man (WWLtd)



Photo: Apple core shelter, Sheffield (WWLtd)



Photo: Weaving workshop (WWLtd)



Photo: Grizedale Forest park sculptures that can be used as seating (ECUS)



Photo: Gateway Sculptures (ECUS)

Photo: Grizedale Forest Park sculptures (ECUS)



Photo: Middlemass sculpture Trail



Photo: Timber frame construction (WWLtd)



Photo: Stool making workshop (WWLtd)

6.5 Learning new skills in the Woods

- training centre with links to LANTRA, Forest Schools and Broomfield College
- continuation of 'Wood Train' woodland crafts skills days and events.



Wood Train 'taster days' WWLtd 2005



ECUS & Tell Tale May 2006



Wood Train 'taster days' WWLtd 2005



Wood Train 'taster days' WWLtd



Photo: Sculpture carving workshop (WWLtd)



Photo: Besom making workshop (WWLtd)



What Should We Do With This Wood?
Sheffield Hallam University Furniture design
Course activity (WWLtd)



Photo: Chair making workshop (WWLtd)



Photo: Horse harrowing demonstrations



Photo: Hurdle making workshop (WWLtd)



Photo: Scythe making workshop (WWLtd)



Photo: Garden structures workshop (WWLtd)



Photo: Timber frame creation at Ashopton

6.6 Woodland products - selling direct to the public



Photo: Creative garden furniture



Photo: Creative Play – Greenwich School (CDELtd)



Photo: Creative street scene



Photo: Garden structures



Photo: Creative street scene



Photo: Garden structures



Photo: Creative street scene

6.7 Woodland demonstration projects and supply of wood fuels

Future felling programmes will provide a large amount of wood suitable for wood fuel production on a scale that could be used to draw in revenue into the project to support the sustainable management of the valley and further development of enterprises. Modern biomass boilers such as the one managed by the Peak District National Park Authority at Losehill Hall have raised the demand for wood fuel. The demand for energy production by biomass boilers is likely to rise in the UK due to the increasing energy efficiency issues. The presence of the sawmill and a hub of local specialist skills could allow the traditional practice of charcoal production to be resurrected in the valley. If annually, the 2 million visitors to the Peak District National Park bought a bag of locally produced charcoal, the revenue generated would enable many more woodland regeneration projects to take place in the Valley.



Photo: Wood for fuel (WWL)



Coppice material
(WWL)



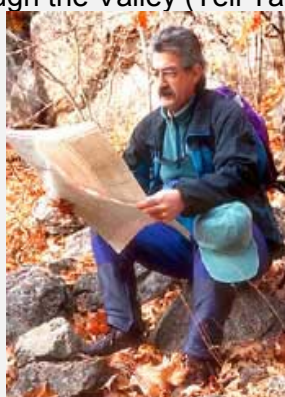
Photo: Sensitive timber removal (WWL)

6.8 Out of the Classroom – into the Woods

- 6.8.1 This project presents a real opportunity to work with visiting schools and education groups to improve their experience of all that the Upper Derwent valley has to offer. Research carried out for the Audience and Access Development and Training Plans show that the valley is well used for field trips by secondary schools and universities although relatively little by primary schools. The valley presents a varied, relatively unexplored environment that, with the support of an Education Outreach Officer, could be enjoyed safely, in greater depths by existing groups.
- 6.8.2 The recommended remit of the Outreach Officer is varied – to improve links to Hagg Farm and Losehill Hall's training and leisure breaks activities, to encourage schools revisit the site in greater depth and to develop relationships with and encourage 'hard to reach' groups from surrounding urban centres. This Officer would also have real potential to work with local residents keen to create some advantages for young people and link with local groups to transfer skills, involve and inform residents as the project progresses and to seek ways in which they can benefit from what happens here.



Photo: School cycle ride through the Valley (Tell Tale)



Photos: Outdoor activities that could take place – environmental awareness/orienteering/ activity trails



Photo: Enjoying a family cycle ride in UDV (AMcCloy)



Photo: Young people in the Valley (Tell Tale)

6.8.3 The Valley is an ideal venue for Forest Schools...

The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive experiences and participation in engaging and motivating achievable tasks and activities in a woodland environment, helping to develop personal, social and emotional skills:

- *Independence*
- *Self-discovery*

- *Confidence*
- *Communication skills*
- *Raised self-esteem*

Forest Schools has demonstrated success with children of all ages who visit the same local woodlands on a regular basis and through play, learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. Programmes run throughout the year going to the woods in all weathers (except for high winds). Children use full sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation.

7. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1.1 An effective series of consultation exercises were carried out at several stages of the plan development process using a range of consultation techniques. The individual plans each required detailed consultation with all major stakeholders and landowners to collect existing hard data as well as valuable first hand experience, comments and suggestions. Proactive discussions with wider stakeholders and the community have ensured that they have become engaged in the consultation process which will continue throughout the project lifetime. Responses have been overwhelmingly positive and many of the responses received during the consultation processes have been incorporated into the final version of the Plan. Most notably, both wider stakeholders and community representatives were extremely keen to be kept informed about the development of the project and requested that they were involved during more detailed consultation for future project development. Those consultees who provided their contact details will be entered into the Partnership contact database for the project and invited to become involved at a future date.

Consultation techniques

7.1.2 Several consultation methods were used with a suitable approach tailored to the time/resources available and the requirements of each type of consultee. Details of the range of consultees are included in the appendix. Consultation methods are summarised below and detailed in the main report. Detailed responses are available from the Partnership on request.

These methods included:

- Detailed discussions with project partners including strategic teams and on-the-ground officers, from the outset of the plan development, on the content of the interim plan and final plans.
- Discussions with Statutory Bodies to gather / clarify data for the database from the project outset and on the content of the interim and final plans.
- Contact with specialist interest groups during the formal consultation process on the content of the interim plan.
- Meetings and discussions with Parish Councillors representing their local communities as well as formal consultation process on the content of the interim plan.
- The collection of comments during informal discussions with interested members of the community during informal site visits.

- Specifically requested feedback during the formal consultation process on the content of the interim plan. Consultees were invited to comment on the plan using a response form included with the document.

8. RECOMMENDED PROJECT PRIORITIES

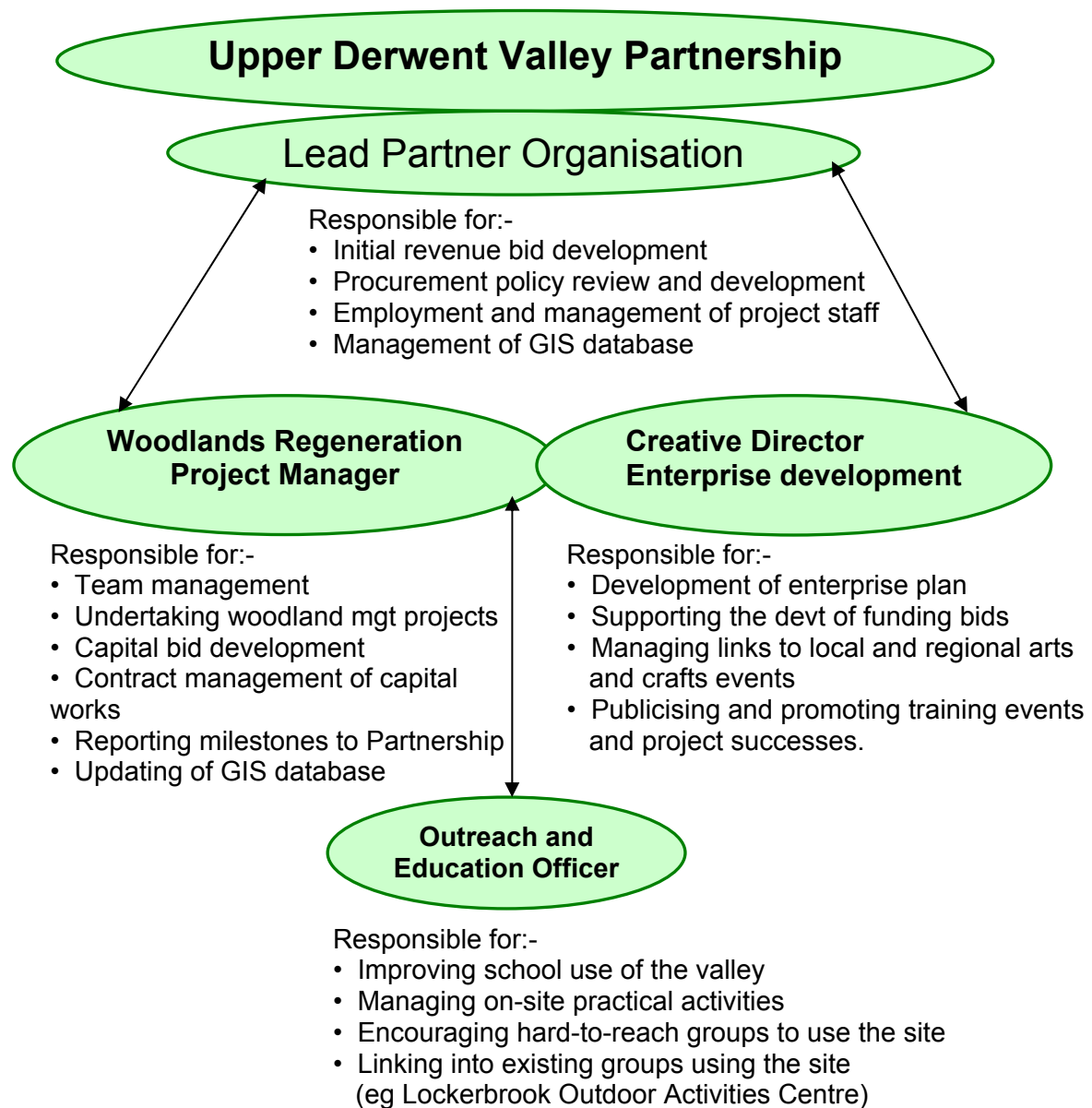
8.1.1 Listed below are some of the possible future conservation and regeneration projects that this plan suggests for the Upper Derwent Valley. It is important that the list is read in conjunction with the main body of research in each plan section to ensure that the background to project ideas is fully understood. Many of these projects run in harmony with others rather than in isolation and the logic behind their descriptions and timescales can be found in the main sections of the plans. Their magnitude and delivery mechanisms are described in detail in Section D. Currently they do not constitute confirmed projects as further funding will need to be sought to implement any element of the plan and if found there will be more detailed consultation with all the necessary parties.

Planning and monitoring works for the Woodlands Regeneration Project	Delivery periods		
	From Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3 onwards
1. Project Co-ordinator and manager to develop HLF project, implement priority projects and monitor progress of the regeneration plan 2006 - 2026	√	√	√
2. Creative Director to develop and implement a business plan for woodland-based enterprises generating income to sustainably fund other schemes		√	√
3. Ecological survey work	√	√	√
4. Biological monitoring	√	√	√
5. Bracken management plan	√		
6. Grazing management plan for key woodland / moorland edge compartments	√		
7. Training project for heritage skills development – feasibility study to identify gaps in local skills base and future requirements to enable local companies to undertake skilled work	√	√	√
Conservation and management activities for woodland regeneration projects;			
8. Felling works			√
9. Restocking works			√
10. Tree protection works			√
11. Tree establishment and maintenance			√
12. Thinning works		√	
13. Control of bracken	√		
14. Production of native plants from local seed sources	√		
15. Walling works		√	
16. Fencing works		√	

17. Create rides, glades and viewpoints in conifer plantations	√	√	√
Conservation and management activities for archaeological heritage projects;			
18. Assessment of buried archaeological prehistoric artefact resource		√	
19. Accessing and assessing the charcoal burning industry			√
Building improvement projects			
20. Alport Gillot Barn restoration			√
21. Alport Hucklow Lees Barn restoration			√
22. Alport Scout Hut			√
23. Hagglee Barn restoration			√
24. Ashopton Sawmill – creation of new workshop training centre	√	√	√
25. Conversion of existing buildings to be DDA compliant (eg St Henry's) and to enable use of hall as a classroom	√		
26. Investigate possible future uses for Wellhead to meet access and audience development objectives			√
Audience and access development projects			
27. New woodland discovery trails		√	
28. New leaflets		√	
29. Art and craft activities	√	√	√
30. Ranger-led woodland activities	√	√	√
31. Fairholmes archaeological dig			√
32. Community drama or animated trail			√
33. Appointment of an Outreach Officer	√	√	√
34. 'Taster days' hosted by on-site staff		√	√
35. Small grants for priority groups			√
36. Increased volunteering opportunities			√
Non-physical access improvement projects			
37. Draw up an accessibility code of practice	√		
38. Review pre-visit information	√		
39. Review on-site signage and information	√		
40. Review accessibility of on-site interpretation	√		
41. Review all publications	√		
42. Review guided walks and events	√		
43. Create new targeted on-site facilities		√	√
Physical Access Improvement Projects			
44. Walking Links		√	√
45. Cycling/horse riding links		√	√

46. Main road safety improvements	Commence negotiations		
47. New woodland trails and facilities		√	
48. Routes for people with disabilities		√	
49. Maximising use of public transport	Commence negotiations		
Training projects			
50. Training to support implementation of the Conservation Management Plan	√	√	√
51. Training to support implementation of the Audience & Access Development Plan	√	√	√
52. Activities which will capitalise on the Upper Derwent Valley as a training / community resource.	√	√	√

9. PROJECT STRUCTURE



10. FUTURE PROJECT MONITORING AND REVIEW

10.1.1 Careful monitoring of the project outputs and outcomes will be essential in order to assess progress being made towards achieving the project aims and ultimately the Partnership Vision of beautiful, well created, conserved and managed woodland habitats that are celebrated, understood and cherished by both visitors and local people.

- Annual programme planning to identify annual priorities and monthly/weekly/daily actions.
- During the early stages of development for new project undertake annual strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis (swot) to prioritise areas where further work / funding is required by certain timescales.
- Undertake annual monitoring against achievement of targets

10.1.2 Success can be monitored by undertaking quarterly monitoring of the business plan targets by both the project team and the Partnership and closely recording the achievement of project milestones. Each Partnership agency currently uses monitoring and reviewing methods that could be used to develop a project-specific monitoring system based closely on the business plan targets. Regular monitoring will also help to avoid unexpected delays or gaps in funding arrangements.

10.2 GIS Database Development

A key outcome of this plan development process is the creation of a GIS database that enables interactive data input from all project partners through the continued mapping of the resources of the UDV. The database and accompanying maps will provide an accessible, accurate resource, to which land management information can continue to be added, can be referred to during monitoring periods and can be used to further the project Vision. The database will provide the basis for setting SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic targets) business/project management plan targets. It is recommended that the database be managed by the project manager and overall responsibility for its upkeep and use be taken by the Lead Partner.