

Land Managers Forum

Update paper 2 - Peak District update

National Park Management Plan

The [National Park Management Plan](#) 2023-2028 was approved on 2nd December 2022, and will run from April 2023.

The National Park Management Plan is the partnership plan for the place. Developed collaboratively with partners, it is an essential strategic document and no major decisions affecting the future of the National Park should be made without reference to it. It provides the framework that encourages all those with interests in the National Park to work together to achieve National Park purposes and provides a context for the Local Plan.

The Management Plan has been developed at a time when the nation is faced with challenges not experienced for generations. These include recovery from a pandemic, the escalating climate change emergency, declining species and habitats, mental and physical health issues amongst the population, and escalating prices and food shortages triggered by global conflicts. The Management Plan will have to demonstrate appropriate actions that respond to this volatile dynamic.

The aspirational 20 year vision outlines where we collectively want the Peak District to be in 20 years time:

‘By 2043, 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.’



National Park Management Plan aims

The ambitious aims will help us achieve the vision. In order to prioritise delivery of the aims, a set of five year objectives underpin each aim. This is where delivery of actions will be focussed over the Management Plan period.

Aim one: The Peak District National Park is more resilient and net-zero by 2040 through its exemplary response to climate change.

Objective 1: To lower greenhouse gas emissions significantly, focussing on the largest emitters within our influence.

Objective 2: To sequester and store substantially more carbon while contributing to nature recovery.

Objective 3: To reverse damage to nature, biodiversity and cultural heritage and in particular built environments caused by climate change.

Aim two: The Peak District National Park is a resilient landscape in which nature, beauty and cultural heritage are significantly enhanced.

Objective 4: To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity flourishes.

Objective 5: To understand, appreciate and enhance the cultural heritage and in particular the built environments of the National Park as part of an ever-changing landscape.

Objective 6: To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park's contrasting and ever-evolving landscape.

Aim three: The Peak District is a welcoming place where all are inspired to enjoy, care for and connect to its special qualities.

Objective 7: To encourage a sustainable visitor economy that supports local businesses, cares for the National Park's special qualities and respects the wellbeing of local communities.

Objective 8: To create opportunities for young people and those from under-served communities to connect with and enjoy the National Park.

Objective 9: To promote the National Park as a place where there are opportunities for the improvement of physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Aim four: Peak District National Park communities are thriving and sustainable places where all generations can live healthy and fulfilled lives.

Objective 10: To support sustainable communities by improving opportunities for affordable housing and connection to services.

Objective 11: To promote a flourishing economy in accord with nature recovery and climate change mitigation.

Local Plan

The Local Plan sets out the planning policies for the Peak District National Park. It is used to make decisions about the hundreds of planning applications received each year.

The Local Plan is currently being reviewed. Residents and key stakeholders will be consulted at key stages throughout the process. Issues and options papers are being prepared ready for consultation in Spring 2023. A draft of the Plan will be produced in 2024.

Landscape Strategy 2023

The Peak District Landscape Strategy was developed in 2009 and provides detail to compliment the National Character Area descriptions of the Dark Peak, White Peak and South West Peak. It helps raise an understanding of the character and dynamics of the different landscapes of the Peak District. It also provides guidance on maintenance and enhancement of the special qualities of landscape throughout the National Park, and informs the Authority's approach to managing landscape change across all areas of work, including planning, project work and land management advice and support.

A revised [Landscape Strategy](#) was approved on 2nd December 2022, which is simpler and easier to use. A final version with photographs will be available in April 2023.

The Landscape Strategy has nine key objectives to help deliver the vision for the Peak District National Park, including:

- **Enhanced moorland landscapes** which deliver greater public goods (including enhanced biodiversity, carbon storage, flood alleviation and water quality/ provision).
- **Working with and supporting farmers and land managers** to deliver a wide range of 'public goods' by encouraging the take-up and best use of future Environmental Land Management schemes and other funding opportunities.
- A **more wooded landscape**, where trees and woodland form part of a wider landscape mosaic.
- The historic built environment and **characteristic historic pattern of settlement and enclosure** is protected, maintained and enhanced.
- A **more biodiverse landscape**, where nature recovery is promoted.
- A landscape where **new development is necessary, well located, well designed** and responds appropriately to the special 'sense of place' and sensitivities of the Park.
- Improve the **connectivity of open access land and the rights of way network** to allow for enjoyment of the landscape by a greater range of users while maintaining character, tranquillity, remoteness and wildness.

The [Wooded Landscapes Plan](#) for the Peak District provides additional guidance on the opportunities for increasing tree and shrub cover in the Peak District, based on landscape character. It forms part of the Landscape Strategy to help ensure

the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason.

An increase in tree and shrub cover can deliver a range of public goods, which should be seen as part of a landscape 'mosaic' of different habitats and land covers, e.g. closed-canopy woodland, wood and scrub pasture, parkland, copses, shelterbelts, individual trees, hedgerows, scrub and commercial forestry.

Woodland creation scheme

The Trust and the Peak District National Park Authority are working collaboratively to create small farm woodlands, complementing other woodland creation schemes such as the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Scheme and the England Woodland Creation Offer Scheme. Over £1 million is available and a Woodland Creation Adviser can assist farmers, land managers and landowners to explore small woodland creation.