

Peak District Local Nature Partnership

What is it?

Newsletter 1: Winter 2012 - 2013

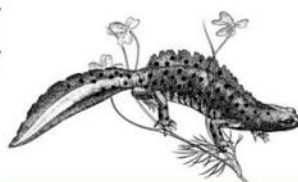
The LNP is a partnership of individuals, businesses and organisations working together to better understand, appreciate, value and enhance the local natural environment.

The national ambition for LNPs is that they will help their local area to manage the natural environment, and to embed its value into local decision making for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. To do this effectively they will need to be self-sustaining strategic partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people with the credibility to work with, and influence, others.



Our Ambition

“A thriving and inspiring landscape richer in bio- and geo-diversity; where a valued natural and cultural environment, central to decision making, is managed for wildlife, promotes healthier lives and benefits the local economy”



Why do we need a LNP?

Valuing the Natural Environment

The natural environment is everything around us: the air we breathe, the rocks, soil and water, and the plants and animals, which all together make up the landscapes we appreciate.

The natural environment supports us through primary energy production and water cycling; it regulates climate and crop pollination; it provides food, fibre and timber; and serves us with cultural elements like sense of place, landscape and enjoyment.

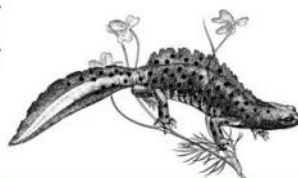


The Natural Environment at Risk

All these elements (and others) of the natural environment work together as a system; but as a society we are putting more strain on our natural environment, which is tipping this system out of balance. Some elements of the natural environment can have a monetary value assigned to them (like timber and food); the value of other aspects (like climate regulation and health & wellbeing) is largely hidden, which means they are often not taken into account when decisions are made.



What value can we assign to the learning experience of the 'great outdoors'; the geology underpinning the landscape; the feeling of wellbeing derived from outdoor activity; the variety of species which inhabit our environment? The Local Nature Partnership aims to increase awareness and understanding, and foster better working relationships between a range of people and organisations so that we may value and support the natural environment which supports us.



What is natural value?

Pollination supports food production in the UK to the value of £1bn per year.²



Over 30% of the services provided by our natural environment are in decline.⁴



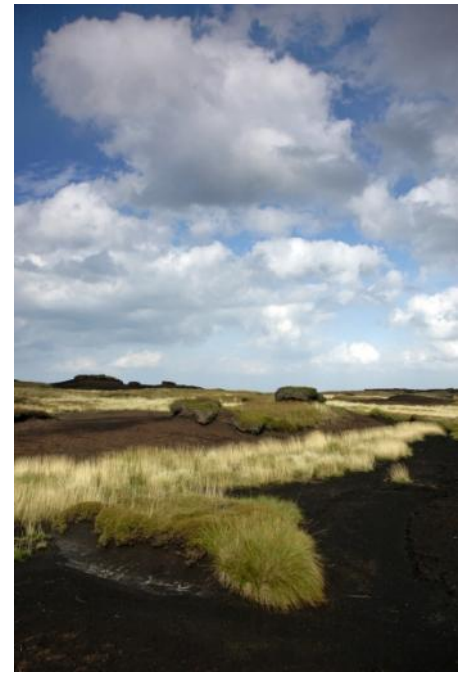
People who live within 500m of accessible green space are 24 per cent more likely to meet recommended levels of physical activity.¹



Around 60% of rural tourism and recreation activity is dependent on landscapes and wildlife.³

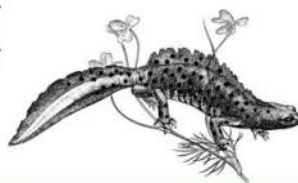
Our peatlands are a haven for wildlife, but are also a vital store for carbon. They store 5 billion tonnes of carbon which we would have to account for elsewhere if it was released through degradation.¹

Increasing physical activity by having green spaces to walk or exercise in could save the NHS around £2.1bn every year.²



Reducing the sedentary population by just 1 per cent could reduce UK morbidity and mortality rates valued at £1.44 billion.¹

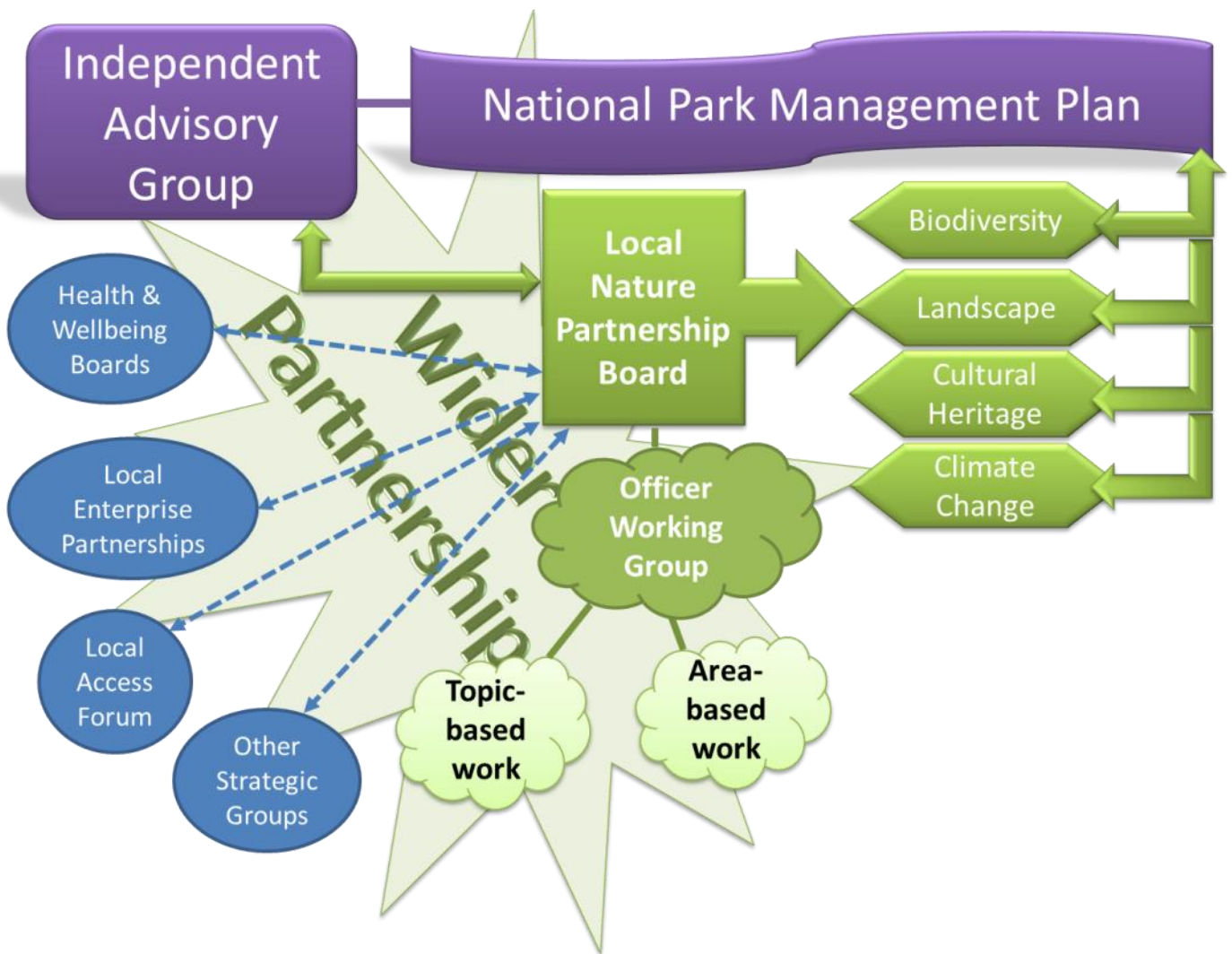
Globally, it is estimated that the degradation of our planet's ecosystems is costing us €50 billion each year.¹



How will the LNP work?

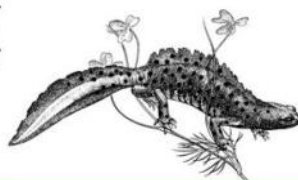
We will keep the form and function of the LNP under review to ensure that it is operating effectively and delivering our Ambition. A central driving force (the LNP Board) will be needed which will have a good overview of the broad issues the LNP could address. The priority areas of work will then be pursued by working groups (topic-based or area-based), and the wider Partnership will be able to have their say via an annual meeting, and through contact with the LNP Coordinator.

The diagram below illustrates the type of structure we are building, whilst keeping it flexible



What will it do?

The LNP, through its Board, will champion the value of the natural environment across different sectors; influence decision makers; enable communities to get more involved; coordinate or facilitate conservation activity; add value to the effectiveness of existing partnerships & projects; and identify gaps in delivery.



What is happening so far?

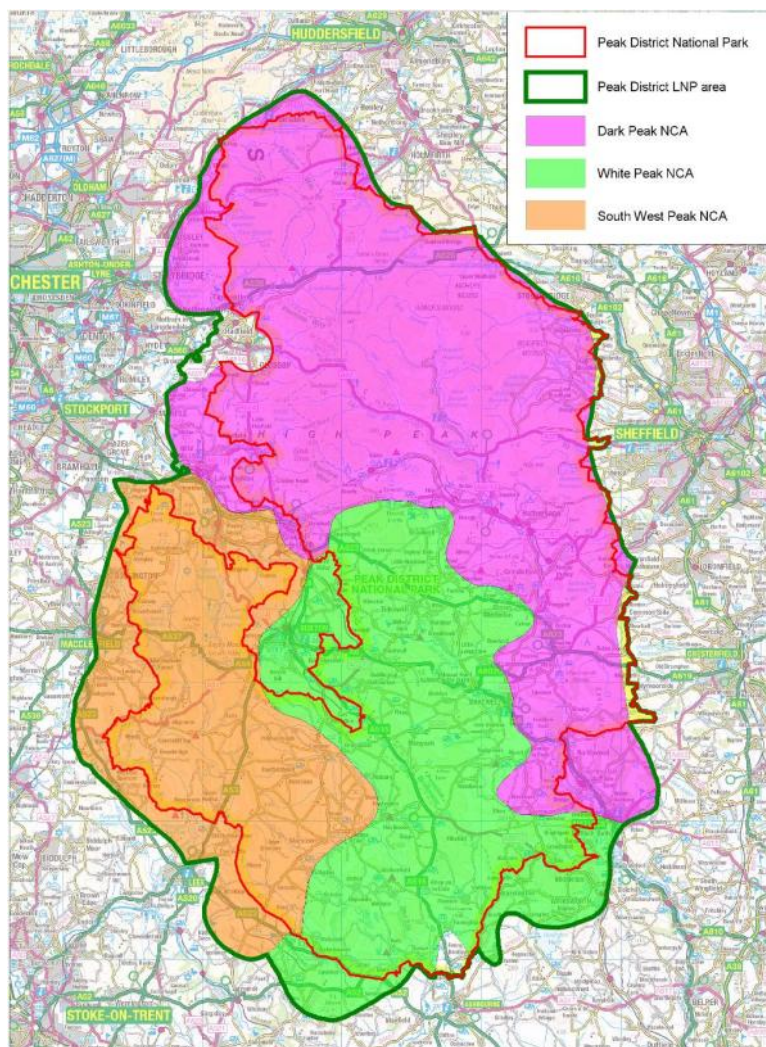
The Peak District LNP developed in response to the Government's Natural Environment White Paper (2011), which called for new broader partnerships to integrate social and economic factors with the natural environment.

During early 2012 some development work took place, where we talked with various people, groups and partnerships about what a LNP could mean for the Peak District, how it should be formed, who should be involved and what it should do. In September we were granted official recognition from Government as a Local Nature Partnership.

Since then we have had the first meeting of our interim LNP Board - a small strategic group of people representing different sectors: environment, business, health and communities. The interim Board will set priorities for action in our first year.

The wider Partnership will comprise a variety of people representing different interests.

The National Park Authority is currently coordinating this work, and invites anyone interested in being involved to contact us via our website.



The Peak District Local Nature Partnership Area

How to find out more

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/local-nature-partnership

References:

- 1) Defra (2010) *What Nature can do for you: a practical introduction to making the most of natural services, assets and resources in policy and decision making*
- 2) Defra (2010), *Natural Environment narrative*
- 3) GHK (2004) *Revealing the value of the natural environment in England*
- 4) National Ecosystems Assessment (2011)

