


**NATURE
PEAK
DISTRICT**

The logo consists of the words "NATURE", "PEAK", and "DISTRICT" stacked vertically in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The word "PEAK" is stylized, with the letter "A" replaced by a green mountain peak shape. A blue wavy line, resembling a river or a path, runs horizontally across the middle of the logo, passing behind the word "PEAK".

CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the Peak District Local Nature Partnership

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1. Local Nature Partnerships

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are a key Natural Environment White Paper commitment. In June 2011, Defra announced its intention that approximately 50 LNPs should form in England, and provided a capacity building fund for partnerships to help develop their LNPs. The Peak District National Park Authority led a bid and was successful in receiving funding for the period December 2011 – June 2012. The capacity building work led to the Authority submitting a successful application for Government recognition as one of 48 LNPs in June 2012.

LNPs are expected to contribute to the three overall themes of the NEWP;

- An improved natural environment
- A stronger green economy
- Stronger connections between people and nature

1.1 LNP Purpose

The overall purpose of an LNP (as described by Defra) is to:

- 1.1.1. Drive positive change in the local natural environment, taking a **strategic view** of the challenges and opportunities involved and identifying ways to manage it as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.
- 1.1.2. Contribute to achieving the Government's **national environmental objectives** locally, including the identification of local ecological networks, alongside addressing local priorities.
- 1.1.3. Become local champions **influencing** decision-making relating to the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes; in particular, through working closely with local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

1.2 Duty to Co-operate

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 established a system of local development planning in England. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 make provision for the operation of that system.

The Localism Act (2011) amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) to introduce a 'Duty to Co-operate' (Section 33A). Section 33A of the Act imposes a duty on local planning authorities, county councils and prescribed persons to co-operate with each other and with persons prescribed under section 33A(9) in relation to the planning of certain categories of sustainable development or use of land. Each person bound by this duty must also have regard to the activities of persons prescribed under section 33A(9), so far as they are relevant to activities specified in section 33A(3).

These Regulations amend the Principal Regulations so that such prescribed persons include each Local Nature Partnership. The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) refers to this Duty.

2. Ambition

The ambitions of Local Nature Partnerships, as set out in 'An overview of the Local Nature Partnership role' are;

To help the local area to manage the natural environment as a system and to embed its value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.

To be self-sustaining strategic partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people with credibility to work with, and influence, other local strategic decision makers.

The Ambition of Nature Peak District is to help deliver:

“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”

A primary aim will be to position the LNP as an independent, objective voice for the natural environment that can act as a link between local and central government, business, health and the community for the benefit of the Peak District.

3. Objectives

3.1 Outcomes

- 3.1.1 Champion the natural environment.
- 3.1.2 Influence decision makers to take account of the value of the natural environment.
- 3.1.3 Enable communities to .
- 3.1.4 Coordinate/facilitate activity, especially at a landscape scale (more, bigger, better, joined up).
- 3.1.5 Add value to the effectiveness of existing partnerships/projects.
- 3.1.6 Identify gaps in delivery and progress work to cover them.

3.2 Outputs

- 3.2.1 An enhanced evidence base detailing the natural resources, constraints and opportunities for conservation, restoration and enhancement.
- 3.2.2 A long-term action plan and short-term rolling action plans designed and implemented to meet the partnership's ambition and outcomes.
- 3.2.3 Priorities for ecological enhancement and conservation identified, and work being undertaken to address these.
- 3.2.4 Consistent advice to all sectors (business, health and community), promoting actions that will protect and enhance the Peak District's natural and cultural environment.
- 3.2.5 A communications strategy.
- 3.2.6 A funding strategy.
- 3.2.7 A Geodiversity Action Plan.

4. Terms of Reference

4.1. Geographical remit

The Peak District is one of the most popular, accessible and well known upland areas in England.

The Peak District LNP is based on the three National Character Areas – Dark Peak, White Peak and South West Peak which define the Peak District, with the Peak District National Park at its core.

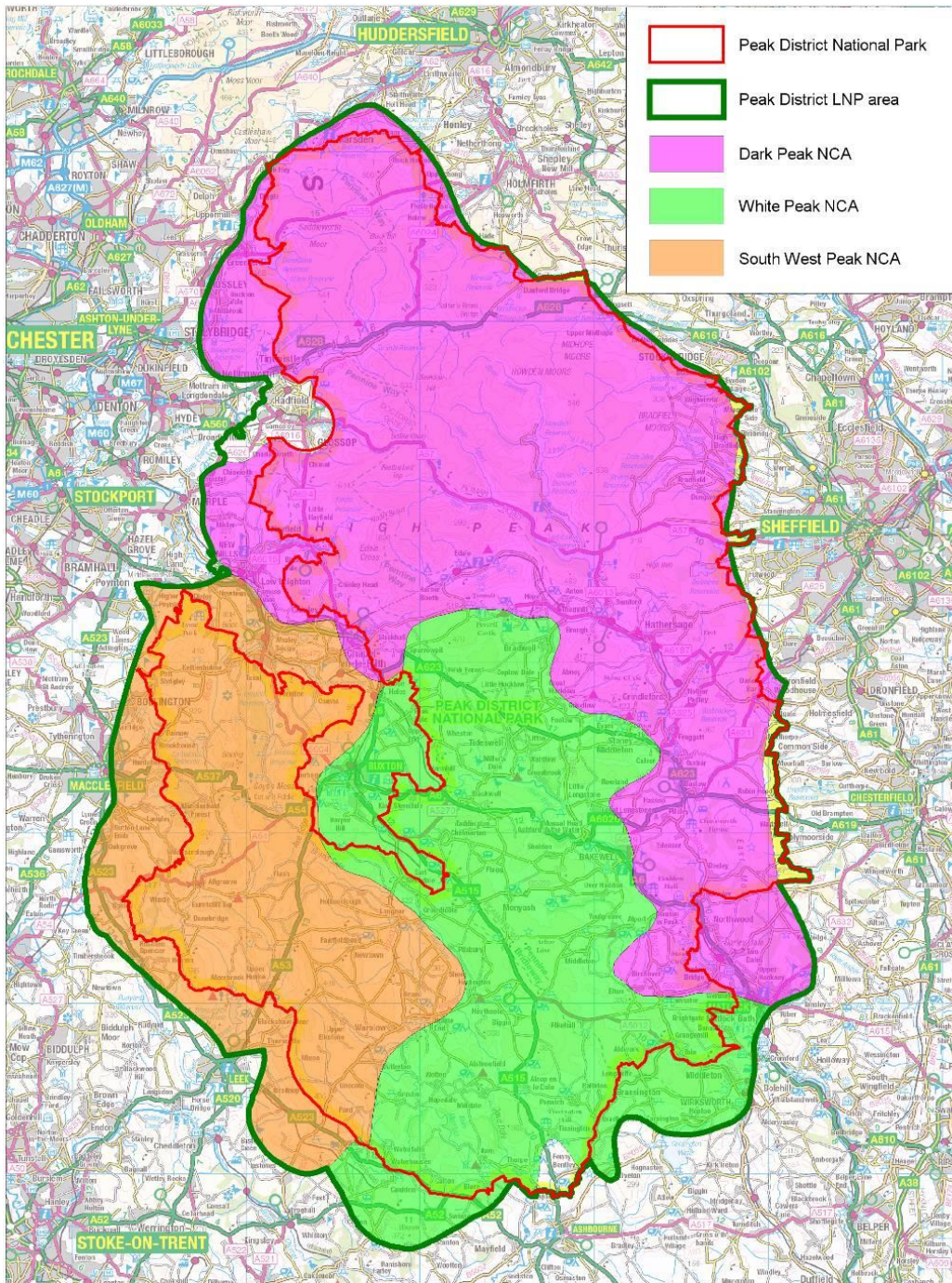


Figure 1 Nature Peak District Area

5. Structure of the Partnership

The LNP will have a simple structure comprising:

Board – strategic cross-sectoral representatives.

Working/Task & Finish Groups – to support the prioritisation of work, delivery of programmes and initiatives.

Wider Partnership – a larger partnership from whom the working groups will be drawn.

Secretariat (including coordinator) – to provide a coordination and administrative function.

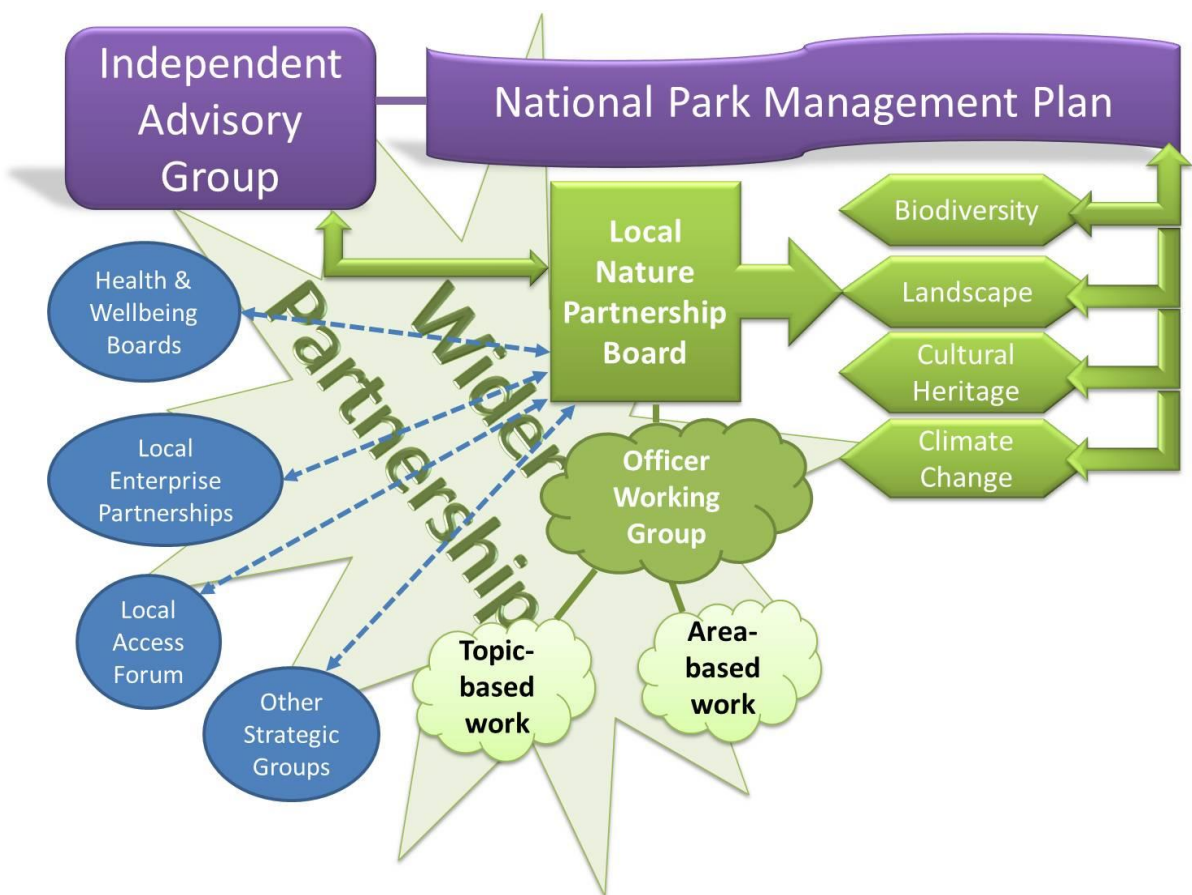


Figure 2 Representation of the LNP working structure

5.1.The Board

The main focus for the Board will be to provide strategic leadership, coordinating partners to deliver projects and activity that will meet the purpose, ambition, and objectives.

5.1.1. Purpose of the Board

- 5.1.1.1. To position the LNP as an independent, objective voice for the natural environment that can act as an ambassador to local and central government, businesses, health, the cultural and environmental sectors, and communities, for the benefit of the Peak District.
- 5.1.1.2. To provide the strategic direction for the LNP, identifying and agreeing priorities, facilitating action and delivery through the LNP coordinator and LNP working groups (supported by the secretariat). It will agree short, medium and long-term priorities and objectives for the LNP.
- 5.1.1.3. To monitor progress achieved against the agreed objectives. It will also provide guidance and advice on securing funding to deliver agreed priorities.
- 5.1.1.4. To be representative of a range of sectors, able to collectively take a strategic overview of all sectors and to recognise the ways in which biodiversity and ecosystem services affect these.
- 5.1.1.5. To integrate new thinking on the value of the natural environment and the services it provides into the work of other organisations and agencies.

5.1.2. Operation

The Board will comprise influential strategic thinkers. Their role will be to agree the Ambition and Objectives of the LNP and ensure that this Ambition is communicated to wider decision makers across a range of sectors.

The LNP will be steered by a small, agile, but representative Board. It is expected that the Board will meet at least two to three times per year to set strategic direction and monitor progress. Board members should not be restricted to their individual views but those of the wider sector that they represent.

The Board will be accountable to all partners at an annual Partnership meeting; all major decisions such as agreeing the work plan for the next year will be approved, and working groups will be given the opportunity to update the wider Partnership on the progression of the delivery projects.

5.1.3. Representation

It is proposed that the Board comprises 10 – 12 members, including a Chair and Vice-Chair, with each member agreeing to represent a sectoral interest not a single organisation. To ensure that this is achieved, Board members should be at a senior level within their organisation and have sufficient experience to represent multiple interests.

Of the Board members one person will be nominated as a Chairperson. The Chair on behalf of the Board will represent Nature Peak District at national network meetings and events. The Chair will also provide guidance on behalf of the Board to the coordinator, secretariat and working groups where appropriate.

A Vice-Chair will be appointed and stand in for the Chair when the Chair is unable to attend meetings or undertake other planned activities.

The membership of the Board should be as follows:

- National Park Authority – 1 Member level, 1 senior officer level
- Statutory Agency – 1 representative
- Conservation sector – 2 representatives at senior level
- Business sector – 2 representatives
- Local community sector – 1 - 2 representatives
- Health sector – 1 representative
- Education – 1 representative
- Land management – 1 representative

5.1.4. Time commitment

For the position of a Board Member, it is anticipated that the individual will voluntarily contribute a minimum of two - four days per year in the fulfilment of this role. This may vary during the initial start-up period of the LNP. It is expected that the LNP Board will meet at least three times a year.

The LNP will host an annual Partnership meeting; Board members will be expected to attend these Partnership meetings in addition to the Board meetings, to improve information flow between the strategic and delivery components of the LNP, and also encourage engagement from a wide range of stakeholders.

5.1.5. Term of appointment

Board members will be required to serve for three year terms, starting on the 1st August 2015, and may serve additional terms subject to re-election and approval from the Board and Partnership.

5.1.6. Collective role of members

- 5.1.6.1. Champion the work of Nature Peak District, its objectives and results to relevant partners, organisations, networks and business organisations, and raise the profile of the natural environment across sectors.
- 5.1.6.2. Actively seek to promote the interests of Nature Peak District at key opportunities to influence Government and business, with the broad aim of securing investment in the natural environment and recommended policy where necessary.
- 5.1.6.3. Provide strategic input to the Board on key decisions regarding local planning and development initiatives, contributing clear and informed views of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the natural environment on a local level.
- 5.1.6.4. Contribute to the development of an appropriate LNP Ambition and prioritised work plan to enhance the natural environment of the LNP area, helping to establish short, medium and long term objectives.
- 5.1.6.5. Actively promote the interests of Nature Peak District amongst communities and encourage community engagement.
- 5.1.6.6. Actively seek funding to support coordination of Nature Peak District and the operation of working groups that address the key priorities outlined in the work plan, providing a lead for specific working groups or direct support to a Nature Peak District focussed project where required.
- 5.1.6.7. Act as project Board for partnerships projects where required; approve overall objectives, delegate responsibility for project implementation to necessary steering/ working groups, receive project progress reports, unblock barriers to project progression, sign off project funding submissions.
- 5.1.6.8. Provide knowledge and skills in one or more sector(s), being fully accountable for the wider interests of the sector(s) being represented, and show a broad understanding of the issues which need to be prioritised.
- 5.1.6.9. Ensure the views of the wider Partnership are represented and taken into account during key decision making to deliver integrated benefits.
- 5.1.6.10. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Nature Peak District to ensure the LP provides added benefit to the natural environment.
- 5.1.6.11. Adhere at all times to high standards of ethics and governance in public life.

5.1.6.12. Ensure the direction of any funding supports the Ambition and the principle aim to secure and enhance the natural environment of the Peak District.

5.1.7. Experience and attributes of Board Members

Board Members must be able to individually demonstrate the following:

- A clear strategic vision, excellent communication and leadership skills and an understanding of the natural environment and how the environment interacts across sectors.
- An understanding of the Peak District and the environmental concerns of the sector that they represent.
- Be well connected with demonstrable links with other organisations.
- A commitment to serve for a three year period, attending LNP Board meetings and occasionally other local/national events, championing the work of Nature Peak District.
- Willingness to champion a working group and provide support and direction to ensure effective delivery.

5.1.8. Board Chair

The Chair of the LNP Board will be elected by the Board members and will serve for three years with annual approval from the Board. The Chair should represent the wider views of the Partnership.

The Chair must have experience/understand the role of a Chair, be an experienced public speaker with a good awareness of the local, regional and national policies influencing the natural environment. The Chair must have a good local knowledge of the Peak District and its natural environment.

5.1.9. Relationship to the National Park Management Plan and Advisory Group

The aims and objectives of Nature Peak District and the National Park Management Plan should be aligned, but the LNP should show added value and avoid duplication.

The relationship between the LNP Board and the NPMP Advisory Group is .

5.2. Working Groups

Drawn primarily from the wider Partnership, these groups will convene to

- a) advise the Board on specialist issues, or
- b) develop and deliver programmes or initiatives as agreed by the Board.

5.3. Wider Partnership

Initial membership of the LNP will comprise those individuals and organisations who attended the capacity building sessions or otherwise expressed an interest in being involved. Future membership of the Partnership will also be open to any individual, organisation, or community group who is interested in furthering the LNP's work.

5.4. Secretariat

This function will be performed by the National Park Authority (which will be the accountable body; where appropriate).