Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Second
Draft Scoping Report

Prepared for the
Peak District National Park Authority
by
Land Use Consultants

July 2008

14 Great George Street
Bristol BS1 5RH
Tel: 01179 291 997
Fax: 01179 291 998
luc@bristol.landuse.co.uk

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Land Use Consultants (LUC) was appointed by the Peak District National Park Authority in July 2007 to undertake the following elements of work:

- Verify the joint scoping report for the Management Plan[1] and LDF DPDs prepared in June 2005.
- SA Stages B, C and D for the Core Strategy.
- Prepare a verification report on the SA of the Design Guide.
- Prepare a screening decision as part of an Appropriate Assessment to comply with the Habitat Regulations.

1.2. Based on a review of the Joint Scoping Report (2005), it was recommended that a revised Scoping Report should be produced in light of recent policy guidance and a need to refine the set of SA Objectives within the report.

1.3. This revised report is the *Second Draft Scoping Report*. It builds on the first draft, which was issued for consultation in June 2005. Specific recommendations for change are outlined in **Table 1.1** below, alongside details of where they have been addressed in this Scoping Report:

Table 1.1: Recommendations from the Scoping Verification Report

Recommendation	Location in this Second Draft Scoping Report
Explaining the relationship between the DPDs and the SA, the purpose of the LDF and how new plan objectives were derived.	Chapter 1
Outlining the consultation process, the level of involvement, timescale for completing the SA and how comments received through the first draft of the scoping report were considered.	Chapter 2 Para 2.2 – 2.7
Updating policy guidance at a national, regional, county and local level, and identifying their relevance, likely constraints placed on the Strategy and how they have influenced the development of the SA Objectives.	Chapter 3
Reviewing trends based on existing baseline data with an explanation regarding the methodology used, a summary of the environmental characteristics or key issues likely to be significantly affected, constraints, uncertainties.	Chapter 4 Table 4.1
Considering the evolution of the current state of the environment without the implementation of the plan.	Taking scoping report forward – consequences Structure Plan Look at key issues

[1] The Peak District has already undertaken a full sustainability appraisal of the Management Plan which was adopted in 2005

	Look at policies from Structure Plan
Reducing the quantity of SA Objectives and filling in any missing gaps identified through the validation report.	Chapter 5 Para 5.4 – 5.7 Table 5.1
Merging the compatibility matrices for the SA Objectives.	Chapter 6 Appendix 4

PURPOSE OF THE SA REPORT

1.4. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Local Development Documents (LDDs) to ensure that they conform to the principles of sustainable development. Within the SA process, it is also required that relevant authorities consider the environmental impacts of Plans and Programmes in accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (see para 1.16).

1.5. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) seeks to ensure that the five principles and four agreed priorities for sustainable development as set out in "*Securing the Future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy*" (Defra 2005), are addressed:

Principles:

- living within environmental limits
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- achieving a sustainable economy
- promoting good governance
- using sound science responsibly

Agreed priorities:

- sustainable consumption and production
- climate change and energy
- natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- sustainable communities

1.6. The process of SA should:

- Take a long-term view of whether and how the area is expected to develop, taking account of the plan's likely social, environmental and economic effects.
- Provide a mechanism to ensure that sustainability objectives influence plans, policies and programmes.
- Reflect global, national, regional and local concerns.
- Provide an audit trail showing how the plan has been revised to take into account SA findings.
- Form an integral part of all stages of plan preparation.
- Incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive

1.7. The Sustainability Appraisal's role is to assess the extent to which the emerging Core Strategy policies and proposals will help to achieve the relevant environmental, social

and economic objectives. In doing so, it provides an opportunity to consider ways in which the plan can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions. It is also a means of identifying and addressing any adverse effects that draft policies and proposals might have in order to inform revisions to the plan.

1.8. The overall aim of the appraisal process is to ensure that documents that form part of the Peak District National Park Authority LDF make an effective contribution to the pursuit of sustainable development.

1.9. In the National Park it is also essential to make sure that all policy development (including the use of tools such as SA/SEA appraisal) focus on and prioritise the purposes of National Parks and duties of National Park Authorities set out in the Environment Act 1995. The **purposes** are to:

- *'Conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage', and*
- *'Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment (of the Parks) by the public'*

1.10. In pursuing these purposes the Authority has a **duty** to '*seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities'*.

1.11. Since the National Park Authority is bound by the purposes and duty set out in the Environment Act, this document seeks to embed the SA/SEA process firmly within them. It is purposes and duty that guide strategic policy in the National Park Management Plan and the Local Development Framework. This approach has been supported consistently by Government Planning Policy Statements and by Inspectors presiding over development plan policy.

1.12. Where there is a conflict between the purposes themselves (perhaps from proposals for recreational development that would harm valued characteristics of the National Park), the "*Sandford Principle*" has established to Government's satisfaction that the conservation purpose should prevail. Existing plan policies take this understanding about National Park purposes into account.

1.13. To help ensure that new policies are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, the following main areas for objectives have been derived from themes suggested in the SEA directive:

- Biodiversity, fauna and flora
- Cultural heritage and landscape
- Population and human health
- Social Inclusiveness
- Economic development
- Air
- Water and soil
- Climatic factors

1.14. They are 'repackaged' later in this report to fall within headings that reflect National Park purposes and duties.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CORE STRATEGY

1.15. The primary objective of the Core Strategy is to set out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the National Park and the primary policies for achieving the vision. Other key documents which form part of the Local Development Scheme[2] include:

- Statement of Community Involvement
- Development Control and Site Specific Policies
- Proposals Map
- Detailed Design Guidance Notes Part 1 and 2
- Annual Monitoring Report

1.16. It is anticipated that a new version of the LDS will be released in the summer to reflect proposed changes to the LDF regulations as set out in the recent government consultation on proposals to streamline LDF production[3]. The Authority now anticipates that a small number of Development Control policies could fit within the Core Strategy to help with the day to day implementation of the Vision and Objectives. The new LDS will give further clarity on the timetable for any subsequent Development Plan Documents that are added to the suite of development control policy (including if appropriate reference to any site specific matters).

COMPLIANCE WITH THE SEA DIRECTIVE/ REGULATIONS

1.17. The European Directive 2001/42/EC aims:

"to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans….with a view to promoting sustainable development" (Article 1)

1.18. The following measures must be taken in compliance with the Directive:

(i) Collect and present baseline environmental information;
(ii) Predict 'significant environmental effects' of the plan and address them during its preparation;
(iii) Identify strategic alternatives and their effects;
(iv) Consult the public and authorities with environmental responsibilities; and
(v) Monitor the actual effects of the plan during its implementation.

1.19. The requirements of SEA are addressed within the SA process. However, the SA widens the scope to give an equal weighting to social and economic of policies in addition to environmental impacts. **Table 1.2** shows where the

[2] Local Development Scheme (1st revision) January 2007- December 2009, Peak District National Park Authority

[3] Streamlining Local Development Frameworks Consultation, November 2007, Department for Communities and Local Government

requirements of the SEA Directive fall in relation to the preparation of the SEA/SA.

Table 1.2: How the requirements of SEA have been addressed within the SA Scoping Report

SEA requirement	Positioning in relation to the SEA/SA report
Collecting and presenting baseline environmental information	SEA/SA Scoping Report – Stage A Chapter 4 – Baseline, Characteristics and Key Trends
Predicting the significant environmental effects of a plan, and addressing them during its preparation with an assessment of strategic alternatives	SEA/SA report - Stage C
Consulting the public and authorities with environmental responsibilities as part of the process	SEA/SA Report: Scoping Report – Stage A Issues and Options – Stage B Preferred Options Report – Stage C
Providing a statement about how the results of the SEA have been taken into account	Stage C – Non Technical Summary
Monitoring the actual environmental effects of the plan during its implementation	Stage D

AIM AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

1.20. This report constitutes the Scoping Report for the Core Strategy and will be published for formal consultation to statutory environmental consultees (English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England). The report has been prepared to guide the SA process in the Peak District National Park and summarises the method of approach taken and details the initial findings from the scoping exercise or "Stage A" of a Sustainability Appraisal.

1.21. The report is divided into the following chapters:

Chapter 2:	Method of approach.
Chapter 3 - Task A1:	Review of other plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives.
Chapter 4 - Task A2/A3:	Review of baseline information and identification of key issues.
Chapter 5 - Task A4:	Sustainability appraisal framework.
Chapter 6- Task A5:	Testing the Plan's Strategic Planning Objectives.

PROGRAMME

1.22. This report will be circulated to statutory consultees who will be given five weeks to submit a formal response. This document will be revised based on comments received and used to inform the SA of Issues and Options.

1.23. The draft final SA report will accompany the Core Strategy which will then be circulated for consultation, following the timetable indicated in the revised Local Development Scheme.

1.24. Alterations arising from the objections to the SA and Suggested Changes will be considered in parallel. Key issues relating to significant sustainability effects arising from objections to the Core Strategy will be considered in the SA.

2. SA METHOD

INTRODUCTION

2.1. The Scoping Report of the emerging Core Strategy has been undertaken in line with ODPM's SA Guidance[4] for planning authorities which seeks to meet the requirement of both the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 and the SEA Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC). This report therefore considers both the required elements of an "*Environmental Report*" (in accordance with the SEA Directive) as well as Regulations covering a wider approach, responding to social and economic issues.

SA METHOD

2.2. ODPM's SA guidance introduces the SA process and explains how to carry out SA as an integral part of the plan-making process. **Table 2.1** sets out the main stages of the plan making process and shows how these link to the SA process.

Table 2.1 Incorporating SA within the DPD Process (from SA Guidance, ODPM 2005)

Stages and tasks	Purpose
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	
A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives	To document how the plan is affected by outside factors and suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed
A2: Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for sustainability issues, effects prediction and monitoring
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems	To help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent stages, including baseline information analysis, setting of the SA Framework, prediction of effects and monitoring
A4: Developing the SA Framework	To provide a means by which the sustainability of the plan can be appraised
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA	To consult with statutory bodies with social, environmental, or economic responsibilities to ensure the appraisal covers the key sustainability issues
Stage B: Developing and refining options	
B1: Testing the DPDs' objectives against the SA Framework	To ensure that the overall objectives of the plan are in accordance with sustainability principles
B2: Developing the DPDs' options	Provide a suitable framework for developing options
B3: Predicting the effects of the DPDs	To predict the significant effects of the DPDs and DPD options
B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPDs	To assess the significance of the predicted effects of the plan and plan options and assist in the refinement of the plan

[4] Sustainability Appraisals of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks, Consultation Paper, ODPM, September 2004.

Stages and tasks	Purpose
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects of the DPDs	To ensure all potential mitigation measures and measures for maximising beneficial effects are considered and as a result residual effects identified
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs	To detail the means by which the sustainability performance of the plan can be assessed
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
C1: Preparing the SA Report	To provide a detailed account of the SA process, including the findings of the appraisal and how it influenced the development of the plan, in a format suitable for public consultation and decision-makers
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPDs and SA Report	
D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPDs and the SA Report	To provide the public and statutory bodies with an effective opportunity to express their opinions on the preferred options of the DPDs and SA Report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the plan
D2: Appraising significant changes	To ensure that any significant changes to the plan are assessed for their sustainability implications and influence the revision of the plan
D3 Making decisions and providing information	To provide information on how the SA Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in preparing the plan
Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the plan	
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring	To measure the sustainability performance of the plan in order to determine whether its effects are as anticipated, and thereby inform future revisions
E2: Responding to adverse effects	Ensure that the adverse effects can be identified and appropriate responses developed

Please note that following Government Guidance issued in November 2005, Stage B relating to the preparation of an Initial Sustainability Appraisal report as outlined in ODPM's SA Guidance[5] is no longer required and forms part of the SA report. However, an appraisal of the Issues and Options paper will be undertaken, and used to inform the development of the Preferred Options and final SA Report.

2.3. This scoping report covers Tasks A1 to B1 of the SA process shown above. It will inform a broad appraisal of the issues and options and the preparation of a draft final SA report (Stage B and C) which will be prepared alongside the Preferred Options report. These documents will be circulated for consultation enabling a period for representations on both the SA and draft Core Strategy, prior to examination and adoption. Alterations arising from the objections to the SA and Suggested Changes will be considered in parallel.

2.4. Below is an indicative structure of the final SA report. The report will include a detailed account of the SA process, outline the findings of the appraisal and suggested

[5] Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks, Consultation Paper, ODPM, September 2004

changes to the Preferred Options reports in a format suitable for public consultation and use by decision makers.

Box 2.1: Indicative Structure for the Sustainability Appraisal Report (Core Strategy

List of Components making up the Report:	
Non Technical Summary	
Chapter 1	Introduction and outcomes
Chapter 2	Appraisal methodology
Chapter 3	Background
Chapter 4	Sustainability objectives, baseline and context
Chapter 5	Appraisal of Core Strategy issues and options
Chapter 6	Appraisal of Core Strategy preferred policies and proposals
Chapter 7	Implementation/Monitoring

2.5. The SA process is iterative, ongoing and cyclic rather than sequential. Policies, objectives and proposals will be re-examined in the light of new information at each stage.

WHO WAS CONSULTED, HOW AND WHEN?

First Draft Scoping Report

2.6. The first draft of the Scoping Report which covered both the LDF and Management Plan was issued in June 2005 for consultation to various stakeholders and the following statutory consultees; English Nature, Countryside Agency, The Environment Agency and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage). These responses are summarised below in **Appendix 6.**

2.7. The Scoping Report was also posted on the National Park website www.peakdistrict.gov.uk to enable the public to contribute. The Sustainability Objectives in the June 2005 Scoping Report were considerably refined since its publication.

2.8. Following the preparation of a first draft scoping report a stakeholder presentation was held in October 2005 to present the findings of early appraisals of options and feedback from the scoping work. The presentation covered:

- Early decisions on progress;
- evolution of sustainability objectives;
- preparing the SA method;
- baseline data and the link to the AMR;
- undertaking the appraisals;
- analysing the results; and
- issues arising from these processes

Second Draft Scoping Report

2.9. This Second Draft SA Scoping Report will be issued for consultation to the Statutory Consultees, Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, by mid May, 2008. Comments received from the consultees will be analysed and any

necessary changes made to the Scoping Report. An appendix will also accompany the SA report detailing how consultation responses have been incorporated in to the SA.

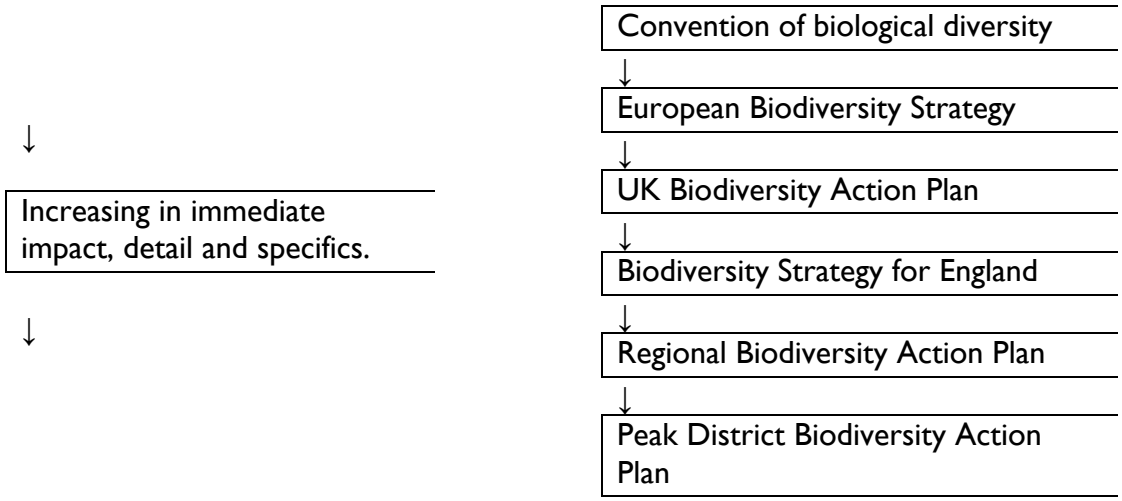
3. POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

3.1. A review has been undertaken of other plans, programmes and objectives relevant to the Core Strategy at an international, national, regional and local level. This review has supplemented an initial study undertaken as part of the first draft scoping report, June 2005. Conclusions drawn from this section alongside a review of baseline data, trends and issues outlined in chapter 4 have informed the development of the SA Objectives see **Appendix 1**.

3.2. There is a wide range of international and EU legislation, Directives and Action Plans relating to commitments to sustainable development and environmental standards. These, when transposed into national legislation set mandatory standards and place obligations on Member States and, in particular, the requirement for the integration of strategic policies and programmes at local level.

3.3. National and regional documents provide additional mandatory requirements and guidance for authorities. Sub regionally and locally the Core Strategy must integrate with a multitude of established policy documents. Regional, sub regional and local documents usually becoming more specific for the Peak District National Park Authority as this hierarchy descends (an example for biodiversity is given in **Figure 3.1**).

Figure 3.1: PPPs for Biodiversity – an example of the hierarchy



3.4. The aim in this section is to concentrate on key Policies, Plans and Programmes and from these gain essential, relevant information. Inevitably new policies, plans and programmes will be created during the course of preparing the SA, and therefore where relevant the SA as it emerges will be updated as necessary.

3.5. Documents which were reviewed included the following:

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

UNESCO World Heritage Convention, Budapest	UNESCO	1972
European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe Treaty 176	Council of Europe	2000
European Spatial Development Perspective: Towards Balanced and Spatial Development of the Territory of the EU	European Commission	1999
The Directive on Waste Incineration (2000/76/EC)	European Commission	2000

NATIONAL

Title	Author	Date
Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy	UK Government	2005
Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper	UK Government	2007
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act	UK Government	2006
Meeting the Energy Challenge: A White Paper on Energy, CM7124	DTI	2007
Draft Climate Change Bill, Cm 7040	UK Government	2007
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, Cm 7057	UK Government, DCMS, Welsh Assembly Government	2007
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	Defra	2007
England Biodiversity Strategy: Towards Adaptation to Climate Change	Defra	2007
The First Soil Action Plan for England: 2004-2006	Defra	2004
Climate Change and the Historic Environment	English Heritage	2006
The Historic Environment: a Force for Our Future	DCMS	2001
Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990	UK Government	1990
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	UK Government	1979
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering	DCLG	2005

Title	Author	Date
Sustainable Development		
Planning Policy Statement 1: Draft Supplement Planning and Climate Change	DCLG	2007
Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing,	DCLG	2006
Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	ODPM (now DCLG)	2004
Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	DCLG	2005
Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A Guide to Good Practice	ODPM, Defra, English Nature	2006
Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	ODPM (now DCLG)	2005
Planning for Sustainable Waste Management : A Companion Guide to PPS10	DCLG	2006
Minerals Planning Statement 1: Planning and Minerals	DCLG	2006
Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport	DTLR (now DCLG)	2001
Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment	ODPM (now DCLG)	1994
Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning	DTLR	1990
Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open space, Sport and Recreation	ODPM (now DCLG)	2002
Planning Policy Guidance 22: Renewable Energy	ODPM (now DCLG)	2003
Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk	DCLG	2006
Development and Flood Risk: A Practice Guide Companion to PPS25 ‘Living Draft’, A Consultation Paper	DCLG	2007
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism	DCLG	2006

REGIONAL LEVEL

Title	Author	Date
Integrated Regional Strategy	EMRA	2005
East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy	EMRA	2005
Draft East Midlands Regional Plan (RRS8)	EMRA	2006
Sustainability Appraisal of Draft East Midlands Regional Plan	EMRA	2006
Regional Economic Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2009 “A Flourishing Region”	EMDA	2006
The North West Plan, Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West	NWRA	2006

Title	Author	Date
Draft Yorkshire and Humber Plan	YHRA	2005
Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands	WMRA	2008
East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy	EMRA	2006
The East Midlands Energy Challenge, The Regional Energy Strategy (Part 2), A Framework for Action	GOEM, EMRA	2007
East Midlands Regional Flood Risk Assessment	EMRA	2006
Spatial Review of Water Supply and Quality in the East Midlands, Final Study Report	Environment Agency	2006
Green Infrastructure in the East Midlands: A Public Benefit Mapping Project	EMRA	2006
Putting Wildlife Back on the Map: The East Midlands Biodiversity Strategy	East Midlands Biodiversity Forum and EMRA	2006
Improving Health in the East Midlands, Keeping Health in Mind, Report of the Regional Director of Public Health in the East Midlands, Summary of Recommendations	EMRA	2006
A Regional Cultural Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2011:The Place of Choice	EMRA	2006
Space4trees, The Regional Forestry Framework for the East Midlands	Forestry Commission	2005
Employment Skills and Productivity Partnerships Action Plan	EMDA	2007
South Pennines Integrated Transport Strategy (SPITS), (Appendix A6 of Derby Joint LTP 2006-2011, Final LTP2)	Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council	2006
English Heritage in the East Midlands 2006-2008 (2006), English Heritage	English Heritage	2006

COUNTY/LOCAL LEVEL

Title	Author	Date
Derbyshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, and Derby Joint Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, Final LTP2	Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council	2006
Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011	Staffordshire County Council	2006
North Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/7-2010/11	Staffordshire County Council, and Stoke on Trent City Council	2006
Cheshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011	Cheshire County Council	2006
Derby and Derbyshire Waste Local Plan	Derbyshire County	2005

Title	Author	Date
(2005) (Revised Deposit)	Council, Derby City Council	
Derbyshire Dales Local Plan; High Peak & Derbyshire Dales Joint Affordable Housing DPD – Issues and Option Consultation	Derbyshire Dales District Council	2005, 2007
High Peak Local Plan; High Peak Borough Core Strategy Consultation 'Shaping the Future of High Peak Discussion Paper'	High Peak Borough Council	2005, 2007
Sheffield Unitary Development Plan; Core Strategy Submission Version	Sheffield City Council	1998, 2007
Barnsley Unitary Development Plan	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	2000
North East Derbyshire District Local Plan, adopted Nov. 2005; Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation	North East Derbyshire District Council	2005, 2007
Staffordshire Moorlands DC Local Plan adopted 1998; Issues and Options Consultation Summary Paper	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	1998, 2007
Oldham Borough Local Plan, adopted July 2006; Issues and Options Consultation document; adopted Renewable Energy SPD	Oldham Borough Council	2006, 2007, 2008
Kirklees Local Development Framework Scheme	Kirklees Metropolitan Council	2007
Macclesfield Borough Local Plan, adopted January 2004; Core Strategy Revised Issues and Options Consultation	Macclesfield Borough Council	2004, 2007

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

Title	Author	Date
Population projections	University of Manchester	2006
Dales and High Peak Strategic Housing Needs Survey	John Herrington and Associates	2007
Peak District Annual Housing Report	PDNPA	2007
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for LDF Level 1, Vol. 1	Derbyshire Dales DC, High Peak BC, Peak District NPA	Draft March 2008
Peak District Landscape Character Assessment	Peak District NPA	March 2008

3.6. The findings of the review of relevant plans will be most useful for the Authority officers to ensure the Core Strategy accords with the objectives and requirements of the relevant national, regional and local policy guidance, plans and strategies. The main objectives and targets set in the reviewed documents that officers will need to bear in mind are set out in Appendix 1.

4. BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS, TRENDS AND KEY ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

4.1. The SEA Directive requires the provision of information on "*relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution therefore without implementation of the plan or programme*".[6] Collation of existing environmental and sustainability data has helped to identify the sustainability issues that are facing the National Park, and has set the context for appraising the Core Strategy. Data is presented in **Table 4.1** under the headings of environment, social, economic and prudent use of resources identifies the baseline characteristics, trends and issues. It must be recognised that many issues identified under these headings are cross-cutting.

BASELINE DATA, TRENDS AND ISSUES

Data Sources

4.2. Most of the baseline data has been drawn from the State of the Park Report, recent scoping report on the Design Guide and emerging evidence reports which are being prepared over the course of next few months:

- Strategic Housing Needs Survey (complete)
- Population projections (complete)
- Landscape Character Assessment (complete)
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (complete)
- Gypsy and Traveller Study (complete)
- Employment Land review
- Transport Study
- Open Space
- Climate Change Study
- Housing Market Assessment
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
- Retail Study

Information has been supported by discussions with the Peak District National Park Authority staff.

SITUATION WITHOUT THE LDF

4.3. The current policy framework for the Peak District National Park is the statutory Development Plan, which is composed of two parts:

- The Structure Plan, and
- The Local Plan

[6] Directive 2001/42/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, Official Journal, 2001

The Structure Plan set out the Park's land-use strategy for 10 to 15 years ahead, and is now due for replacement. The Structure Plan outlined the basic directions and policies, taking into account key local issues and trends, Government policy and the policies of neighbouring authorities. The Local Plan, adopted in 2001 was required to conform with, and help implement, the strategy put forward in the Structure Plan. Legislation covering the change over to the new Development Plan system required the National Park to save a number of the structure and local plan policies beyond September 2007. Saved policies are valid until the Structure Plan and Local Plan have been fully replaced by the Local Development Framework documents. The following Supplementary Planning Guidance has also been adopted:

- Meeting the need for affordable housing (2003)
- Energy: renewables and conservation (2003)
- Agricultural developments (2003)
- A new Peak District Design Guide SPD was adopted in 2007

4.4. Without the development of a new planning policy framework represented by the Local Development Framework and other Local Development Document the planning policy context for the Peak District National Park would continue to apply. A number of likely implications of continuing the existing policy framework for the future of the National Park have been outlined below:

- ***Legislation* and national policy** – While many important principles established in the Structure Plan continue to be directly relevant some aspects of the plan are now outdated and do not accurately correspond to current legislation or national policy guidance. In particular the Structure Plan was written before the Environment Act 1995.

- ***Evidence base*** – the evidence contained within the Structure Plan and Local Plan is between 7 and 14 years old. Therefore, current policies are based on outdated information. A new policy framework, based on updated evidence is therefore required to ensure that development is directed in the most sustainable and appropriate way in accordance with current objectives and targets.

- ***Regional Spatial Strategy*** – without new policies, it is unlikely that the National Park would adequately contribute towards the targets of the East Midlands RSS, including those related to energy and waste and Minerals Apportionments.

- ***Consultation*** – The new LDF is also needed to provide "*full and fair opportunities for public consultation and community engagement*" in accordance with the UK Governments Sustainable Development Strategy (2007).

- ***Biodiversity*** – data on biodiversity status and priorities for conservation would not be updated and policies would therefore fail to respond effectively to the needs of threatened species and habitats or the indicators and targets contained in the Regional Environment Strategy.

- ***Energy and climate change*** – Changes in technologies, targets and legislation, mean that the current policy context is unlikely to be adequate to meet the requirements for renewable energy provision in the National Park. In particular,

the Energy SPG is now five years old and fails to address the targets of the UK Energy White Paper. Therefore, in the absence of new policies, the National Park would be unlikely to provide an adequate contribution to the UK target of reducing CO2 emissions by between 26 and 32% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

- ***Economic*** – the new plan will need to take into account the current economic position as set out in the commissioned Employment Land Review to help understand how best to react to the changing economic needs of the National Park. In particular, the Plan needs to create a policy environment which is compatible with the changing nature of agriculture, mining and quarrying and tourism whilst prioritising the conservation aims of the National Park. new policies will need to consider the scope for encouraging sustainable travel to work patterns (including home working), provision of adequate and appropriate levels of employment land, and the ability to take advantage of new technologies and business models (e.g. retail, logistics and IT) . In addition, new policies will need to consider the changes in agriculture and forestry and their potential role in meeting bioenergy targets and the economic benefits that this represents. Without a new set of policies to address this negative demographic trends and unemployment are likely to continue/increase.

- ***Housing*** – between 2001 and 2016 population is likely to fall by around 6%, working age population will fall by around 29% and the population aged 60 years and over will rise by around 47%. However, the overall level of housing completions is also forecasted to fall as mills available for conversion become fewer in number. If present trends and forecasts continue the numbers of affordable housing completed will be a greater proportion of the overall numbers of housing permitted.

- ***Transport*** – Traffic has increased since the last plan, and failure to adopt new transport policies would therefore, miss opportunities to address transport according to current local requirements. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) gives powers to National Park Authorities to make traffic regulation orders to close routes, or to introduce speed restrictions, where unacceptable damage is being done by vehicular pressures.

- ***Waste*** – As a result of changes in technology and legislation since the adoption of the Structure Plan and Local Plan, the current policy framework would be inadequate. In particular, current National Park policy fails to correspond to the EC Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) and recycling targets.

- ***Flooding*** – Existing policy also does not take into account the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2008), and could therefore new direct development according to outdated or inadequate information, leading to flood impacts.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
Environment			
Landscape Character	The National Park extends over 143,830ha of gritstone moorland and edges, limestone upland and dales. The Landscape Character Assessment highlights that the National Park and its surrounding area has been divided into a series of eight Regional Character Areas representing broad tracts of landscape which share common characteristics. The three main character areas are Dark Peak, the White Peak and the South West Peak. This includes broad open moorlands, more intimate enclosed farmlands and wooded valleys. The landscapes have been shaped by variations in geology and landform and the long settlement and use. A variety of other habitats such as hay meadows, limestone heath, lead rakes and dew ponds are also important at a national level, and contribute to the landscape character. Linear features (1991 stats) include: 8,756km of drystone walls and banks; and 1,710km of hedgerows Nearly all of the land in the Peak Park is privately owned. Some of the farms may not be owned by farmers, but by other landowners including the National Trust and the Water Companies.	Under present conditions it is likely that moorland condition will continue to decline due to over-grazing, inappropriate moorland burning and air pollution.	Private ownership of land can restrict landscape and biodiversity improvements. Over-grazing and inappropriate moorland burning can lead to loss of habitat and negatively affect the landscape.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
Biodiversity	Conservation designations: • Natura 2000 sites account for 33% of the Park covering 47,022 ha; • Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) cover 35% (50,000 ha; • Dovedale National Nature Reserve accounts for 0.25% (356 ha); • Environmentally Sensitive Areas cover 74,788ha. 72% of the SSSIs are in unfavourable condition (2003), compared to 4% nationally, and approximately 61% of all upland SSSIs.	Several species are already extinct within the National Park, including the black grouse, dormouse and lady's slipper orchid. Due to loss of habitat, some once common birds are now in rapid decline, including the skylark, song thrush and grey partridge. Protected species procedures (PPS9) are reported to be working well and are considered to be making a significant contribution to bat conservation. Wildlife may be disturbed by the level of use on some of the 32,143ha of moorland that are open to the public. Moorland birds (and sandpipers on the banks of streams and reservoirs) nest and roost on the ground and are therefore especially sensitive to people passing by. Orienteering, mountain biking and hang gliding are likely to cause unexpected disturbance.	Additional species to those identified will continue decline, or become extinct. Permanent alternations to the weather will also contribute to changes to the landscape, rare habitats and species. Those on the edge of their range within the Park may decline, degrade or disappear (such as peat bogs and Jacob's Ladder) and be replaced by others. Moorland condition affecting biodiversity will continue to decline due to over-grazing, inappropriate moorland burning and air pollution. Improved grassland (where fertilisers and herbicides are used) will also affect biodiversity. Disturbance by recreational use and human activity is also a concern for some species and habitats. The loss of surface remains

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
			referred to under the historic environment is also having a negative impact on ecological communities.
Geology	There are three main types of rocks underlying the National Park: - Limestone, in the south and centre of the Park, forming the White Peak; Millstone Grit, forming a horseshoe shape around the Park, which is called the Dark Peak; Shale, a softer rock which lies at the foot of the Millstone Grit edges and forms the fertile valleys of the Park.	Permanent alterations to the weather may contribute to changes to the underlying geology.	Extant permissions for mineral operations could also be a threat.
Historic Environment	Within the National Park there are 457 Scheduled Monuments including Arbor Low stone circle and Mam Tor hill fort. There are 109 Conservation Areas, and a total of 2,897 listed buildings, of these: Grade 1 = 49 Grade II* = 105 Grade II = 2,745 Currently only 44% of the National Park archaeological features have been surveyed. The National Park includes a number of registered historic parks and gardens including Chatsworth House and Haddon Hall.	222 listed buildings are 'at risk' (7.3% of the Listed Building stock), without funding, this number will continue to rise as more fall into disrepair than are rescued. Around 59% of the National Park remains unsurveyed for its archaeological content and the condition of known archaeological features in the Park are not monitored.	The conservation of the landscape can be threatened by the trend towards larger fields, post and wire fences. It is also reliant on Environmental Stewardship agreements with farmers to protect the historic environment. A survey of lead mine surface remains has shown a dramatic loss of leadmine waste hillocks and associated features (since World War II) due to removal through agricultural and

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
			industrial purposes. A further issue identified by the PDNPA is the need to achieve a balance between enabling settlements to develop and maintaining their local character reflecting in particular the historic environment for instance recognition needs to be given to the key differences between settlements on the limestone plateau and gridstone. Over grazing of moorland discussed above also has an impact on archaeology.
Climate change	The National Park's location and altitude of between 100m and 623m above sea level dictates the climate. This means there is higher rainfall, lower temperature and lower sunshine hours overall than the average for England and Wales.	From 1993 to 2003 on average, the Peak District experienced less rain, more hours of sunshine, higher temperatures and lower wind speeds, compared to the average for 1961 to 1990, indicating a warmer, calmer environment. There has also been a fluctuation in the annual rainfall during 1998 to 2003. Climate change predictions from	Increased temperatures and changes in the weather will affect the economy of the National Park, particularly farming and tourism. Permanent alterations to the weather will cause changes to the landscape, rare habitats and species of the Peak District. There will be more frequent

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
		April 2002 (Environment Agency) suggest that England's temperature could rise between 2^{o} and 3.5^{o} by 2080, and by up to 3^{o} by 2100 in the East Midlands. According to the SFRA, this could lead to the following effects: • The current Flood Zone 2 (1 in 1000 year return period) will, over a period of 50 to 100 years, become Flood Zone 3 (1 in 100 year return period) • The current Flood Zone 3a (1 in 100 year return period) will become Flood Zone 3b, functional flood plain (1 in 20 year return period)	moorland fires due to drier summers and flooding, from higher rainfall in winter.
Air quality	Air pollution is within allowable limits and many pollutants have reduced in the last five years. Nationally NO_2 emissions declined by 13% between 1970 and 1996, but between 1996 and 2000 NO_2 levels increased significantly at Bakewell, Baslow and Bradwell.	Nationally, the levels of main pollutants are declining, which is similar for the Park's overall monitoring sites overall. Poor air quality is the third biggest factor in degrading the quality of SSSIs. However, Acid Rain has affected	The quality of air within the Park is largely determined by the conditions from the surrounding areas outside, and by traffic. Certain weather conditions mean that cross-boundary and trans-country pollution occurs.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
		the Peak Park's moorlands for 200 years. Oxides of sulphur and nitrogen are emitted from factories and power stations and also from cars. These emissions particularly affect mosses and lichens and have been responsible for the decrease in sphagnum moss. Nitrogen Dioxide and PM_{10} emissions are likely to increase in relation to traffic growth on cross-Park routes. Other sources include large-scale combustion – this relates to the cement kiln at Hope Park and the deposition plume of a neighbouring power station.	Recent developments including incinerators and industrialised tyre burning are considered to require monitoring.
Noise and light pollution	The outline and area of the Park is clearly visible for its lack of light pollution. There is noise and general disturbance associated with mineral extraction operations at certain sites. For example, at Backdale complaints refer to operations commencing in the early hours of the morning (5:00am) working a 13 hour day, and over the weekend. Various forms of motor sports are also practised in the National Park, but the Authority's policy is to discourage	Levels of tranquillity in the National Park remain good. However, noise and light pollution in rural areas are increasing gradually across the country and this may continue within the National Park under gradual development pressure.	Noise is associated with transport movements and mineral extraction operations as well as quarry industry vehicle movements, cross park transport movements and motor sports.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	these as they can cause damage to the landscape, intrusive noise and pollution to air or water.		
Social			
Population	The National Park's resident population has remained at around 38,000 over the past decade. It is an ageing population and the average age is 43 years (compared to a national average of 38.6). • 18% of the population are aged under 16 years • 73% are aged 16-74 years • 9% are aged 75 and over • Less than 1% are from ethnic minority groups • There are 0.26 people per hectare compared to the national average of 3.77	When the anomalous large sites are excluded, the residual level of housing completions (48 per annum) is likely to lead to a population decline and changes in the population structure, with 47% of the population aged 60 and over in 2026, and 20% aged 75 and over. The *Annual Monitoring Report* (2006/07) estimates that between 2001 and 2026 the likely scenario is that the population of the Park will fall by around 6%; the working age population will fall by around 29%; and the population aged 60 years will rise by around 47%.	Rural isolation, market conditions and small populations may result in the loss of vital services that keep village communities alive. Decline and ageing of the National Park's population will also affect the demographic make up of communities in certain areas. Findings show that a doubling of the building rate (e.g. to around 95 per year, might stabilise the population level but would also increase the overall numbers of elderly. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that this level of development can stabilise local service provision, i.e. make shops, post offices and schools which are more affected by local

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
			political, and commercial drivers. In constrained rural areas therefore the conclusion is that it is not possible to 'build your way' out of the problem : this would take so much development that it would be incompatible with the statutory National Park purposes. Policy will need to consider how best to tackle these issues in the context of National Park constraint.
Housing	The Derbyshire Structure Plan allowed for 1,000 new dwellings to be built during the Plan period 1991 to 2006 through a mixture of new build/conversions to meet local need. 1,512 dwellings were completed between 1991/92 and 2006/07 (one and a half times the 1,000 identified). A Housing Needs survey (2006/07) identifies that in Derbyshire Dales and High Peak the suggested thresholds for affordable housing should be based on an area-wide target: **An area-wide target** of 248 pa affordable homes over the next 5 years in the Peak sub-region. This number represents: • 70% of the anticipated capacity of sites without planning permission	Recent population projections (2007) indicate that population numbers will fall unless around 95 dwellings a year are provided.	High house prices are one of the reasons for young people moving to other areas, this is also affected by the gap between wages and house prices. A large number of open market housing completions resulted from the change of use of large disused mills. There are now fewer in existence, so completion rates will fall. If present trends and forecasts

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	and above the 15 threshold over the period 2006/7- 2010/11. 248 represent 41% of the overall requirement under the most favourable economic conditions (Table 12.2) • A target of 200 pa affordable homes on allocated and windfall sites in the urban areas. 200 is based on the survey evidence that the urban areas account for approximately 80% of the forecast shortfall (see Table 8.6a) • A target of 48 pa affordable homes on allocated sites and exception sites in the rural areas with 32 pa of these in the National Park. 48 is based on the survey evidence that the rural areas account for approximately 20% of the forecast shortfall – (see Table 8.6a)		continue there will be less affordable housing completed than anticipated in the Structure Plan, but all other housing types will be well above. The annual housing report shows that over the last 5 years there are 130 commitments for local needs housing, whereas in the previous 5 years there were only 32. While the overall number of units may fall as the larger brown field opportunities dry up, the proportion of commitments that are for local needs housing is expected to rise.
	Average household size has been decreasing in line with national trends, from 2.5 persons to 2.34 persons per household between 1991 and 2001. The number of households has risen to almost 16,000 (2001) and the number of household spaces is 17,196. The proportion of people living in the National Park owning their homes outright was much higher (42.9%) than England as a whole (29.2%, 2001). Around 4.1% of dwellings are second and holiday homes (compared to 0.6% nationally). The latest Housing Needs Survey (2007) indicates that 26.1% of households in the rural areas were found to be living in problem housing. The Peak National Park Authority areas within High Peak Borough and Derbyshire Dales District have the highest number and		

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	proportion of households in problem housing.		
Access to services	Village services continue to decline with shops, post offices, pubs and banks closing. The National Park has proportionally fewer services per parish than nationally. The number of supermarkets in and around the Park has almost doubled between 1995 and 2002. A Countryside Agency survey (2000) found that with the exception of doctor's surgeries, there were proportionally fewer services per parish than nationally. 7 parishes did not have any services, and a further 14 had only 1 service; 21 parishes (17%) did not have a scheduled bus service (similar to national average of 16%).	51 parishes have seen a loss of services since 1994, and this trend has been accelerating.	Smaller settlements will continue to find it difficult to sustain services required, and coupled with a falling (and increasingly elderly) population this will affect the labour supply and rural businesses, as well as affecting the costs of maintaining public services. But note the statistic about local supermarkets increasing in number. Policy will need to take into account the ability to access services, whether they are actually in the settlement or brought to it via mobile services, or by transport options taking people to the services.
Health	Just under one third of the population of 28,000 considered themselves to have a limiting long-term illness (similar to the national figure).	The Peak District is slightly better than the average in England, falling in the top 40% of authorities with the healthiest and least disabled	The effects of prolonged exposure to radon from underlying rock strata could increase the risks of lung cancer

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	Levels of radon are relatively high within the Peak District. Half the Park's parishes need full radon precautions, and a further fifth need secondary radon precautions to be incorporated into the design of new dwellings. There is a common commitment to healthy communities across the Community Strategies of constituent authorities that share the National Park area.	populations.	on the population.
Crime and Safety	The Peak District National Park tends to show less experience of crime with 89% of the Super Output Areas (Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2004) scoring between -1.2 and -0.2 indicating that there is little crime within the Park, compared to England as a whole.	Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 for National Park: Crime (April 2002-March 2003) Burglary (4 recorded crime) Theft (5 recorded) Criminal damage (10 recorded) Violence (15 recorded)	Maintaining low levels of crime
Education and Engagement	The National Park is surrounded by urban areas, and local authorities and voluntary groups such as Sheffield Black and Ethnic Environmental Network play a full role in the MOSAIC project. Losehill Hall, the Peak District National Park's Study Centre, provides a range of learning opportunities for people of all ages and encourages them to find out more about looking after the Peak District National Park. The	Government policy approaches seeks to encourage greater engagement with disabled, black and minority ethnic people and those living in areas of multiple deprivation, as well encouraging children to participate in outdoor activities in areas such as the	Encouraging and actively engaging with new audiences and children to participate in learning and outdoor activities.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	Education Service offers advice and information to schools, as well as organising educational visits for schools and colleges.	National Park.	
Tourism and recreation	The National Park is easily accessible to millions of people. In 1991, 32% of England's population lived within one hour's drive of the National Park. 85% of tourists arrive by car, and many continue to use their cars to tour around the National Park. Day visitors are the main type of visitor (77%) spending on average £3.30 per day, and those staying spend an average of £25.72 per day. Most visitors come from Derbyshire (14%), South Yorkshire (13%), Cheshire (12%) and the other Counties that are partly within the National Park. Over 60% of all recreational visits to the National Park are made during the months of May to September. In a typical summer week over 500,000 visits are made, while a typical low season week may have over 250,000 visits. Sundays are the busiest day. Gateways to the National Park (outside the Park itself) include Ashbourne, Buxton, Glossop, Matlock, Wirksworth and Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The level of farm-based holiday accommodation increased by 45% between 1991 and 2000, and is an	The increasing provision of holiday accommodation, particularly self-catering accommodation by conversion of traditional buildings on farms, is seen to have helped farm businesses to survive during the difficult times of BSE, Foot and Mouth, and changes in grant regimes. The Peak District 'brand' is considered one of the strongest in the East Midlands due to the beauty of the area. The Management Plan is seeking to shift the emphasis from passive to active recreation provision for visitors and local residents. This is to include active sports such as cycling, mountain biking, and canoeing in suitable locations.	To retain ease of access to the Park from surrounding areas for short day visits by encouraging sustainable forms of transport, as well as benefiting the local economy and tourism sector. Some activities threaten the 'wild' and more tranquil areas of the National Park which are valued for quiet enjoyment. Some of the most popular honeypot areas attract large numbers of visitors resulting in overcrowded car parks, blocked roads, and overstretched local facilities - particularly on summer Sundays.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	important part of rural regeneration.		
Rights of Way and Open Access	In total 52,432 ha of the National Park (37%) is open for public access. The CROW Act 2000 created a new right to access open country and in 2004 significant new areas of the Peak District were made available for open access. The Public Rights of Way include: Public Rights of Way (PROW) account for 2,459km Footpaths 2,136km Public Bridleways 293km, and other PROW 30km Routes suitable for wheelchairs have been developed; an adapted fishing platform has been provided at Ladybower.	A number of trails within the National Park pass along old railway lines and could be affected by future railway development. Some could be safeguarded for future schemes. The Park Recreation Forum alongside the Local Access Forum, the Stanage Forum and the Hope Valley Forum are tackling access issues arising including the use of trail bikes and off road vehicles, and a constructive way for all recreation interests to share views.	Many thousands of tourists hike over the moors, wearing away the sparse vegetation and exposing the bare soil (inc. peat) which is then subject to erosion.
Leisure and culture	The *Cultural Heritage Strategy* implemented through the Park Management Plan recognises the integral role people play in defining the cultural heritage of the area. Cultural traditions such as well dressing are an important part of local tradition. Other events include Victorian markets, Village in Bloom and Open Festivals.	The Peak District Annual Paper in 2002 advertised 820 events in 2003 (compared to 896 in 2002). The Peak District National Park Interpretation Team works with partners and local communities on projects that help people understand the environment and the rich cultural heritage of the Park. Interpretation panels, leaflets and	Young people in particular find it difficult living in isolated villages where there are fewer services and cultural activities available.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
		trails help to provide visitors with information.	
Economy			
Employment characteristics	The main employment for National Park residents is professional, managerial and administrative jobs (38%). 25% of residents are self-employed; 24% are employed in tourism and catering; 19% are employed in manufacturing; 12% of jobs are in agriculture, forestry and fishing; and 12% of jobs are in quarrying Unemployment rates are lower than nationally (1.9% in the Park compared to 3.3% nationally). Businesses in the Park tend to have fewer employees than regionally or nationally, and wages tend to be lower. Approximately half of the working population of the National Park commute out of the Park to work, and 4 out of 10 jobs in the Park are filled by workers living outside its boundaries. Tourism provides a third of all employment in the Park, but such jobs are often low paid, low skilled and seasonal by nature.	The traditional economic bases of farming, quarrying and manufacturing have suffered job losses in recent years. In 2001, mining and quarrying accounted for only 304 jobs, but over 3,000 people were working in agriculture. There has also been an increased reliance on seasonal employment as part of the tourist economy.	Increase in seasonal and part-time jobs as a proportion of Park employment, combined with loss of jobs in the traditional employment activities of farming, quarrying and manufacturing.
Transport and	The number of cars owned by residents continues to be	Traffic has increased on all roads	It will be necessary to encourage

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
access	higher than nationally, and is increasing. In 2001, 86% of households had access to a car or van compared with 73% in England. The number of vehicles per household rose to 1.5 in the Park compared with 1.1 nationally. The Park is at the hub of trans-Pennine routes linking the surrounding conurbations; this also generates additional commercial and business traffic on cross-Park journeys. A small number of significant industries have to transport locally derived products from the area – this applies to quarrying industry and farming.	around the Park and there are indications that average car occupancy is decreasing. The number of trains stopping within the Park at least once has increased, but scheduled buses have shown a slight decrease. The Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership aims to encourage the use of buses and trains within this valley.	environmentally sustainable modes of transport and to locate new development in places that minimise the need for additional journeys by private car. The retention of public transport services for people living within the Park and visitors is essential. Residents within the National Park want to see less traffic and signage within villages.
Market towns and villages and rural deprivation	There is only one settlement with a population of 3,000+ Bakewell, where 10% of the population of the National Park live. The remainder of the population live in the other small town of Tideswell and the 100 villages and hamlets. There are wards within both Derbyshire Dales District and High Peak Borough that qualify for Objective 2 funding. Characteristics of the National Park are low levels of unemployment, a high share of knowledge workers, a developing tourism sector, an iconic Peak District brand, attractive market towns and rural landscapes and a high quality of life.	A total of £7.639m has been made available to the Peak District Objective 2 Programme up until 2008. This is implemented through the Rural Action Zone which is made up of public, private and voluntary sector partners from across the wider Peak District (whole of Derbyshire Dales and High Peak, plus some parts of north and east Staffordshire.) A weakness of the local economy include a declining economic base, below regional average GDP per	The purpose of the RAZ is to stimulate economic development and regeneration activity within the wider Peak District to encourage economic development and regeneration to the area in order to create a 'high skills – high wage economy. There is a shortage of modern office accommodation and few appropriate development sites, combined with poor access to services, and poor road and rail connections.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
		head, below regional average activity rates amongst women and below regional average educational attainment.	
Prudent Use of Resources			
Agriculture and soils	In 2002 there were 2,555 agricultural holdings, 11% of these had no farmland attached. The average holding size was 57ha.	A move away from dairy farming, in favour of farms with cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. The number of cattle and sheep has declined by 10% between 2000 and 2002. Increase in agricultural holdings, but a decrease in their size. The National Park Hay Meadow Project found a 50% loss and an additional 26% decline in hay meadows between the mid 1980s and mid 1990s. A follow-up survey highlighted a further 25% loss/or decline in the quality of meadows with the greatest losses occurring in intensive dairy areas such as Peak	Many Peak farms are dependent on subsidies, therefore reviews of CAP and agri-environment schemes will also have significant effects. Biodiversity interests may be affected by a decline in hay meadow, pasture and rough grazing conservation. Policies on agricultural buildings are considered likely to have an effect on stock numbers and out-wintering of stock, and this may have adverse implications for hay meadow, pasture and rough grazing conservation. Private ownership of land can

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
		Forest.	restrict landscape and biodiversity improvements.
Woodlands	80 % of limestone ash wood habitat (ancient woodland and other semi-natural woodland sites) within the Peak District falls within SSSIs. The majority is also within the Peak District Dales cSAC. Approximately 625 ha (28 - 30%) of upland oakwoods are included within SSSIs. Several upland oakwoods are included within the South Pennine Moors cSAC. A number of oakwoods are identified as Wildlife Sites. The Peak Park Authority manages 480 hectares of woodland and is involved in encouraging others to manage their woodland. The Water Companies and Forest Enterprise (own large areas of coniferous woodland, mostly in water catchment areas).	The National Park BAP (2001) indicates trends for woodlands: Upland Mixed Ash Woodland (priority habitat) (approx 900 ha) moderate increase over last 200 years (2001). Upland Oakwood (priority habitat). 2050 – 2020 ha. Between 1909 and 1974 there was a loss of 8-68% in different areas. However, currently the extent is stable although the quality is gradually declining locally. Wet Woodland (priority habitat). Estimated at approximately 200 - 250 ha. Historical decline but currently stable. Lowland Wood-pasture and Parkland (priority habitat).	Maintaining favourable conditions for key woodland habitats through appropriate management regimes by working with private landowners and farmers.
Renewable energy	Only small installations are permitted in the National Park. In 2006/07 three domestic solar energy collectors and one domestic wind turbine were completed with a	It is likely that renewable energy schemes will continue to be based on small scale projects and	There is a need to encourage the use of renewable energies, and the conservation of energy in

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	total capacity of 24kW	bioenergy from agriculture and forestry.	homes and businesses.
Minerals and Quarrying	Many of the quarries and mines in the Peak District were operating before the area became a National Park. The National Park boundary was drawn so that it excluded many of the main limestone quarries in the Buxton area. There were 27 active surface workings on 1,273ha and 1 active underground working (170ha) recorded in 2007. A further 5 inactive surface workings, and 2 inactive underground workings were recorded, and 2 dormant surface workings, and 3 dormant underground workings (2007). Of the 27 active surface workings in October 2007, 5 quarried vein minerals, 11 quarried limestone, 10 quarried sandstone and one quarried shale. The total area covered by active sites was 1,274 ha. The total area covered by all sites – including both inactive sites and sites in the process of being restored on in aftercare – was 1,475 ha. This represents about 1% of the PDNP area. There was just one underground site in operation in 2007. **Limestone** from the Peak District is supplied to the East Midlands, North Western and Yorkshire regions. Today there are 11 active limestone quarries in the PDNP. The largest quarries are at Hope (owned by	The rate of limestone extraction rose from 1.5 million tonnes in 1951 to a peak of 8.2 million tonnes in 1991, but has since declined to around 4.7million tonnes in 1999/00. Changes in the industry towards greater efficiency continue (through company mergers/take-overs), with reduced employment and increases in extraction rates. In recent years there has been an upturn in sales of gritstone for dimensional/building stone uses. Reworking of lead spoil heaps associated with old workings is generating concern for conservation of valued cultural and national heritage features. Extraction is likely to persist in the National Park as some minerals are difficult to find elsewhere. However, this is likely to be at a lower scale as Minerals Authorities	Mineral extraction is traditional and important to the local economy but leaves scars on the landscape, and causes pollution and traffic congestion. The supply of local building and roofing stone to the repair of historic buildings and structures and for new buildings is an issue in the National Park and is being considered in the context of the Minerals Development Framework. The Peak District National Park Authority is to challenge a High Court ruling over its enforcement action to control the extent of limestone quarrying at Backdale on Longstone Edge

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	Lafarge Cement (UK) Ltd) and Tunstead/Old Moor (owned by Tarmac Central Ltd, trading as Buxton Lime Industries Ltd). Limestone is quarried for cement at Hope works. There are extensive permitted reserves at Hope and Tunstead/Old Moor. Limestone is also used for aggregate production. The East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS8) sets out the aggregate apportionment for each Authority. For the PDNP this is currently set at 66.9mt over the period 2001-2016, representing an annual rate of 4.18mt per annum. This figure is derived from the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party (EMAWP), which meets regularly to discuss aggregate production and related issues in the region. **Sandstone -** ten quarries extract sandstone mainly for use as building stone. The largest quarries are at Grindleford, Stanton Moor and Glossop. The stone is used in local buildings either for walls or as details such as cornerstones and quoins on limestone buildings. It is also used in other parts of the country, particularly for new build and restoration work on historic buildings. The PDNP has around 9mt of gritstone/sandstone permitted reserves. The permitted aggregate reserve for gritstone was around 183,000 tonnes at the end of 2006. **Vein Mineral Ore -** the PDNP is a major source of vein	are increasingly attempting to meet their apportionments from outside the Park boundary.	

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	mineral ore (including fluorspar, barytes, calcite and lead). About 400,000 tonnes of vein minerals are extracted each year. Most is processed at Cavendish Mill, near Stoney Middleton.		
Waste Planning	The quantity and variety of types of waste generated within the National Park are relatively low and limited when compared with the surrounding areas due to the Park's rural nature, economy and relatively low density of population. They are generally restricted to inert, domestic, commercial and industrial waste categories. In 2006/07 the National Park recorded the following achievements for waste management: • 18% of waste was recycled (3,551 tonnes); • 14% was composted or treated by anaerobic digestion (2,703 tonnes); • 4% (847 tonnes) was used to recover heat, power or other energy; • 63% was sent to landfills (12,264 tonnes)	There are fewer 'active waste disposal sites' in the Park now than in the past few years. There are also increasing numbers of unauthorised waste disposal sorting and/or treatment operations.	There will be increased levels of recycling required as councils are required to hit 'targets' for domestic recycling. There may be increased demand for locally sited recycling sites within villages.
Water and Flood Risk	River water quality is generally good or very good except at the lower end of Strines Dyke and on the River Wye, near Buxton sewage works' outflow. The River Derwent catchment contains 3 SACs and 1 SPA The South Pennine Moors – Dark Peak and the	In recent years the Environment Agency have explored scope for flood defence schemes along the River Wye through Bakewell and Ashford in the Water.	Threats to water quality are from farming practices that release chemicals that are harmful to wildlife into the water, and from flooding.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information			
Baseline Information		**Trends**	**Key Issues - (key characteristics significantly affected)**
	integrity of the moorland sites determines their capacity to hold water and contribute towards flood management. Many valleys are dammed and flooded to create reservoirs where water is stored to supply the towns and cities around the Peak Park (such as Leicester and Nottingham). There are 55 reservoirs of over 2 hectares in the National Park. These supply around 450 million litres of water a day. Percentage of rivers rated 'good' or 'fair' (2000) is 99.57% (Environment Agency) The River Derwent catchment contains 3 SACs and 1 SPA. The South Pennine Moors – Dark Peak and the integrity of the moorland sites determines their capacity to hold water and contribute towards flood management.	Problems have occurred at Stoney Middleton when a tailings dam burst flooding the village and closing the A623. A major flood event also occurred in 1989 in the Wildboarclough/Kettleshulme area.	

5. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

5.1. The development of SA Objectives is a recognised way in which environmental and other sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. ODPM's SA Guidance recommends that the objectives are developed in consultation with key stakeholders which has taken place during the two iterations of the scoping report. This chapter presents the draft SA Objectives and describes how they have been developed.

FIRST DRAFT SCOPING REPORT – JUNE 2005

5.2. The first draft scoping report, June 2005 presented the first SA Framework which consists of a set of SA objectives informed by *the State of the Park Report,* developing Annual Monitoring Reports and the result of consultations with representatives of other National Parks and constituent authorities. They were also informed by both national and regional guidance. It was considered that the SA Objectives fulfil the statutory purposes of the National Park.

5.3. The first draft SA Objectives are set out below in the context of National Park purposes and duty in order to maintain the emphasis on the special role that the National Park plays in society.

Suggested SA Objectives:

Conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage:

1. Landscapes including moorland, edge, valley, woodland, grassland and their history.
2. Clean air, soil and water
3. Wildness, remoteness and quietness.
4. Important or vulnerable habitats and species.
5. Biodiversity of habitats and species.
6. Geology and geomorphology
7. Historic and architectural character of buildings and settlements.
8. Archaeological heritage.
9. Cultural heritage including history, traditions, customs and literary associations.
10. Well designed, locally distinctive new development.
11. Use of local sourced stone and wood in buildings
12. Reduced impact of cars, road freight, and infrastructure including signs.

Promote understanding and enjoyment:

13. more access for all, including nearby urban populations
14. more "freedom to roam" in the countryside
15. more participation in a wider range of activities and experiences
16. more learning opportunities, information and interpretation
17. improved provision of information and interpretation'

Foster economic and social well-being:

18. New housing to help meet the local need for affordable homes
19. Better access to a good range of local centres, services and amenities
20. Less need to travel, particularly by car
21. Safe and healthy communities
22. Promote social inclusion and community involvement
23. Increase and improve jobs related to National Park purposes, including in tourism
24. Diversify employment in settlements
25. Encourage viable and diversified farming and forestry
26. More jobs in the countryside that are not related to farming, forestry or minerals
27. Improve learning and skills
28. Good road and rail provision
29. Ease of utility provision including gas / electricity / water / drainage and sewers / communications
30. Design and construction for renewable energy and conservation.

SECOND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT – APRIL 2008

5.4. The SA Objectives for the Core Strategy were refined following a review of the first scoping report in June 2007, a review of the SA Objectives in the Peak District Design Guide prepared in November 2006 and further consultations with statutory environmental consultees. The following draft SA Objectives are now proposed subject to further comments by statutory environmental consultees on issue of this report (see **Table 5.1)**. The objectives have been set out according to the National Park's purposes and duty.

5.5. **Table 5.1** shows the resulting draft framework for SA of the Core Strategy. This has four main components:

1. **High level sustainability objectives:** The objectives are the outcomes that the LDF should be seeking to achieve in relation to the various aspects of sustainable development**.**
2. **Sub objectives**: More specific objectives within the high level objectives.
3. **Criteria:** Issues to be considered alongside the objectives.
4. **Reference to previous SA Objectives:** The right hand column of the table indicates where relevant, links to the previous SA Objective either within the scoping report of the Core Strategy (CS) June 2005 or the Design Guide (DG) November 2006.

5.6. The SA Objectives were also checked against the SEA Directive to ensure that all issues detailed in Annex 1 were considered: "*biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors*".

5.7. A set of indicators was developed for each sustainability objective relating to the Design Guide so that the effects of the plans and policies can be monitored over time. A great deal of care has gone into ensuring that the indicators used are those most

likely to reflect changes contributed to significantly by LDF policies, although it is inevitable that external factors will also influence the indicators. Since the SA Objectives have now altered, work will be undertaken by the Peak District National Park to refine and add to the existing set of indicators see **Appendix 2**. It should be noted that these indicators should be considered as a starting point rather than the proposed final set of indicators.

Table 5.1: Revised SA Objectives

Headline Objective	Sub Objective	Criteria	Reference to previous SA Objectives
Conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage			
1. To protect, maintain and enhance the landscape and townscape of the National Park	1a To conserve and enhance landscapes including moorland, edge, valley, woodland, grassland and their history.	Will it protect areas of highest landscape quality?	SA Objective 1 (DG/CS)
		Will it protect key landscape features?	
		Will it promote/maintain an attractive and diverse landscape?	
	1b To protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	Will it achieve a high quality of design and construction? Will it promote/maintain an attractive and distinctive townscape?	
	1c To protect open spaces within settlements.	Will it retain valuable open space within settlements?	SA Objective 10 (DG)
2. To protect, enhance and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna and geological interests	2a To conserve and enhance designated nature conservation sites and vulnerable habitats and species.	Will it protect sites and habitats of nature conservation value, including NATURA 2000 sites, Ramsar Sites, SSSIs and other national and local designations?	SA Objective 2 and 3 (DG) / 4 and 5 (CS)
		Will it protect BAP priority species?	
		Will it protect nature conservation interests outside designated areas?	SA Objective 4 (DG)
		Will it generate opportunities for enhancement of habitats and biodiversity?	
	2b To protect geology and geomorphology.	Will it conserve and enhance geological interests, including RIGGS?	SA Objective 7 (DG)/(CS) 6
3. To preserve, protect and enhance the National Park's	3a To preserve and enhance sites, features, areas and	Will it preserve and protect scheduled and unscheduled archaeological sites and other designated and	SA Objective 8 (DG)/(CS) 8

Headline Objective	Sub Objective	Criteria	Reference to previous SA Objectives
historic and cultural environment	settings of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	undesignated historic assets?	
		Will it preserve and enhance the setting of key areas, features and sites of importance?	
		Will it avoid damaging or eroding the character of conservation areas?	SA Objective 8 (DG)/(CS) 7
		Will it preserve and enhance buildings and settlements, which contribute to the historical and architectural character of the National Park?	SA Objective 7 (DG)
		Will it result in the loss/deterioration of registered parks and gardens?	
		Will it respect the Park's cultural heritage? (e.g. history, traditions, customs and literary associations).	SA Objective 9 (CS)
4. To protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise and light pollution	4a To reduce air pollution.	Will air quality be improved?	SA Objective 5 (DG)/ (CS) 2
	4b To maintain and improve water quality and supply.	Will water be used efficiently and with care?	SA Objective 5 (DG)/ (CS) 2
		Will water quality be improved?	
	4c To maintain and improve soil quality.	Will it improve soil quality?	SA Objective 5 (DG)/ (CS) 2
		Will it remediate contaminated land?	
	4d To preserve remoteness and tranquillity.	Will noise and light levels reduce, particularly in relation to roads, industry and development?	SA Objective 6 (DG)/ (CS) 3
5. To minimise the consumption of natural resources	5a To safeguard mineral reserves for future generations and promote the reuse of secondary materials.	Will it prevent the sterilisation of mineral resources by development?	
		Will it ensure efficient/prudent use of mineral and other resources?	
	5b To reduce waste generation and disposal and increase recycling.	Will it result in a reduction in the amount of waste requiring treatment and disposal, and encourage recycling or EfW in line with the waste hierarchy?	
	5c To reduce water consumption.	Will it reduce water consumption?	

Headline Objective	Sub Objective	Criteria	Reference to previous SA Objectives
6. To develop a managed response of climate change	6a To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions?	SA Objective 11 (DG)
	6b To conserve and enhance carbon sinks within the Park.	Will it conserve and protect carbon sinks, such as peat and woodland?	SA Objective 11 (DG)
	6c To promote the use of renewable energy exploring innovative techniques.	Will it promote the use of alternative renewable energy?	SA Objective 30 (CS)
	6d To achieve efficient energy use.	Will it improve energy efficiency?	
	6e To ensure development is not at risk of flooding and will not increase flooding elsewhere.	Will it reduce the vulnerability to fluvial flooding?	
7. To achieve and promote sustainable land use and built development	7a To maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings.	Will it enable development to take place on brownfield land?	
		Will it encourage the conversion of existing buildings?	
	7b To consider sustainable construction in the design of development.	Will local materials be sourced?	SA Objective (CS) 11
		Will it seek to support sustainable design and construction techniques considering energy efficiency measures, water and waste conservation?	
		Will measures be considered to mitigate against health and safety concerns i.e. radon precautions?	
		Will it encourage sensitive design of road infrastructure? (E.g. reduced signage road markings, use of local materials and alternative traffic calming methods).	
	7d Spatial development to be focussed in settlements.	Will development be directed towards strategic settlements, before considering remote areas?	
Promote Understanding and Enjoyment for the understanding and enjoyment (of the Parks) by the public			

Headline Objective	Sub Objective	Criteria	Reference to previous SA Objectives
8. Increase understanding of the special qualities of the Park by target groups, young people (14-20 years); people from disadvantaged areas, with disabilities and from ethnic minority backgrounds	8a Increase learning opportunities, information and interpretation.	Will it address the sports and recreational needs of children and disadvantaged groups?	SA Objective (DG) 2/ (CS) 16
9. To promote access for all	9a Increase use of the National Park by under represented groups from surrounding urban areas.	Will target audiences be engaged, and will their requirements/aspirations be catered for?	SA Objective (DG)
	9b Manage the range of recreational activities so that all types of users can enjoy the Park and its special qualities.	Will it improve access to and provision of better quality formal and informal recreational opportunities?	SA Objective (DG) 3 (CS) 14
10. Promote good governance	10a To improve opportunities for participation in local action and decision making.	Will it empower all sections of the community to participate in decision-making and the impact of those decisions?	SA Objective (DG) 4/ (CS) 22
		Is there a framework for engagement with communities, including novel approaches to reach particular groups/sectors?	
	10b Raise partners awareness of National Park purposes.	Will it encourage partnership involvement and joint working with other sectors?	
Foster social and economic well-being of local communities			
11. To help meet local need for housing	11a To provide affordable /social housing which meets identified local need both in terms of quantity and type.	Will it provide housing that meets the needs of the young, elderly, local people and those on limited incomes?	SA Objective (DG) 1/(CS) 18
	11b To ensure housing in the	Will it provide high quality safe, secure housing?	SA Objective (CS) 21

Headline Objective	Sub Objective	Criteria	Reference to previous SA Objectives
	National Park is appropriate in terms of quality, safety and security.		
	11c To ensure that new housing is located appropriately in terms of employment and services.	Will it provide levels of housing consistent with local employment opportunities and carrying capacities of services and infrastructure?	
		Will it provide housing which is located appropriately in terms of local employment and services?	
12. Encourage better access to a range of local centres, services and amenities	12a To improve access to and retention of schools, shops, post offices, pubs and GPs in order to support local need	Does it improve access to healthcare?	SA Objective (DG) 2 / (CS) 19
		Will it support the provision and retention of key facilities and services ensuring that local needs are met locally wherever possible?	
	12b To improve access to and retention of countryside, parks, open space and formal leisure and recreation facilities	Will it improve access to community facilities and services?	
	12d To increase opportunities for skills development and access to education and training	Will it provide improved access to vocational training, education and skills for young people?	SA Objective (CS) 27
13. Promote a healthy Park wide economy	13a To encourage a viable and diversified farming and forestry industry	Will it support the changing needs of agriculture and forestry including diversification?	SA Objective (DG) 3 and (CS) 23,24,25, and 26
	13b To increase and improve jobs related to National Parks purposes including tourism	Will it encourage sustainable tourism?	
		Will it improve the quality of jobs tourism in the tourism sector, and reduce seasonal dependence?	
		Will it offer alternative opportunities for employment, to offset declining minerals activity?	

Headline Objective	Sub Objective	Criteria	Reference to previous SA Objectives
	13c To encourage business growth	Will it continue to support high levels of self employment?	
		Will it encourage and support existing local business?	
		Will it attract new businesses?	
14. To reduce road traffic (especially private cars and freight), traffic congestion and improve safety, health and air quality by reducing the need to travel, especially by car	14a To promote the provision of public transport	Will it promote sustainable forms of transport (public transport including bus and rail, cycle and pedestrian routes) and ensure that the necessary associated infrastructure is made available?	SA Objective 12 and 4 (DG)/ (CS) 12, 20 and 28
	14b To increase opportunities for walking and cycling	Will it reduce traffic congestion by promoting alternative modes of transport?	
	14c To reduce levels of traffic congestion	Will it minimise the need to travel - balancing homes and jobs?	

*Note DG refers to SA Objectives drawn from the SA of the Design Guide, November 2006

6. TESTING THE SA OBJECTIVES

6.1. The Draft Spatial Objectives for the Core Strategy were tested against the SA Objectives, to determine whether they are consistent. Since the scoping report has been revised this section presents the initial conclusions from the first draft scoping report June 2005 and the findings of an appraisal of revised SA Objectives. Detailed matrices of both appraisals are included in **Appendix 3 and 4.**

FIRST DRAFT SCOPING REPORT – JUNE 2005

6.2. The SA Objectives were tested against each other using a compatibility matrix. A simple scoring system or performance measure was used. The SA Objectives themselves must be reasonably compatible if sustainability is to be achieved and wasted or contradictory effort avoided.

6.3. A second exercise reviewed the plan objectives against the SA Objectives. The Plan Objectives were taken from the saved policies of the current development plan which includes the adopted Structure and Local Plans (the latter having undergone an Environmental Appraisal). A compatibility matrix was prepared to predict and analyse potential conflicts between key land use policies. The completed Matrices from this exercise demonstrate where areas of incompatibility or uncertainty were identified. These have been reproduced in **Appendix 3**.

SECOND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT – APRIL 2008

6.4. Both the Plan Objectives and the SA Objectives have been subject to significant revision since the first draft SA Scoping Report was produced. It therefore has been necessary for the Second Draft Scoping Report to carry out a second compatibility matrix comparing the latest version of the Plan Objectives (Issues and Options, 2007) with the SA Objectives of this Second Draft Scoping Report. The exercise concluded that the SA Objectives provide a robust platform for the analysis of policies. However, a number of issues were identified in the analysis in relation to the Plan Objectives and recommendations have been outlined in **Table 6.1** below.

Table 6.1 Recommendations: Appraisal of Plan Objectives against SA Objectives

Plan Spatial Objectives	Recommendations
1. 1 Climate change	
Policies and decisions on development recognise the role the National Park plays in global terms by conserving and enhancing a high quality landscape, including wildlife and cultural heritage by locating and designing new development in ways which reduce the carbon footprint and ensuring that the most beautiful and lasting impression is left by the distinctive rural character of the area.	The spatial objective on climate change should be more focused on the specific issue to which it relates. The key part of the objective refers to aiming to reduce carbon footprint of development through location and design. The references to landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage and distinctive rural character are implicitly covered under other objectives. Therefore, the spatial objective should be more focussed around the main issue in question. In addition, the objective should include reference to meeting targets for renewable energy provision, energy efficiency and considering the management of future flood impacts arising as a result of climate change without compromising the special purposes and duty of the Park. Prudent use of resources is a key objective in addressing

	climate change, and the spatial objective should include reference to efficient use of resources and recovery, reuse and recycling of construction and waste materials.
1. 2 Natural Beauty	
Development will be sited and designed so to never compromise the natural beauty of the Peak District landscape and that all development should seek to contribute to the gradual enhancement of that landscape.	The spatial objective to natural beauty is in accordance with sustainability objectives relating to landscape.
1. 3 Biodiversity	
Ecological assets of the Peak District will always be conserved when making decisions on new development in the National Park and all development should seek to contribute to the gradual enhancement of biodiversity in line with the objectives of the Biodiversity Action Plan.	The biodiversity spatial objective is considered to be adequate for the protection of biodiversity. However, it is recommended that the objective is widened to include the protection of all the Peak District's natural assets and their role in providing vital ecosystem services (e.g. providing clean water, reducing run-off and preserving soil function) in order to link conservation and a healthy environment in an integrated way. Sites of geological interest should also be considered alongside biodiversity.
1. 4 Cultural Heritage	
The cultural heritage of the Peak District will always conserved when making decisions on new development in the National Park and all development should seek to contribute to the gradual enhancement of the area's cultural assets in line with the objectives of the Cultural Heritage Strategy.	'Cultural heritage' should be defined as it is unclear what aspects of cultural heritage this relates to. The spatial objective for cultural heritage is considered to be compatible with sustainability objective, assuming a broad definition of the term, which includes architecture, local character, historic buildings and landscapes, archaeology, parks and gardens, monuments, battlefields and other assets.
1. 5 Mineral Extraction	
Opportunities will be taken through the application of strategic planning policies and wider influence of the Authority to gradually reduce the visual impact of mineral working in accordance with the overall aim of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Peak District.	This objective adequately addresses the visual impacts of minerals extraction, but neglects other aspects of sustainable development of the Park's mineral resources. It is recommended that this objective is broadened to include protecting mineral resources, their prudent and efficient use, reducing transport impacts, protecting communities from amenity impacts and historic assets and wildlife from disturbance as a result of mineral working. While it is accepted that minerals extraction is a key issue within the National Park. It is also recommended that this objective should be covered within a wider prudent use of resources objective, which included the efficient use of water and land, and the conservation of soil resources. It should be recognised that whilst mineral extraction can have an adverse effect on the historic environment, the opening of small quarries for the supply of building and roofing stone can contribute to the conservation of local character.
1. 6 Traffic, travel and accessibility	
Opportunities will be taken to gradually reduce the impact of traffic across the National Park. Greater encouragement will be sought for more sustainable means of travel,	The traffic, travel and accessibility spatial objective does not contradict any SA objectives. No further recommendations have been made from the appraisal.

acknowledging the reasonable use of the car in rural areas. Greater understanding of the access needs of all residents and users will be sought, including the implications for the location of homes, services and job opportunities. Transport needs will be commensurate to the scale of need and capacity of the area and the relationship of National Park communities to major conurbations outside the Park boundary.	
1. 7 Recreation and Tourism	
The ability to access and enjoy the National Park will be improved in ways which contribute to the sustainable management of the area by seeking to increase the scope for active recreation in ways which do not compromise the valued characteristics of the area.	The recreation and tourism spatial objective addresses the majority of SA Objectives. However, in promoting recreation (and tourism) the National Park should also be striving to increase the quality of the touristic product in line with target markets, maximise employment opportunities and ensure that touristic assets are well presented and informed.
1. 8 Promoting better understanding of the National Park	
More and better opportunities will be sought to improve the understanding of the National Park.	The spatial objective of promoting a better understanding of the National Park is considered to be too rudimentary. Consider including more detail as to the ways in which this objective could be addressed, such as increasing opportunities for education and information provision.
1. 9 Fostering sustainable communities	
That in pursuing the primary aims of the National Park a sustainable approach to fostering the well being of the Park's communities will be secured which facilitate the provision and safeguarding of accommodation, services, community sport leisure and transport needs of local people at the most appropriate scale and distribution and in the most resource efficient means possible.	The fostering sustainable communities spatial objective does not contradict any SA objectives. No further recommendations have been made from the appraisal.
1.10 Fostering a sustainable rural economy	
That in pursuing the primary aims of the National Park a sustainable approach to fostering the well being of the local economy will be secured which facilitates the provision and safeguarding of new and existing employment opportunities, which seek to build on and benefit from the strong rural character of the area by ensuring high quality products in ways which understand and respond to the environmental sensitivities of the area.	The fostering a sustainable rural economy spatial objective does not contradict any SA objectives. No further recommendations have been made from the appraisal.