

**Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan
2007-2012**

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

November 2006

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INTRODUCTION

We need to be aware of the short and longer term consequences of actions on our environment. Most governments have shown some commitment to safeguarding natural and historic environmental assets and to the principles of more sustainable development.

In the UK the Government has published its Sustainable Development Strategy, "Securing the Future" (2005) that promotes the principles of:

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

Its priority areas for immediate action are:

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

As part of the framework promoting and ensuring environmental responsibility the European Commission, through European Directive 2001/42/EC, seeks,

"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 and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development".

Consequently the Directive makes it mandatory for environmental assessments to accompany preparation of, amongst others, land use and spatial plans, other regional and local authority plans and programmes, and environmental protection and management plans. The process tests these documents against environmental objectives to determine the likely effects of their implementation. It requires the assessment to be carried out against an evidence base, to consider alternative approaches, where appropriate, to objectives delivery and ensures transparency and consensus through consultations.

THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

National Park Authorities are required by the Environment Act 1995 to prepare and regularly update Management Plans in order to guide the delivery of statutory National Park purposes and duties (see **Appendix 1**). The scope and context of the Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park is therefore clear and set by statute. The first National Park Management Plan for the Yorkshire Dales was published in 2000. Over the past 18 months the document has been reviewed leading to publication of the current document. This Environmental Report assesses the likely impacts of this reviewed Plan.

To ensure the Management Plan reflects the particular circumstances and priorities of this National Park and has a distinct Dales identity, the review has been accompanied by work on identifying the 'Special Qualities' of the Yorkshire Dales. Defining these qualities has given the National Park Authority, its partners and the public, a clear statement on which elements are fundamental to the character, interest and quality of the National Park as a landscape area of national importance. Reference to the Landscape Character Assessment for the Yorkshire Dales and other relevant material, consultation with specialist officers and bodies and thorough deliberation have resulted in the list in **Appendix 2**. These qualities are the primary determinant of the Plan's focus and priorities.

Review of the Management Plan has taken account of a number of key documents of the Authority that will remain relevant during the 2007-2012 period of the reviewed Plan. The most important of these are:

"Nature in the Dales: A Biodiversity Action Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park" (2000) This identifies and describes six habitats and sets out costed action plans for each. It also includes action plans for species selected because they are considered to be in immediate need of conservation support.

"Dales Woodland Strategy" (1999) Guidelines are provided and actions proposed in support of aims for woodland as landscape, nature conservation, economic, and recreational and cultural resources. Geographically based guidelines are also given for new planting.

"Historic Environment Strategy" (2001) This establishes a foundation for protection and management of the Park's rich and diverse historic environment. It develops four themes – increasing awareness through information and access; analysing and recording; managing change; and ensuring 'national value' is recognised – that are linked to national priorities.

"An Integrated Access Strategy for the Yorkshire Dales National Park" (2005) The document addresses today's challenges of providing sustainable access for all and draws together all of the many inter-linked elements that relate to access – resource and visitor management, accessibility, sustainable transport, access for all, healthy living, social inclusion, sustainable tourism.

"Yorkshire Dales Local Plan" (2006) The development plan for the National Park has recently been reviewed and adopted. This establishes the Authority's policies on, amongst other topics, housing, employment developments, visitor facilities, farm developments and diversification, utilities including renewable energy developments, and built heritage.

"Supporting Sustainable Economic and Community Development in the Yorkshire Dales National Park" (2000) The strategy seeks to clarify the link between the Authority's socio-economic duty and its statutory purposes. It offers strategic objectives and key actions on a range of issues and opportunities.

Development of objectives has also had regard to other strategies, policies and programmes, ranging from international directives to locally based plans. Those most relevant are listed in **Appendix 3**.

For the review the seven themes of the previous Plan have been retained:

- landscape;
- community and culture;
- access and recreation;
- understanding and enjoyment;
- nature conservation;
- historic environment, and
- economy and employment.

Each of these has a **strategic aim**, a statement setting out the long-term aspiration for that theme, as follows:

Landscape:

The beauty, distinctive character and ‘sense of place’ of the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be maintained and strengthened through the ongoing interaction between nature and the people who live and work there.

Communities and Culture:

Thriving and active local communities in the National Park will enjoy a high quality of life that sustains the environment, local traditions and contemporary culture. All sections of these communities will have opportunities to influence and develop local services that meet their needs.

Access and Recreation:

There will be opportunities for access and recreation in the National Park for people of all ages and abilities and from every sector of society to enjoy the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales and derive a sense of well being from their experiences.

Understanding and Enjoyment:

There will be a greater awareness of the National Park and of the opportunities it offers to everyone to appreciate, enjoy and learn from its special qualities. People’s enjoyment will encourage them to find out more, play a part in the Park’s conservation, and help forge ties between urban and rural communities.

Nature Conservation:

The characteristic habitats and species of the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be conserved and enhanced for this and future generations. Its nationally and internationally important biodiversity will help to support sustainable communities and the local economy.

Historic Environment:

The historic and cultural environment of the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be recognised, understood, appreciated and used, contributing directly to our understanding of ourselves, our sense of identity and pride of place. This rich inheritance will be conserved

and enhanced for future generations, including through well-designed and appropriately-sited additions to the built environment.

Economy and Employment:

The National Park's special qualities will help to support a local economy that provides secure, diverse and sustainable high-quality jobs, maintains thriving, balanced communities and a healthy, cared for environment. Imagination and innovation will attract new types of business and develop a local economy that respects and draws on the area's assets and quality of life and looks to the future for its aspirations.

Sets of **objectives**, drawn up by small specialist 'Drafting Groups', support these aims. The aims and objectives were considered and agreed by the Steering Group of key partners set up to oversee the review, prior to an eight week consultation period during summer 2006 when authorities, organisations and the public had the opportunity to comment.

METHODOLOGY FOR THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The SEA has been carried out using the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's guide to the Directive (September 2005). Officers of the Authority working on the Management Plan undertook the assessment with input and endorsement from the Management Plan Steering Group. This ensured effective integration of the process and allowed the full expertise and knowledge of the Authority and its partners to be employed.

The SEA process consists of several stages, which are closely linked to those adopted for review of the Management Plan.

Assembling baseline data

The **State of the Park Report 2005** for the Yorkshire Dales is the primary source of assembled and analysed information for the Dales and has been used for the assessment. The Report contains a 'profile' for each of the seven Management Plan themes and records data against 28 indicators. It provides useful trend information and a baseline for future monitoring.

Identifying likely environmental issues

The Management Plan Drafting Groups and Steering Group identified the main 'pressures for change' affecting the National Park. The groups also identified key issues and opportunities for the future of the National Park. Addressing these issues and predicting the future impacts on the area of major changes steered the formulation of objectives for the Park.

SEA scoping

Having confirmed that a SEA of the Management Plan was necessary, a Scoping Statement was sent to 'Consultation Bodies'. This gave a brief explanation of the review work on the Plan and outlined the assessment process.

Identifying environmental objectives

The Scoping Statement included a proposed set of objectives against which the Management Plan would be judged. As the Plan's primary aim is to safeguard the appearance and condition of the National Park's environment, there is strong complementarity between the Plan's objectives and those used for the assessment.

Considering alternatives

If the assessment had shown any of the Plan's aims or objectives having significant adverse environmental effects, alternative approaches or measures to prevent or offset these would have been considered.

Assessing the Management Plan

Each of the Plan's seven theme aims and objectives have been assessed against the selected environmental objectives in order to predict their likely environmental impact. Summaries of these assessments and conclusions are offered. The system adopted has been kept simple and is based on that shown in the ODPM guidance. It was carried out by officers of the Authority, who have the knowledge to understand what effects may arise. Every effort was made to ensure the scoring was applied consistently and the assessment was as objective as possible but inevitably personal judgement came into it.

Producing the Environmental Report

This report provides a summary of the process, sets out the assessment and draws conclusions. It was circulated widely and made available on the Authority's website as part of the consultations on the draft Management Plan during summer 2006.

Modifying and finalising the Plan

The Management Plan was modified to take account of comments arising from the consultations. This amended Plan was considered by the Steering Group in October 2006 and then by the National Park Authority in November 2006. This Environmental Report has been updated and revised to include environmental impact assessments of significant modifications to the Plan.

Monitoring arrangements

Proposals for monitoring significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be based on the indicators proposed in the final section of this report. Regular updating of the State of the Park Report will support the monitoring process. As the Action Plan for delivery of the Management Plan is being prepared after publication of the Plan, monitoring and where necessary further assessment will be undertaken of actions proposed.

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

The following information provides the baseline against which environmental impacts will be considered.

Resource	
Biodiversity	<p><u>Habitats and Species</u> Limestone country 9,010ha (2000) Moorland and moorland fringe 100,275ha (2000) Dales 50,276ha (2000) Woodland and scrub 6,252ha (2000) Length of main rivers 486.37km (2005)</p> <p><u>Species of conservation concern</u> (All 2000): – Plants 13 – Invertebrates 5 – Animals 13 – Birds 27</p> <p><u>Designations</u> (All 2004) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 101 sites 50,578ha, of which: – National Nature Reserves (NNRs) 5 reserves 1,200ha – Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) (wholly or partly in the Park) 5 sites (including a single SPA) 39,808ha – Special Protection Areas (SPAs) 1 site (also a SAC) 28,402ha – Ramsar Sites (included in one of the SACs) 1 site 286.69ha Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) 5 reserves 71,18ha Land in agri-environment schemes 97,961ha SSSIs in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition (2003) 72.62%.</p>
Historic Environment	<p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments 203 4 SAMs recorded in English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register 2004 (2.0% of total) Conservation Areas 37 Listed Buildings total 1,798 - Grade I 18 - Grade II* 68 - Grade II 1,712 94 Listed Buildings recorded in 2004 as 'at risk' 5.2%</p>
Water	<p>Open water 347ha (0.2%) (1991) Length of main rivers 486.37km (2005) River quality</p> <p>- Chemical GQA 2003 Length of rivers surveyed (km) 712.5 % in classes A and B 97.6 % in classes C and 2.4 % in classes E and F. 0.0</p> <p>- Biological GQA 2003 Length of rivers surveyed (km) 694.5 % in classes A and B 89.0 % in classes C and D 11.0 % in classes E and F 0.0</p>

Air	There are no air quality monitoring stations in or close to the Park
Land use/landscape features	<p>Moorland (heather and grass moor, incl. bracken) 92,498ha (52.4%) (1991)</p> <p>Farmland (improved pasture and rough grazing) 71,807ha (40.7%) (1991)</p> <p>Woodland (coniferous, broadleaved and mixed) 6,039ha (3.4%) (1991)</p> <p>Coniferous plantations (2004) 3,425ha</p> <p>Bare rock (incl. limestone pavement, scars and other rocky outcrops) 3,890ha (2.2%) (1991)</p> <p>Length of dry-stone walls 8,689km (1991)</p> <p>Length of hedgerows 1,016km (1991)</p> <p>Quarries (eight active) 287ha (0.2%) (2004)</p> <p>Number of farm holding(2003) 1,219</p>
Energy and Infrastructure	<p>Total no. of telecommunications masts (2005) 50</p> <p>There are no of wind turbines over 25m.</p> <p>There is no significant energy generation in the Park.</p> <p>There are no national grid transmission routes</p>
Access	<p><u>Rights of Way (2004)</u></p> <p>Total 2,112km</p> <p>Public footpaths 1,458km</p> <p>Public bridleways 623km</p> <p>Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) 31km</p> <p>% 'easy to use (2004/5) 71%</p> <p>Wheelchair access (2004) 5050 metres</p> <p><u>Access (2005)</u></p> <p>% of Park 'open for public access' 62%</p>
Communities	<p>Resident Population (2001) 19,654</p> <p>Population density (2001) 11.1 persons/sq. km.</p> <p>School and pre-school age (0-15) (2001) 3,439 (17.5%)</p> <p>Working age (16-65) (2001) 12,087 (61.5%)</p> <p>Pensionable age (65+) (2001) 4,127 (21%)</p> <p>No of settlements with 1,000+population (parish) (2001) 3</p> <p>Resident households (2001) 8,363</p> <p>Housing stock (2001) 10,236</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

Information from the State of the Park Report, experience in implementing the previous Management Plan and recording of changes impacting on the Park were used to identify the challenges and issues for the reviewed Plan to tackle. Environmental issues identified are listed below.

1	Consequences of changes in farming on the condition and appearance of the landscape and on the habitats it supports.
2	How to promote conservation grazing to counter potential loss of cattle from the uplands.
3	Moorland management and how it can be used to bring environmental and economic benefits.
4	How to improve the population numbers and range of key BAP species.
5	Implications of implementation of Water Framework Directive, and catchment-based approach to water management.
6	Management of land to reduce flooding and opportunities.
7	Possible increased use of land and airspace for military training.
8	Continuing pressures for hard-rock quarrying.
9	Impacts of road improvement schemes on Dales' character.
10	Overcoming traffic and parking problems in historic settlements.
11	Management of 'open access' to avoid disturbance to wildlife and physical damage to habitats.
12	Damage caused by recreational vehicular use of green lanes.
13	Improving accessibility to users of all abilities.
14	Developing wildlife and conservation based tourism linked to the Dales particular assets.
15	How to encourage visitors to travel by public transport and stay in the area.
16	Implications of growing interest in, and promotion of, a wider range of outdoor sports and competitive events.

17	Managing recreational activities that cause significant noise pollution.
18	Need for better monitoring of 'tranquillity'
19	Tackling illegal works especially to Listed Buildings and in Conservation Areas.
20	Meeting development needs without adversely affecting the character and interest of the Dales' landscape, its buildings and villages.
21	Demands for further infrastructure developments- telecommunications masts, pipelines, service reservoirs, overhead lines.
22	How to avoid compromises on building materials and components that undermine local character and set unfortunate precedents.
23	Ensuring there's an adequate skills base, notably 'heritage' and 'countryside' skill.
24	Reconciling promotion of energy efficiency in buildings and more sustainable energy generation with conservation of traditional buildings and settlements.
25	Increased pressure for renewable energy development, in particular large wind turbine developments.
26	Reconciling rising expectations of modern communities with the need to conserve and enhance.
27	How to encourage communities to reduce their energy and resource consumption and be more conscientious of the implications of climate change
28	How to connect NP messages to wider global environmental issues and concerns.
29	How to contribute to the health of the nation and meet the new healthy living agenda.
30	How to bring environmental benefits by combining National Park messages with marketing of local produce.
31	Developing products that utilise and bring value to the area's environmental character and assets.

SEA OBJECTIVES

To test the effects of the Management Plan on the National Park's environment the following environmental objectives were drawn up.

Landscape	1	Maintain and enhance landscape character and quality, as identified in the Countryside Quality Counts project.
	2	Maintain and enhance the pattern of traditional field boundaries (hedgerows and drystone walls).
	3	Increase the coverage of native broadleaved woodland.
	4	Minimise the landscape impacts of all large-scale coniferous plantations.
	5	Maintain all nationally-important geological sites in 'favourable' condition
	6	Protect and enhance the mosaic of managed habitats.
	7	Conserve and restore traditional farmsteads, associated farm buildings, features and field barns that contribute significantly to landscape character.
	8	Maintain the overall tranquillity and sense of remoteness within the Park.
	9	Minimise the loss of greenfield land to development.
	10	Safeguard and improve water quality.
	11	Reduce air pollution.
	12	Manage catchments to reduce flood risks.
	13	Avoid soil loss and damage.
	14	Avoid further light pollution.
Nature Conservation	15	70% of the area covered by LBAP priority habitats to be in favourable condition by 2010.
	16	Increase the area of LBAP priority habitats by 7% by 2010.
	17	95% of SSSI management units to be in favourable condition by 2010.
	18	Ensure populations of all LBAP species are stable or increasing by 2010.
	19	Identify projects that enable visitors and local people to be involved in implementing the LBAP.
	20	Implement plans to support projects promoting links between economically viable farming and tourism businesses, and sustainable management of the natural environment.
Historic Environment	21	Conserve the character and interest of the Park's historic buildings and their settings.
	22	Protect the Park's archaeological sites and other culturally important features.
	23	Conserve and where appropriate enhance the character and interest of the Park's settlements.
	24	Involve communities in developing management plans for Conservation Areas and in carrying out enhancement works identified in these plans.
	25	Support and encourage communities to carry out sustainable development appraisals for their settlements.
	26	Encourage sustainable use of local materials.
	27	Ensure that infrastructure organisations and utilities minimise the impact of their activities on the historic environment.
Population and Health	28	Maintain sustainable communities.
	29	Encourage healthy living by providing appropriate opportunities for recreation and exercise.

CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES

The scope and context of the Management Plan are determined by the National Park statutory purposes and duty (Appendix 1). The Plan is required to set out how these and the functions of the National Park Authority are to be delivered in the Yorkshire Dales. Guidance makes clear that where there is irreconcilable conflict between first and second purposes, then the former should prevail. Consequently there is an inherent bias in the Plan towards safeguarding the Parks' environment.

Added to this clear statutory framework are the Special Qualities of the Dales (Appendix 2) that define further the basis for preparation of the Plan and give specific direction to its contents.

Together, they not only guide but also limit the choices available when developing aims and objectives. This was apparent during the work of the Drafting Groups in developing the draft Plan. Whilst considering alternatives was integral to the process, in practice options were few and most were discounted early on because they would not support effectively or would conflict with achievement of the first purpose. In the case of nature conservation, consideration of alternatives was fully documented. This is attached as **Appendix 4**.

As the underlying purpose of the Management Plan is to seek positive environmental outcomes and as the review process has embodied the consideration of options in arriving at the aims of objectives proposed, there are no strategic alternatives to consider formally in this assessment. The options available lie more in the detailed phrasing of the objectives rather than in considering more far-reaching alternative courses of action.

ASSESSING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Each of the Plan's seven theme aims and its objectives under each theme has been assessed against the selected environmental objectives. The system adopted considers whether the effect of the aim or objective would be positive, neutral or negative, as follows:

++	signifies major positive effects;
+	signifies minor positive effects;
O	signifies no/neutral effects;
--	signifies minor negative effects;
---	signifies major negative effects;
?	signifies uncertain effects.

In undertaken this exercise the officers have used their knowledge and judgement to score the Management Plan's proposals objectively and consistently. However, at this strategic level in many cases the impacts are not clear-cut and assumptions have had to be brought into the evaluation. For example, the environmental impacts of some developments can be expected to be prevented or minimised if planning policies are effective and applied rigorously. The assumption has been made that they will be but the situation could be very different if they are not. In other instances an objective could have both positive and negative environmental effects so a judgement has been made on how these balance and whether one is more significant than the other. Then there are objectives that will be influenced by external influences and forces over which the Plan will have little control.

Whilst the assessment results need to be qualified because of these factors, they nevertheless offer a statement of anticipated impacts as circumstances currently exist. Monitoring and review will be used to ensure there is updating of the assessment so that any significant, unforeseen impacts can be registered and appropriate action taken.

The results of the assessment are grouped according to the Management Plan themes. In both the assessment of aims and objectives the numbers 1 to 27 refer to the SEA objectives (see previous section) against which the assessment is being made. Where the Plan's objectives are being assessed they are referenced by letter and number, for example L1, L2 etc.

LANDSCAPE

Aim														
The beauty, distinctive character and 'sense of place' of the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be maintained and strengthened through the ongoing interaction between nature and the people who live and work there.														
SEA Objectives														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	++	+
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
+	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	++	+	0	
Assessment														
In safeguarding the landscape qualities of the National Park most environmental objectives will be strongly supported and there would be no negative effects.														
Conclusion														
The aim is acceptable.														

Management Plan Objectives

- L1. Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctive character of the Yorkshire Dales' landscape (as measured through the national 'Countryside Quality Counts' indicator)
- L2. Encourage widespread take-up of 'Environmental Stewardship' and other agri-environment schemes (so that at least 80% of the Park is covered by agreements by **2010**), so as to
 - a) maintain and enhance the pattern and historic character of traditional field boundaries (drystone walls and hedgerows);
 - b) protect and enhance the mosaic of valuable managed habitats (hay meadows, pastures, rough grassland, native woodland and moorland);
 - c) maintain and enhance the pattern of traditional farmsteads, associated farm buildings, features and field barns, as well as individual or small groups of native trees, where they make a major contribution to landscape character.
- L3. Prevent the introduction of any new commercial conifer plantations and seek to reduce the area of conifers (outside areas targeted for red squirrels) by at least 20% (600 ha) by 2012;
- L4. Prevent the introduction of significant new development 'detractors' from the landscape, notably:
 - a) new quarries (other than for local use of building stone and roofing slate);
 - b) extensions to existing quarries (except where the environmental and amenity benefits would clearly outweigh the impact on the landscape) — and implement agreed landscaping and restoration schemes for all existing quarry sites;
 - c) multiple or large-scale wind turbines (i.e those with a ground-hub height of 25m or more);
 - d) new overhead power and telecommunications lines and associated equipment — and seek to underground at least 10 km of existing lines by 2011.

- L5. Work with companies, authorities and agencies responsible for power, water, telecommunications and highways to minimise the impact of infrastructure works on the appearance and character of the landscape.
- L6. Maintain all nationally-important geological sites in 'favourable' condition, and develop a series of Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites by 2009.
- L7. Maintain the overall tranquillity and sense of remoteness within the Park, and carry out a re-assessment of levels of tranquillity by 2011.
- L8. By 2008, develop approaches to signage and road improvement and maintenance works that better reflect the distinctive rural character of the National Park, and introduce measures to conserve and enhance important roadside verges.
- L9. Use the management and creation of important habitats in the Dales to prevent soil erosion, reduce flood risk and improve water quality and management, particularly along the Rivers Ure, Aire, Swale, Wharfe, Ribble and their tributaries.
- L10. Support and encourage small-scale renewable energy developments, such as local hydro-electric generation, small-scale wind turbines, and wood-fuelled heating systems linked to managed woodland, that meet local needs and do not adversely affect the distinctive character of the Yorkshire Dales' landscape.

<p>Assessment</p> <p>As conservation and enhancement of the National Park are central to the Management Plan it's no surprise that its landscape objectives will have positive effects on the Dales environment, with a number of objectives offering significant support. In particular most will have significant positive impacts on maintaining and enhancing landscape character and quality. A number will also have significant effects on conserving or enhancing landscape features – walls, woodland, barns, and safeguarding or improving habitats species populations. Objective L2 – encouraging take-up of agri-environment schemes - is notable in strongly supporting delivery of landscape, nature conservation and historic environment outcomes.</p> <p>The few negative effects anticipate 'worst case scenarios' and are generally where decisions may need to be taken between competing conservation interests, such as increasing woodland cover and conserving archaeological interest and contributing to renewable energy generation without compromising the first National Park purpose.</p> <p>None of the objectives would have significant adverse effects.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p> <p>The Plan's landscape objectives will be beneficial to the environment of the National Park. They offer safeguards and encouragement that can be expected to deliver positive outcomes over the Plan period. No amendments or mitigating measures are necessary.</p>

SEA Objs	Management Plan – Landscape Objectives									
	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10
1		++	++	++	++	+	++	++	?	--
2	++	++	0	0	+	0	0	+	?	0
3	++	++	+	0	0	--	0	0	++	+
4	++	+		0	0	0	0	0	?	--
5	+	++	+	++	0		0	0	+	0
6	+	++	?	++	0	++	0	+	++	0
7	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	?
8	++	0	0	+	0	0		0	0	0
9	++	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0
10	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0
11	+	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	++
12	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
13	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
14	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
15	+	++	0	+	0	++	0	+	++	0
16	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0
17	0	++	0	+	0	++	0	0	++	0
18	0	+	?	?	0	+	0	?	+	0
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	0
20	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
21	+	+	+	+	++	0	0	++	0	--
22	+	++	++	+	++	0	0	++	--	0
23	+	+	0	+	++	0	0	++	0	--
24	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
25	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	?	+	++
26	+	+	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
27	++	0	0	++		0	+	++	0	+
28	0	+	0	?	?	0	0	0	++	++
29	0	0	?	0	0	0	+	0	?	0

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Aim														
Thriving and active local communities in the National Park will enjoy a high quality of life that helps to sustain the environment, local traditions and contemporary culture. All sections of these communities will have opportunities to influence and develop local services that meet their needs.														
SEA Objectives														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
?	O	O	O	O	O	O	--	?	+	+	?	?	?	O
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
O	O	O	+	+	+	+	?	+	O	O	O	++	+	
Assessment														
Ensuring communities are vibrant and not deprived of opportunities will help secure the Park's future. Specifically, maintaining a high quality of life could help safeguard resources and assist some aspects of conservation. On the other hand, meeting expectations and providing improved opportunities could lead to developments that work against environmental and conservation objectives and undermine character and culture. The aim's inclusion of helping to sustain the environment, as well as local traditions and contemporary culture, offers reassurance.														
Conclusion														
That the aim be accepted without modification.														

Management Plan Objectives

- CC1. By 2007 use the Local Development Framework to set targets for increasing the amount of affordable and local needs housing, and then work through partnerships to meet those targets, including through social housing for rent, subsidised ownership, and shared ownership.
- CC2. Improve the integration and flexibility of community transport services to meet the needs of local communities, and visitors where possible.
- CC3. By 2011 develop and implement 8 walking/cycling routes, each of which links one of the surrounding villages to the local service centres of Grassington, Skipton, Settle, Ingleton, Sedbergh, Hawes, Leyburn and Richmond, so that essential facilities and services can be accessed easily and safely on foot or by bicycle.
- CC4. By 2011 develop and implement sympathetic traffic management schemes, to reduce the impact of vehicles in at least 8 villages and other locations, and achieve accident reduction rates in line with County Councils' targets.
- CC5. Support and contribute to meeting targets set in local Community Strategies and sub-regional programmes for improving access to services within or closer to communities.
- CC6. By 2010 obtain reliable data on community activity and quality of life in the National Park, and a better understanding of the range of cultural activities available.

- CC7. Support community groups to record, maintain, celebrate and share their cultural heritage through community based projects, events, festivals and activities.
- CC8. By 2011 develop and implement a programme to raise awareness of wider environmental issues, such as resource depletion, climate change and waste management.
- CC9. Support at least one community to develop by 2009 a pilot programme to carry out 'sustainable development appraisals' for their area and encourage active community involvement in 'green projects'.
- CC10. Use the National Park's Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources to support at least 15 new projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the Park.

Assessment

The Community and Culture aim refers to communities having a neutral environmental impact and compatibility with National Park purposes. The objectives reflect these aspirations and most of the objectives will have no or a neutral impact. The exception is in relation to sustaining communities, where the objectives will have a clearly positive effect.

In a number of instances the net environmental effects of objectives are difficult to predict. CC10, for example – supporting sustainable development appraisals and encouraging active involvement in 'green projects', would potentially offer wider environmental benefits but equally actions could work against achievement of other specific objectives. CC5, improving access to service, is another where the outcomes are uncertain.

Positive effects are limited but those anticipated from theme objective CC8, which seeks to ensure people from all backgrounds can contribute to the Park and to their own well-being through volunteering, is notable.

Only one theme objective is predicted to have noticeable negative effects. Support of affordable housing policies and programmes (CC1) would result in loss of greenfield land to development (SEA objective 9) and have some adverse impacts on landscape character and quality.

Conclusion

Because of the uncertainties, monitoring of the effects of these objectives will be particularly important so that the assessment can be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Whilst affordable housing will have adverse effects it's anticipated that the National Park Authority's planning policies will minimise these, so no mitigating measures are proposed here.

SEA Objs	Management Plan – Community and Culture Objectives									
	CC1	CC2	CC3	CC4	CC5	CC6	CC7	CC8	CC9	CC10
1	--	0	0	+	0	0	0	?	?	?
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	+
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	----	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	+	0
11	0	+	+	?	0	0	0	?	+	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
14	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	+	+
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	+
21	?	0	0	0	?	0	0	--	?	?
22	0	0	0	0	?	0	+	0	0	0
23	?	0	0	--	?	0	+	--	?	?
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+		+
26	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+
27	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	++	++	+	0	++	++	+	+	++	++
29	0	?	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	+

ACCESS AND RECREATION

Aim														
There will be opportunities for access and recreation in the National Park for people of all ages and abilities and from every sector of society to enjoy the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales and derive a sense of well being from their experiences.														
SEA Objectives														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
?	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	
Assessment														
On the basis that management and promotion of access and recreation will be consistent with National Park purposes, then the impact should be environmentally neutral. Support for a public transport network would reduce the increases in private car usage that might be expected to accompany greater access and recreational activity. It will also offer opportunities for communities to benefit from services provided.														
Conclusion														
As written the aim supports environmental objectives so does not need modification.														

Management Plan Objectives

- AR1. Manage and improve the network of public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2012, and maintain that level in future years.
- AR2. Identify the most appropriate measures to manage the use of motorised recreational vehicles on each sensitive 'Green Lane', and put all such measures in place by 2011.
- AR3. Produce digital versions of the three 'Definitive Maps' of rights of way covering the Yorkshire Dales by 2011 to make it easier to check and resolve issues around the legal status of routes.
- AR4. Develop 'Rights of Way Improvement Plans' for Cumbria and North Yorkshire by 2007, and involve local communities and their representatives, the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum, landowners/managers and users in their development and implementation.
- AR5. By 2011 undertake 5 promotional campaigns aimed at specific recreational activities to raise awareness of the National Park Authority's recreation charter and codes of conduct.
- AR6. Through sustainable travel partnerships increase the integration and use of sustainable transport modes for leisure and everyday life within and to the Park to ensure that by 2011:

- a) the main visitor locations in the Dales are accessible by public transport from their main catchments between Easter and October on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays,
- b) the key corridors in the Dales, linking Kendal, Richmond, Leyburn, Skipton, Settle and Ingleton, have Monday to Saturday public transport access all year;
- c) all public bus services to and within the Dales are operated by suitable, fully accessible, low emission vehicles;
- d) there is a Park-wide programme of guided walks and events, at least 85% of which are accessible by public transport.

AR7. Increase the accessibility of the Park to users of all abilities so that by 2010 at least 10 km (0.5%) of rights of way are fully accessible by wheelchair users and 105 km (5%) by those with limited mobility, and improve opportunities for those with sensory disabilities.

AR8. Develop opportunities, including a Park-wide programme of events, walks and other activities that encourage healthy lifestyles and assist in the Government's target of increasing levels of physical activity amongst residents and visitors by 1% per year.

AR9. By 2008, identify and encourage designation of a network of 'quiet lanes' to enhance the enjoyment of the Park for visitors and residents, improve safety of users and to reinforce the tranquillity and landscape character of key areas.

AR10. Complete and open the Pennine Bridleway through the Dales by 2009, and identify opportunities to develop additional recreational routes to and from it. by 2009

Assessment
It's anticipated that most of the Management Plan objectives will have no or a neutral environmental impact. Positive effects are expected in response to some specific proposals - where recreational use will be managed to avoid disturbance or damage, and in encouraging greater use of public transport. Most objectives will encourage healthy living by providing for active recreation.
Conversely, some objectives proposing measures to improve accessibility of rights of way could impact adversely on traditional field boundaries.
Conclusion
Whilst there may be more limited gain from the Access and Recreation objectives, the overall assessment is of a positive impact. In particular they will have positive effect on enhancing recreational opportunities. As the strategic aim intends access and recreation to be managed and promoted in a manner consistent with National Park purposes, and promotes responsible and sustainable behaviour it's assumed potential harmful consequences can be avoided. The Plan refers to the Sandford principle' in its introductory sections.

SEA Objs	Management Plan – Access and Recreation Objectives									
	AR1	AR2	AR3	AR4	AR5	AR6	AR7	AR8	AR9	AR10
1	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0
2	--	0	0	?	0	0	--	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
8	0	++	0	?	+	?	0	?	++	?
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	?	+	0	0	0	0	0
19	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0
20	0	+	0	+	0	0	?	+	+	++
21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	+	+	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	0
23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
28	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+
29	++	?	+	++	0	++	++	++	++	++

UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYMENT

Aim														
There will be a greater awareness of the National Park and of the opportunities it offers to everyone to appreciate, enjoy and learn from its special qualities. People's enjoyment will encourage them to find out more, play a part in the Park's conservation, and help forge ties between urban and rural communities.														
SEA Objectives														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
++	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	0	0	+
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
+	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	0	0	+	0	++	+	
Assessment														
Improving awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Dales can be expected to assist its conservation. The aim will also have some beneficial impact on communities in the Park. However, the impacts of encouraging and assisting enjoyment of what the area has to offer may take different forms, with varying impacts. On balance, though the effects of the aim on the environment of the Park are likely to be beneficial.														
Conclusion														
The aim will help safeguard the Park's environment and is considered sound.														

Management Plan Objectives

- UE1. Provide clear and consistent messages about what is special and what people can do to help conserve the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, so that at least 50% of visitors and 70% of residents have an understanding of National Park purposes and/or the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales by 2010.
- UE2. Promote awareness of the Yorkshire Dales National Park so that, by 2008, 90% of visitors are aware that they are in a National Park.
- UE3. Make information about the Yorkshire Dales National Park easily accessible and relevant to a diverse range of groups and individuals, focusing on the urban areas of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Teesside that surround it, including:
- increase the number of visitors from black and ethnic minority communities from 1% in 2005 to 2% by 2011;
 - increase the percentage of residents in Keighley and Bradford who are aware of the Park from 25% in 2005 to 30% by 2011;
- UE4. Through the Tourism Partnership, strengthen and develop the image of the Yorkshire Dales National Park to incorporate sustainability, inclusion and conservation values, alongside outdoor recreation, excitement and enjoyment.
- UE5. Each year, develop and implement at least one new programme of formal or informal education or training to encourage schools and groups to get involved in conserving the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

- UE6. Carry out research to identify why few young people visit National Parks other than as part of educational groups, and by 2008 develop appropriate programmes to encourage an interest in National Parks within this age group.
- UE7. Provide people from all backgrounds with the opportunity to make a difference to the long-term conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the National Park and to contribute to personal health and well-being by providing at least 5,000 volunteer days per year by 2009.
- UE8. Raise awareness of the Yorkshire Dales so that by 2008 at least 10% of people in England and Wales can name it as being a National Park.
- UE9. As part of the Tourism Partnership's programme, develop an annual programme of events, walks and activities that use the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park to deliver wider benefits, such as health, leadership skills and spiritual well being.
- UE10. Promote environmental awareness amongst tourism businesses and visitors within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, so as to increase the number of businesses offering 'sustainable tourism products' from 25% in 2006 to 50% by 2010.

<p>Assessment</p> <p>Providing information, interpreting the Park's assets and raising the awareness of different groups are all important activities in supporting environmental conservation. The SEA objectives potentially will gain positive value from the Plan's proposals for this theme. The Management Plan objectives such as UE1 and UE5 will allow communication and promotion of important messages and have particularly positive effects. Promoting environmental awareness amongst tourism businesses (UE10) will also have beneficial environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Impacts of some proposals are unclear or uncertain but none are expected to have a negative impact on the Dales environment.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p> <p>The objectives of this theme aim to improve understanding and appreciation of the Park and of environmental issues amongst a wide variety of groups. Their impacts will be positive and no amendments or measures are necessary.</p>

SEA Objs	Management Plan - Understanding and Enjoyment Objectives									
	UE1	UE2	UE3	UE4	UE5	UE6	UE7	UE8	UE9	UE10
1	+	+	?	+	+	O	+	+	O	+
2	+	O	O	O	++	O	+	O	O	O
3	+	O	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	O
4	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
5	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
6	+	+	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	+
7	+	O	O	O	++	O	+	O	O	?
8	+	+	?	?	O	O	O	?	+	?
9	?	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+
10	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+
11	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+
12	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
13	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
14	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+
15	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O	+
16	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O	?
17	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O	+
18	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O	+
19	++	O	+	+	++	+	++	+	?	+
20	+	+	?	+	+	O	?	++	O	++
21	++	O	+	O	+	O	+	O	O	+
22	++	+	+	O	+	O	++	O	O	+
23	++	O	+	O	+	O	++	O	O	+
24	++	O	O	O	++	O	++	O	O	+
25	?	O	O	O	?	O	+	O	O	++
26	++	O	O	O	++	O	+	O	O	+
27	++	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
28	?	O	O	+	?	?	O	+	O	?
29	+	+	++	++	O	?	++	+	++	O

NATURE CONSERVATION

Aim														
The characteristic habitats and species of the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be conserved and enhanced for this and future generations. Its nationally and internationally important biodiversity will help to support sustainable communities and the local economy.														
SEA Objectives														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
++	++	++	?	++	++	0	0	+	+	+	++	+	0	++
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
++	++	++	++	++	0	?	0	+	+	?	0	+	+	
Assessment														
Conserving the habitats and species of the Dales will generally have a positive impact on the area's environment. Ensuring the natural resources of the Park are unimpaired is fundamental to safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity so there is compatibility. Whilst the aim may make a limited contribution to further historic environment objectives, although it could assist by addressing the damaging effects of non-native and invasive species such as rabbits and bracken, it will not inhibit their achievement.														
Conclusion														
The aim is acceptable.														

Management Plan Objectives

- NC1. By 2009, assess the most likely impacts of climate change on the National Park over the next 15 years, and use this to produce an adaptation plan for managing those impacts.
- NC2. By 2008, identify and map areas where less intensive management could be trialled or which could provide natural connections between existing habitat fragments to allow habitats and species to respond to environmental change.
- NC3. Support good conservation management by farmers and landowners so that:
- 70% of the area covered by Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats is in favourable condition by 2010; and,
 - at least 95% of nationally and internationally important wildlife sites are in favourable condition by 2010.
- NC4. Support farmers and landowners to increase the area of Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats by 7% by 2011, including:
- restoring 1,700 hectares of hay meadow;
 - creating 100 hectares of floodplain wetland;
 - restoring over 4,000 hectares of upland heath & blanket bog;
 - creating 450 ha of upland ash woodland by 2010, (as part of increasing the overall coverage of native broadleaved woodland to over 5,000 ha by 2020);
- NC5. Ensure that the populations of all Local Biodiversity Action Plan species are stable or increasing by 2010.

- NC6. Assess the condition of all ancient woodland in the Park by 2010, restore all ancient replanted woodland to a semi-natural state and ensure that all semi-natural woodland is protected, enhanced and self-regenerating by 2020.
- NC7. Develop and implement a system for monitoring for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and reporting progress on it by 2007, and produce a map that shows the distribution and status of all Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species (excluding rare and vulnerable species) and make it widely available through the National Biodiversity Network by 2008.
- NC8. Work with local communities to identify from the habitat map a range of initiatives that would enable visitors and local people to get actively involved in the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- NC9. By 2009 review current or planned reintroduction programmes that affect the Yorkshire Dales National Park and support those that form part of a nationally coordinated plan for species recovery endorsed by Natural England.
- NC10. Determine the extent of invasive species and pest problems across the National Park and develop a strategy for their management by 2010.

<p>Assessment</p> <p>Much of the National Park is covered by international or national nature conservation designations. The Plan's nature conservation objectives are therefore critical to the protection and enhancement of this varied interest. Whilst generally the condition of habitats is above average and trends in species populations are encouraging, there are many factors that could so easily change the situation. The objectives propose intervention in a number of ways to make progress towards achieving Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets.</p> <p>The impact of these on the Park's environment will be favourable, the assessment highlighting many areas where major positive effects are anticipated and none where negative, albeit minor, impacts might result. The positive effects are especially strong in protecting and enhancing the mosaic of managed habitats and in maintaining populations of LBAP species.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The Plan's objectives aim to improve the condition of habitats in the Park. As these are an indicator of general environmental condition, the Plan's proposals are regarded as consistent with and supportive of environmental protection. No amendments or measures are proposed.</p>
--

SEA Objs	Management Plan –Nature Conservation Objectives									
	NC1	NC2	NC3	NC4	NC5	NC6	NC7	NC8	NC9	NC10
1	O	+	+	++	O	++	O	+	O	+
2	O	?	+	+	O	O	O	+	O	O
3	?	+	+	++	O	++	O	+	O	++
4	?	?	O	O	O	?	O	O	O	O
5	O	O	+	?	O	O	O	O	O	O
6	++	++	++	++	O	+	O	O	O	++
7	O	--	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
8	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
9	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
10	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
11	+	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O
12	+	+	?	+	O	?	O	O	O	O
13	O	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O
14	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
15	+	+		+	O	++	+	+	+	++
16	O	++	O		+	++	O	+	+	O
17	+	+		+	O	+	+	+	O	++
18	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+
19	O	O	O	O	+	O	+		O	+
20	+	+	O	+	O	+	+	+	+	+
21	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
22	?	?	O	--	O	?	O	O	O	+
23	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
24	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O
25	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O
26	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	+
27	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
28	+	?	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	O
29	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Aim														
The historic and cultural environment of the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be recognised, understood, appreciated and used, contributing directly to our understanding of ourselves, our sense of identity and pride of place. This rich inheritance will be conserved and enhanced for future generations, including through well-designed and appropriately-sited additions to the built environment.														
SEA Objectives														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
++	++	?	0	0	?	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	?
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
?	?	0	0	+	++	++	++	++	?	++	++	+	0	
Assessment														
The Dales has a long and varied history of human settlement and activity that is reflected in the character, interest and diversity of its landscape. Whilst the aim makes little contribution to SEA nature conservation objectives, this is compensated for by its likely significant beneficial impacts on the historic environment and its generally positive effect on landscape objectives.														
Conclusion														
The aim is acceptable and requires no modification.														

Management Plan Objectives

- HE1. Develop a research strategy for the historic environment of the Yorkshire Dales by 2009, and use it to target and encourage programmes of survey and research, including work by local archaeology and history groups and individual specialists.
- HE2. By 2012 develop and update the Historic Environment Record for the Yorkshire Dales to incorporate the results of all publicly-funded research projects, and to make the information widely available electronically, and the paper records easily accessible.
- HE3. Carry out surveys of historic buildings, landscapes and monuments and ensure that information on the condition of those that are designated is never more than 5 years old.
- HE4. Conserve and enhance the most important buildings and structures in the Park, so that the number of Listed Buildings 'at risk' falls from 5% (90) to no more than 1% (18) by 2020;
- HE5. Conserve and enhance the most important archaeological sites and features, so that at least 95% of the Scheduled Monuments are in optimal condition by 2020.
- HE6. Develop a code of practice for individuals and organisations carrying out building and conservation work in the Yorkshire Dales National Park by 2011.
- HE7. Encourage use of local building materials and, by 2009, assemble and make available information on where these can be sourced.

- HE8. By 2008, establish an annual built environment forum for the Yorkshire Dales to develop and promote high-quality, sustainable building design, construction and conservation.
- HE9. By 2015 produce updated character appraisals for all 38 Conservation Areas and use these as a basis for developing management plans, taking action to enhance village environments in collaboration with local communities, and considering future designations.
- HE10. Gather evidence by 2010 to assess the economic value of the Park's historic environment, and use this information to develop new opportunities for employment, training and business development, as well as direct investment in maintaining the historic environment.

Assessment

The Dales is a cultural landscape containing a wealth of historic sites and buildings. Their protection is vital to conserving the particular environmental qualities and interest of the Park. The assessment of the historic environment objectives reflects this, with again a strong indication of major benefits in some areas. Notable are the positive impacts on maintaining landscape character, conserving the built legacy of traditional farming, and tackling listed buildings and monuments at risk. Although the positive scores are spread less across the SEA objectives, with no or neutral effects in a number of cases, overall the impact is positive.

There is a potential conflict between environmental objectives of conserving traditional buildings and areas and making buildings more energy efficient and self-sufficient. The two, however, are capable of reconciliation and do not pose a major concern so have not been highlighted in the assessment as a problem.

Conclusion

Whilst conserving the Park's historic environment may potentially inhibit tackling some wider environmental issues, the objectives are clearly supportive of caring for the environment of the Park. The assessment did not reveal any major negative effects so no changes to the objectives are proposed.

SEA Objs	Management Plan –Historic Environment Objectives									
	HE1	HE2	HE3	HE4	HE5	HE6	HE7	HE8	HE9	HE10
1	O	O	++	+	+	++	++	+	++	+
2	+	O	+	O	+	+	+	O	+	+
3	O	O	O	O	--	O	+	O	O	O
4	O	O	O	O	O	O	?	O	O	O
5	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
6	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
7	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	++
8	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
9	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	?	+	+
10	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
11	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	O
12	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
13	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
14	O	O	O	O	O	++	O	+	+	?
15	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
16	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
17	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
18	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
19	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
20	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
21	+	+	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	++
22	+	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	O	++
23	O	O	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	++
24	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	++	O
25	O	O	O	O	O	+	++	O	?	+
26	O	O	O	+	O	++		+	+	++
27	O	+	O	O	+	++	O	+	++	?
28	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	+	++
29	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Aim														
The National Park's special qualities will help to support a local economy that provides secure, diverse and sustainable high-quality jobs, maintains thriving, balanced communities and a healthy, cared for environment. Imagination and innovation will attract new types of business and develop a local economy that respects and draws on the area's assets and quality of life and looks to the future for its aspirations.														
SEA Objectives														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	0	0	0	0	+	?	0	--	0	0	0	0	?	0
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
0	0	0	0	+	?	?	?	0	?	0	?	++	0	
Assessment														
Whilst the aim's intentions of linking economic development to care for the Park's environment should avoid negative impacts, the extent to which it will contribute to active conservation is more difficult to predict. The net result is therefore considered to be environmentally neutral, though with some uncertainties. However, the aim would have clear benefit in maintaining sustainable communities in the Park.														
Conclusion														
The aim gives a clear steer to economic development taking place in the Park. It expects the environment to be a significant consideration and encourages a positive attitude to how the Park's environmental resources are viewed. It offers a sustainable way forward.														

Management Plan Objectives

- EE1. By 2008 develop a 'quality of place' brand, linked to the Park's 'special qualities', to use as a common thread that underpins regeneration and renaissance activity across the area.
- EE2. Target priority economic sectors that use and reinforce the Park's assets (notably the creative industries, food and drink, culture, heritage, education, health and eco tourism), to diversify the local economy, and promote the Dales as a dynamic area that is welcoming to 'low impact' business, supports innovation and offers a healthy and attractive lifestyle.
- EE3. By 2011 develop, through the Tourism Partnership, a range of high quality, innovative heritage, cultural and sustainable tourism initiatives that make imaginative use of the area's image and assets.
- EE4. By 2008 put in place appropriate arrangements to ensure land managers have access to comprehensive and co-ordinated business and environmental advice for their enterprises.
- EE5. Support local training in countryside skills, traditional construction, environmental conservation and sustainable land management and the development, by 2011, of a local centre providing such training opportunities.

- EE6. Avoid the loss of existing employment land and premises and ensure that, by 2011, at least 9 hectares of employment land have been made available for sustainable, high-quality economic development.
- EE7. Work with local organisations and businesses to encourage adoption of sound environmental practices, and by 2008 identify plans to support future projects, like 'Limestone Country' and 'Hay Time', that bring additional economic benefits from sustainable farming and tourism.
- EE8. Develop the scope, quality and co-ordination of recreational infrastructure to increase and promote the area's appeal to a wider range of people and groups and to increase the economic value to local tourism businesses.
- EE9. Use publications, events and other opportunities to encourage businesses, residents and visitors to buy and source local food and products that support national park purposes.
- EE10. Improve access to further education and training — within or closer to communities — so as to support the development of the priority sectors

Assessment

As with Community and Culture, the environmental effects of some of the objectives under this theme are difficult to predict. For example, the impacts of developing the area's recreational infrastructure to appeal to a wider range of potential users (EE8) are difficult to judge without knowing the types, locations and scale of activities that result from infrastructure developments. However, there could be negative impacts of this objective on habitats and on the area's qualities of tranquillity and remoteness. Providing land for employment generating development will also have a negative effect by taking greenfield land and could affect the traditional character of settlements. However, retaining existing employment land and premises would reduce the demand for new greenfield sites.

These adverse effects are outweighed by benefits. The objectives will make significant contributions to sustaining the Park's communities and promoting links between farming and tourism businesses and sustainable environmental management (SEA objective 20). Conversions to employment or training uses could also offer potential for conserving traditional farmsteads and buildings (SEA 7). The theme objectives proposing an integrated advice service to farmers and landowners (EE4) and increasing the number of local people trained and employed in traditional skills (EE5) will have strong positive impacts across a number of SEA objectives.

Conclusion

The effects of objectives need careful monitoring where impacts are uncertain. This applies particularly to EE8, and to a lesser extent EE2 where the effects of the marketing strategy could be both positive and negative. As for development of employment land, it's assumed that adopted planning policies will ensure standards are set and loss of greenfield land is minimised.

The overriding conclusion from the assessment is that the environmental effects of the theme's objectives will be positive and no amendments or measures are proposed.

SEA Objs	Management Plan – Economy and Employment Objectives									
	EE1	EE2	EE3	EE4	EE5	EE6	EE7	EE8	EE9	EE10
1	+	?	+	++	++	?	0	--	0	0
2	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	?	0	0
3	0	?	0	++	+	0	0	+	0	0
4	0	?	0	++	+	0	0	?	0	0
5	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	----	0	0
6	+	0	+	++	+	0	0	?	0	0
7	+	+	+	++	++	0	0	+	0	+
8	+	?	?	0	0	0	0	----	0	0
9	+	--	?	+	0	--	+	?	0	?
10	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	?	0	0
11	0	?	0	0	0	?	+	?	+	+
12	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	0	?	?	0	0	--	++	?	0	0
15	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	?	0	0
16	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	?	0	0
17	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	?	0	0
18	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	?	0	0
19	0	0	++	+	++	0	0	+	0	0
20	+	?	++	++	+	0	+	++	++	+
21	+	?	+	+	++	?	?	0	0	0
22	+	0	+	+	++	?	0	?	0	0
23	+	?	+	0	++	--	?	?	0	0
24	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
26	0	0	0	+	++	?	+	0	+	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0
28	++	++	++	++	++	+	?	?	++	++
29	0	0	?	?	0	0	0	++	0	0

FINALISING THE DOCUMENTS AND MONITORING

Following consultations on the draft Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan over summer 2006 a revised draft was considered by the Steering Group on 30th October 2006. This revised draft was modified further to incorporate the Steering Group's comments before being endorsed by the National Park Authority at its meeting on 28th November 2006. The approved plan is being made available to partner organisations and the public, through the Authority's website and as hard copy. The published plan is accompanied by this updated Environmental Report, which has assessed new objectives and re-assessed modified ones.

Preparation of a actions for delivering the Management Plan objectives is being undertaken as a separate exercise after publication of the Plan. Where necessary there will be assessment of actions proposed.

Proposals for monitoring significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be put in place. These will be based on the following indicators recording condition and change against the SEA objectives.

Objectives	Indicators
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and enhance landscape character and quality, as identified in the Countryside Quality Counts project. 2. Maintain and enhance the pattern of traditional field boundaries (hedgerows and drystone walls). 3. Increase the coverage of native broadleaved woodland. 4. Minimise the landscape impacts of all large-scale coniferous plantations. 5. Maintain all nationally-important geological sites in 'favourable' condition 6. Protect and enhance the mosaic of managed habitats. 7. Conserve and restore traditional farmsteads, associated farm buildings, features and field barns that make a major contribution to landscape character. 8. Maintain the overall tranquillity and sense of remoteness within the Park. 9. Minimise the loss of greenfield land to development. 10. Safeguard and improve water quality. 11. Reduce air pollution. 12. Manage catchments to reduce flood risks. 13. Avoid soil loss and damage. 14. Avoid further light pollution. 15. 70% of the area covered by LBAP priority habitats to be in favourable condition by 2010. 16. Increase the area of LBAP priority habitats by 7% by 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Numbers and scale of renewable energy developments. ○ Extent and condition of drystone walls. ○ Extent and condition of hedgerows. ○ Area of broadleaved woodland in the Park. ○ Dales Woodland Strategy targets. ○ Area of coniferous plantations in the Park. ○ Percentage of geological SSSIs in favourable condition. ○ Area of active mineral extraction. ○ Area of land managed in line with conservation objectives. ○ Number and condition of traditional field barns. ○ Extent of tranquil areas in the Park. ○ Annual loss of greenfield land to development. ○ Chemical and biological quality of Dales rivers. ○ Percentage of LBAP habitats in favourable condition. ○ Area of priority habitats.

Objectives	Indicators
<p>17. 95% of SSSI management units to be in favourable condition by 2010.</p> <p>18. Ensure populations of all LBAP species are stable or increasing by 2010.</p> <p>19. Identify projects that enable visitors and local people to be involved in implementing the LBAP.</p> <p>20. Implement plans to support projects promoting links between economically viable farming and tourism businesses, and sustainable management of the natural environment.</p> <p>21. Conserve the character and interest of the Park's historic buildings and their settings.</p> <p>22. Protect the Park's archaeological sites and other culturally important features.</p> <p>23. Conserve and where appropriate enhance the character and interest of the Park's settlements.</p> <p>24. Involve communities in developing management plans for Conservation Areas and in carrying out enhancement works identified in these plans.</p> <p>25. Support and encourage communities to carry out sustainable development appraisals for their settlements.</p> <p>26. Encourage sustainable use of local materials.</p> <p>27. Ensure that infrastructure organisations and utilities minimise the impact of their activities on the historic environment.</p> <p>28. Maintain sustainable communities.</p> <p>29. Encourage healthy living by providing appropriate opportunities for recreation and exercise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Percentage of biological and mixed biological and geological SSSIs in favourable condition. ○ Number of LNRs. ○ Number of projects involving visitors and local people. ○ Percentage Listed Buildings at risk. ○ No approved developments having significant impacts on listed buildings or their settings. ○ Percentage of monuments at risk. ○ No approved developments having significant impacts on sites or features of archaeological or historic importance. ○ Numbers of new Conservation Area designations. ○ Numbers of Conservation Area Character Statements produced. ○ Loss of Greenfield land to development. ○ Number of management plans produced. ○ Number of enhancement schemes involving communities that have been implemented. ○ Number of sustainable development appraisals supported. ○ Number of affordable houses built. ○ Local transport services and initiatives.

These indicators tie closely with those to be used for recording progress against the Management Plan's objectives and for monitoring the state of the Park. Data will be gathered continuously, as and when it becomes available, to ensure intelligence of the Park is as good as it can be.

APPENDIX 1

STATUTORY NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND DUTIES

The Environment Act, 1995 confirms that National Parks are designated for the purposes of:

- *“conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of (the National Park); and*
- *promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.”*

The Act places a duty [Section 62(1)] on National Park Authorities requiring them, in pursuing these purposes, to:

- *“seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.”*

A further duty [Section 62(2)] is placed on ‘any relevant authority’ (which it defines) requiring them:

- *“in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park (to) have regard to the purposes (of National Park).”*

This seeks to ensure that the actions of other authorities and agencies complements rather than undermines the pursuit of National Park purposes in these areas.

APPENDIX 2

‘SPECIAL QUALITIES’ OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK

In the Yorkshire Dales, the interaction of people with nature through history has produced a landscape of remarkable beauty, distinctive character and immense interest that is cherished and enjoyed by the nation. The area’s uniqueness is created by the combination of many elements the most important of which are listed here.

Natural Beauty

The area straddles the Pennines, the backbone of England. Geology and natural processes have been the fundamental force behind the creation of this familiar landscape and of the variety found within it. They are the bedrock of the Yorkshire Dales and have expression in numerous dramatic and impressive features:

- This is an expansive area of hill country that rises to over 2,300ft (700 metres) in the Millstone Grit capped ‘Three Peaks’. Glaciers and rivers have cut deep valleys (dales) of which there are over 20 named examples, each distinctive in character and atmosphere.
- The south of the Park displays one of the best examples in Britain of classic limestone (Karst) scenery, with its scars such as those at Gordale and Attermire, pavements including those above Malham Cove, and extensive cave systems.
- The Park’s northern landscape is equally striking. Its valleys with distinctive stepped profiles, the product of differential weathering of the Yoredale Series, are separated by extensive moorland plateaux.
- To the west of the Dent Fault are The Howgills, a series of grassy rounded hills formed from Silurian metamorphosed slates and grits, cut by deep ravines.
- This is a landscape shaped by ice, with significant glacial and post-glacial landforms and features, notably drumlin fields such as the one at Ribbleshead, erratics including those at Norber, moraines and post-glacial lakes of Semerwater and Malham Tarn.
- Spectacular waterfalls, such as Hardraw Force with its 90ft (27 metre) single drop, the famous series of Aysgarth Falls, Cautley Spout with a broken drop of 600ft (180 metres), and Thornton Force, and cascading streams bring movement and sound.
- It is a landscape of striking contrasts, most notably between the deep, sheltered dales and the open, exposed, sweeping fells above.

Wildlife

Geology, natural processes and human influences have created the particular conditions that now support a rich and diverse wildlife. This is one of the most valuable parts of the United Kingdom and has the largest area of nationally and internationally important habitats of any National Park. Its most significant habitats and wildlife include the following:

- The Yorkshire Dales is renowned for its flower-rich hay meadows and pastures, which are the product of traditional, low intensity management of grazing land over many decades. These are now very scarce nationally, this being one of the few areas where they survive in any number.
- The National Park’s range of rare limestone habitats are linked directly to the geology of the southern Dales. The area’s limestone country is of international biodiversity importance, including rare wet meadows and upland pastures, limestone pavement and limestone woodland and scrub.

- There are extensive areas of moorland, much managed as grouse moor, that contain important areas of upland heath and blanket and raised bog. These habitats cover vast areas and contain a variety of plant species.
- Deciduous woodland is a scarce yet important component of the landscape and of its mosaic of habitats. Areas are generally small, representing remnants of former more extensive broadleaved woodland or later plantings. They are crucial to scenic beauty and contribute to the different character of each dale, whilst surviving areas of ancient woodland are of particularly high biodiversity value.
- In terms of species there are nationally important populations of breeding waders, Black Grouse, Yellow Wagtail and Skylark; rare and scarce lime-loving plants such as Bird's Eye Primrose, Rigid Buckler Fern and Globeflower and Baneberry; rare and scarce invertebrates such as the Northern Brown Argus butterfly and the Atlantic White-Clawed Crayfish; and important mammals, notably the Red Squirrel.

Cultural Heritage

Despite its harsh and challenging conditions the Dales has supported communities and industry over several millennia. In turn, these communities have helped to shape much of what we now think special about the Dales. The amount and variety of evidence of the generations of occupation and activity that can still be seen today is exceptional. It provides an intriguing and highly visible record of the area's social and economic history, including:

- In the past, the way of life and culture of Dales' communities was shaped by the area's physical environment and remoteness, nurturing self-dependency and closely knit communities. Whilst the area's traditional dialects and culture are now harder to find, community spirit, self-sufficiency, determination and self-belief survive.
- What we see today reflects the impact of many different people and cultures, from Roman forts to the construction camps of the migrant workers who built the Settle-Carlisle Railway Line. Each has left lasting reminders of their toil and added extra dimensions to Dales' culture. Strength of 'place', continuity and history still shape and influence Dales' communities today.
- Livestock farmers over several centuries created a traditional pastoral landscape much of which survives. This historic landscape is of great beauty and acknowledged as of international importance, including:
 - an intricate network of drystone walls (hedgerows in Lower Bishopdale and Dentdale/ Sedbergh) that create a patchwork of enclosures across valleys and valley sides;
 - traditional stone-built field barns, the density of which in some parts of the Dales, notably Swaledale, Wharfedale and Wensleydale, is unique.
- Underlying this farming landscape is the clear evidence of even earlier patterns of cultivation, notably the stepped medieval lynchets of Wharfedale, the similarly-aged ridge and furrow of lower Bishopdale and around Castle Bolton in Wensleydale, and the extensive prehistoric/Iron Age/Romano-British fields in Wharfedale between Grassington and Kettlewell.
- The area's long history of livestock farming has given rise to distinct sheep breeds, a strong culture of upland cattle rearing; and a tradition of cheese making. Livestock farming is still deeply interwoven into Dales life and culture, with livestock sales and local agricultural shows playing an important part in the lives of its people.
- The range, importance and condition of its archaeology are exceptional, recording continuity of human activity from the Palaeolithic to its 19th century and 20th century industrial remains.

- The legacy of former rural industries adds to the character and interest of its landscape. Their influences on the area's culture and social fabric are still evident today. The Park is scattered with the remains of former mineral extraction and processing sites, especially lead and lime industry remains most of which date from the 18th century and 19th century. The Dales' 18th century and 19th century water mills are imposing reminders of how the area's resources were harnessed. Many are ancient mill sites that served their community over the centuries.
- The area's rich history includes periods of dominance by large estates and religious houses. In the medieval period substantial areas of the Dales were hunting forest, or managed as parts of the huge estates controlled by monasteries such as Fountains and Jervaulx Abbeys. Place names and some surviving structures, such as Bolton Castle, Bolton Abbey, Barden Tower and Marrick Priory are powerful reminders of this period.
- Traditional Dales architecture is distinctive and through the local building materials used it links directly to the area's geology. This strong identity generates a strong sense of place and history.
- The Dales is characterised by numerous scattered farmsteads as well as small, attractive and compact villages and hamlets most of which have been there for over a thousand years. They are still largely unspoilt and retain a very traditional and intimate atmosphere as well as a sense of continuity and stability. Many are still bordered by small, ancient, often unimproved fields accessed by narrow lanes and tracks between meandering stone walls, giving the villages an historic, timeless setting.
- The Dales has managed to retain its network of meandering valley roads, bordered by drystone walls or hedgerows and flower-rich verges. These have a particular charm and add to the strong sense of place. Higher up unfenced roads cross open moorland and offer dramatic panoramas across the open landscape and the valleys below.
- The Settle-Carlisle Railway Line, opened in 1876, is unique and displays impressive engineering and conserved Midland Railway architecture. It offers a very special way of enjoying the dramatic landscape along its route.

Enjoying the Experience of Being There

Most of the people who come to the Park will experience a range of emotions, triggered by its beauty, grandeur and other, less tangible qualities. These all help create the 'spirit of place' that is unique to the Dales. This impacts differently on different people, as the experience is personal to the individual. High on the list of elements that inspire are those that touch and excite the senses, the sounds, sights and qualities that stir the emotions, that allow people to relate to nature and that enhance true enjoyment. The following add to making the Dales very special:

- There are extensive areas where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can still be found, which is rare in England today.
- This tranquillity is enhanced by the natural sounds of wind, water and birdsong. These are important to the recreational experience, the 'spiritual exercise and enjoyment' that lies at the heart of National Park designation in this country.
- With its open fells and numerous valleys the Dales offers expansive views that show to advantage the area's beauty and variety.
- Ever-changing light, seasonal change and occasional severe weather create visual drama and contrast that enhance personal experience.
- The Dales is special in retaining the darkness of night across much of its area. As it suffers little from light pollution, the moon, night sky and atmospheric effects can be fully appreciated.

- Fresh air, clear water and clean environment are notable and enhance the area's appeal for healthy exercise, refreshing the body and the spirit.
- The area is important for the range and quality of natural and cultural resources it offers for outdoor recreation and its opportunities for accessing them. Its historic and extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and tracks, extensive areas of public access, rivers, crags and caves mean that it has some of the best walking, caving, climbing, paragliding and cross-country mountain biking to be found anywhere in the country.

APPENDIX 3

MAIN PLANS AND PROGRAMMES INFLUENCING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

International

EC Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds

EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

National

Strategy for Sustainable Food and Farming: Facing the Future

England Forestry Strategy

Sustainable Development Strategy, "Securing the Future"

"The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future", Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Rural White Paper

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Disability Discrimination Act, 1995

Rural Strategy 2004

PPS 7, Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

PPS 9, Biodiversity

PPG 15, Planning and the Historic Environment

PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning

Regional

Regional Economic Strategies

Regional Forestry Framework

Regional Environmental Enhancement Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber

Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber

Climate Change Action Plan for Yorkshire and Humber

Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework

Regional Sustainable Development Framework for Yorkshire and Humber

Regional Cultural Strategy

Sub-Regional

North Yorkshire Community Strategy

North Yorkshire Cultural Strategy

York and North Yorkshire Sub-Regional Investment Plan

Local Transport Plans

Cumbria Rural Action Zone

Local

District Cultural Strategies

District Community Strategies

Richmondshire Economic Development Strategy

National Park

Dales Woodland Strategy

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Historic Environment Strategy

Integrated Access Strategy

Yorkshire Dales Local Plan

Yorkshire Dales Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Position Statement on Farming in the Yorkshire Dales

Policy Statement on Sustainable Economic and Community Development

APPENDIX 4

NATURE CONSERVATION: CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Potential Response Scenarios		
Conservative	Challenging	Radical

1. Climate Change		
1.1.6. Target agri-environment schemes & water management initiatives to support extensive farming practices and small-scale connectivity.	1.1.7. Manage whole landscapes to ensure connectivity of habitat patches at a range of scales from local to national and international.	1.1.8. Manage large areas of the Dales through “natural processes” to enable wildlife to respond naturally to climatic changes
1.2.4. Oppose inappropriate intensive crops. 1.2.5. Support woodland planting and blanket bog/wetland management	<u>1.2.6.</u> Proactively support woodland planting and blanket bog/wetland management. 1.2.7. Develop a policy that recognises appropriate carbon sinks as a legitimate land-use in the Dales.	1.2.8. Identify a number of large areas of land that could be used for carbon sinks and implement the necessary management.
1.3.6. Oppose inappropriate renewable energy schemes. 1.3.7. Support small-scale biomass and other green energy production projects and energy conservation measures. 1.3.8. The management of energy should be a key element of Park-wide policy.	1.3.9. Establish a resource “centre” to encourage and support conversion to renewable energy. 1.3.10. Create a renewable energy advisory service.	1.3.11. Develop policy and practice that leads to National Park communities, organisations and businesses becoming carbon neutral in their use of energy.

2. Land Management

<p>2.1.11. Ensure that sufficient funds are available for the widespread uptake of Environmental Stewardship.</p> <p>2.1.12. Continue to provide the resources that support direct face to face advice and support to the farming community.</p> <p>2.1.13. Incorporate nature conservation considerations into the strategic and emergency planning for disease outbreaks.</p> <p>2.1.14. Provide public support for landowners considered to be best examples of land management for habitats and species.</p>	<p>2.1.15. Expand and fund projects like Limestone Country that promote sustainable links between economically viable farming (including mixed livestock farming) and nature conservation.</p> <p>2.1.16. Retain awareness of nature conservation considerations during crisis responses.</p>	<p>2.1.17. Increase resources available for alternative forms of land management (eg wilding) and for land purchase for nature conservation purposes.</p> <p>2.1.18. Ensure that opportunities for improved nature conservation management after disease outbreaks are identified and supported.</p>
<p>2.2.9. Provide support for more native woodland planting (with low intensive game rearing as an objective).</p> <p>2.2.10. Continue working with shooting interests to ensure sensitive management for habitats and species including the development of moorland burning plans.</p> <p>2.2.11. Continue to support all actions and initiatives aimed at seeking an end to illegal persecution of birds of prey including raising public awareness of the issue.</p> <p>2.2.12. Provide public support for landowners who are considered to be best examples of land management for habitats + species.</p>	<p>2.2.13. Provide financial support through agri-environment schemes for shooting land management that is beneficial to a wider range of LBAP habitats and species</p> <p>2.2.14. Support research into the feasibility of diversionary feeding of hen harriers and other land management measures that would reduce the conflict between hen harriers and grouse moor management.</p> <p>2.2.15. Lobby to strengthen the enforcement of existing legislation and to protect birds of prey from persecution.</p>	<p>2.2.16. Research the impacts of a less intensive more holistic form of grouse moor management which assesses the positive and negative impacts of predators, the effects of parasite burden on grouse population cycles, the impacts of ticks and louping ill and the economics of a more stable grouse population cycle (i.e. removal of peaks and troughs).</p> <p>2.2.17. Consider public ownership of some moorland areas for conservation purposes such as refuges for threatened bird species or less intensive “wilder” management.</p>
<p>2.3.6. Target woodland management and expansion through current initiatives eg Dales woodland forum, promotion of EWGS etc. where this doesn't have a negative impact on other priority habitats and species.</p> <p>2.3.7 Review Dales Woodland Strategy.</p>	<p>2.3.8. Proactively promote ES options and EWGS for new woodland planting & scrub development</p> <p>2.3.9. Only allow new non-native plantations where they will have positive conservation benefits (eg historic landscape restoration, or species conservation such as red squirrels)</p>	<p>2.3.10. Manage individual areas within the dales to ensure that a broadleaved tree & scrub cover of 30% is achieved which leads to an overall Dales-wide woodland cover of 6% (current cover is around 2.3%).</p> <p>2.3.10. Land purchase for large scale native woodland plantings – (as part of re-wilding projects?)</p>

<p>2.4.5. Promotion of sympathetic flood protection works to land owners/managers</p> <p>2.4.6. Proactive promotion of ES wetland options</p> <p>2.4.7. Use existing incentives and legislation to continue to reduce pollution of aquatic environments.</p> <p>2.4.8. Continue to ensure that water use does not lead to over abstraction of water supplies.</p>	<p>2.4.9. Extension of area based projects such as the Upper Wharfedale Best Practice Project to focus money and effort on targeted wetland creation.</p> <p>2.4.10. Develop & implement catchment-wide integrated plans for the sustainable use of aquatic environments.</p>	<p>2.4.11. Land purchase for wetland creation.</p> <p>2.4.12. Removal of strategic areas (where property is not threatened) of flood defence structures to allow flooding and development of more natural floodplain habitats</p>
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<p>3. Economic Development, recreation & sustainability</p>		
<p>3.1.9. Continue with programme to get more people onto other transport.</p>	<p>3.1.10. Establish public-private partnerships to ensure subsidised public transport services around all popular tourist destinations (funded through car parking, car tolls etc?~)</p> <p>3.2.11. Encourage organisations, businesses, communities and individuals to draw up environmentally conscious travel plans and provide incentives to implement these.</p> <p>3.2.12. Provide incentives for conversion to low polluting vehicles.</p>	<p>3.1.13. Establish car free zones with public transport only.</p> <p>3.1.14. Consider the introduction of tolls on car transport in key areas or on certain days.</p>

<p>3.2.6. Educate decision makers on how to incorporate nature conservation measures into sustainable development.</p> <p>3.2.7. Ensure implementation of local plan policies which restrict development to ensure no net loss in biodiversity.</p> <p>3.2.8. Develop guidance note on top ten projects for wildlife in development control.</p> <p>3.2.9. Develop programmes aimed at ensuring more public support and acceptance of the value of protecting the natural environment.</p>	<p>3.2.10. Require all developments to include at least 3 nature conservation projects from top ten list.</p> <p>3.2.11. Review development allowed under GPDO.</p> <p>3.2.12. Consider the concept of 'mitigation banking' – developers contribute to a mitigation fund rather than a piece-meal response.</p>	<p>3.2.13. All new developments <u>must</u> have a net gain for nature conservation.</p>
<p>3.3.7. Encourage a general awareness and appreciation of nature by continuing with our existing education, outreach, awareness raising and information dissemination programmes.</p> <p>3.3.8. Continue with current levels of access interpretation, wardening etc.</p> <p>3.3.9. Extend ETROs trial period.</p>	<p>3.3.10. Proactively support appropriate recreational uses eg ecotourism and conservation volunteering.</p>	<p>3.3.12. Implement existing policy to oppose damaging recreational uses.</p> <p>3.3.13. Zoning of other recreational uses.</p>
<p>3.4.5. Continue to support existing ecotourism and sustainable countryside recreation activities such as Aren't Birds Brilliant.</p> <p>3.4.6. Provide specialist advice to tourism providers and land managers on ecotourism opportunities.</p>	<p>3.4.7. Develop and identify funding for new opportunities in ecotourism or sustainable countryside recreation.</p>	<p>3.4.8. Develop an ecotourism business development and advice service.</p>
<p>4. Policy & Strategy</p>		
<p>4.1.7. Ensure funding and staffing resources are adequate to cover the nature conservation requirements of the new area</p> <p>4.1.8. Fund expansion of existing habitat and species surveys to cover new areas.</p>		

<p>4.2.4. Ensure that all existing positive best practice, policies and resources are maintained.</p>	<p>4.2.5. Increased power and resources to Natural England to influence all levels of government to take greater account of nature conservation.</p> <p>4.2.6. Increased funding for new nature conservation grant schemes (eg Biodiversity Grant Scheme).</p> <p>4.2.7. Maintain a special project fund to enhance ES.</p>	<p>4.2.8 Need to be given the means to implement radical measures to protect and enhance the natural environment in response to climate change (eg large-scale landscape change and rewilding).</p>
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<p>5. Biodiversity Action Plans</p>		
<p>5.1.5. Identify appropriate biodiversity performance indicators.</p> <p>5.1.6. Increase funding for monitoring species and habitats and reporting of biodiversity action plans.</p> <p>5.1.7. National Biodiversity Network, regional organisations, Local Record Centres and biological recording organisations get together to decide where data will be held.</p> <p>5.1.8. All organisations involved in the recording and use of biodiversity data to support an appropriate data handling centre</p>	<p>5.1.9. Find a mechanism to ensure that current data management initiatives work more closely together to create a network of supported Regional and Local Records Centres as hubs in the National Biodiversity Network.</p> <p>5.1.10. All agencies and data recorders and users to enter into agreements with the most appropriate of these Record Centres.</p> <p>5.1.11. Prevent further waste of public funds by stopping duplication of data management initiatives.</p>	<p>5.1.12. Require all local authorities and government agencies that hold or use data to put funding and resources into the development of the National Biodiversity Network at local and regional levels. Could form part of the duty on planning authorities to have accurate data to inform planning matters.</p>

<p>5.2.7. Yorkshire & Humber Biodiversity Forum to increase two-way dialogue with LBAP partners to determine most appropriate mechanisms for biodiversity conservation at local and regional levels.</p> <p>5.2.8.. UKBAP to increase two-way dialogue with LBAP partners to determine most appropriate mechanisms for biodiversity conservation at local and regional levels.</p> <p>5.2.9. Discuss with partners communities what role they want to have in the delivery of LBAP.</p>	<p>5.2.10. Yorkshire & Humber Biodiversity Forum to proactively support effective LBAP partnerships and provide resources to improve those partnerships that are not performing as well.</p> <p>5.2.11. YHBF to support LBAPS in their dialogue and discussions with the UKBAP.</p> <p>5.2.12. Develop the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum to become a more independent and effective advisory voice for biodiversity conservation in the Dales.</p> <p>5.2.13. Develop a series of accords with other organisations that publicly state a commitment to the implementation of the LBAP.</p>	
<p>5.3.3. Discuss with communities what role they want to have in the delivery of LBAP.</p> <p>5.3.4. Continue with current level of environmental education through National Park work, FSC, Learning in Limestone Country etc.</p> <p>5.3.5. Encourage wider use of existing Local Nature Reserves by local communities</p>	<p>5.3.6. Engage in discussions with local communities and visitors to determine how they wish to be involved in the delivery of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>5.3.7. Expand current education initiatives and ensure future funding and commitment to these.</p> <p>5.3.8. Encourage the development of additional LNRs adjacent to centres of population</p>	

6. Species Reintroductions & Pest Species Management

<p>6.1.10. Identify the extent of pest species problems and develop, promote and implement policies for their management.</p> <p>6.1.11. Enforce existing legislation and measures where these form part of publicly fund agreements such as in agri-environment schemes.</p>	<p>6.1.13. Support programmes that provide an economic basis for pest species control (eg markets for rabbit).</p> <p>6.1.14. Assess the importance of predators in controlling pest species.</p> <p>6.1.15. Develop a Dales-wide strategic programme for the control of pest & invasive species</p>	<p>6.1.15. Consider landscape-scale changes in habitat management that would enable further species reintroductions that significantly restore more natural ecosystem functions.</p>
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<p>6.2.6. Support current reintroduction programmes where they form part of a nationally coordinated plan for species recovery endorsed by Natural England.</p>	<p>6.2.7. Support habitat enhancement projects that enable reintroductions of lost species to be considered.</p>	
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