



NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 – 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2017

Members of the Steering Group

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Summary

On 1st August 2016, the boundary of the National Park was extended to include parts of the Orton Fells, the northern Howgill Fells, Mallerstang, Barbon, Middleton, Casterton and Leck Fells. The National Park increased in size and population by roughly 23%.

Other significant achievements in the last year include:

- Completion of the first year of the *Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership's* £2.5 million programme of conservation and community projects;
- The National Park was identified as the local authority area with the fourth darkest night skies in England;
- £27,000 was secured from the BMC's '*Mend our Mountains*' campaign to fund repairs to the 'Swine Tail' route on Ingleborough.
- The National Trust opened a new family-friendly cycle route around Malham Tarn;
- The National Park Authority provided over 6,000 volunteer days;
- 137 ha of hay meadow has now been restored through YDMT's *Haytime* project since 2013.
- The Yorkshire Peat Partnership helped farmers and landowners to restore natural drainage across 510 ha of degraded peatland;
- The new Local Plan for the pre-1 August National Park area was adopted by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in December 2016;
- The value of tourism within the National Park continued to grow, and is now 16% higher in real terms than in 2012;
- 11 apprentices in countryside management and rural skills are being employed through the *Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership* and the *Green Futures* programme;
- Broadband for the Rural North Ltd is installing 'hyper-fast' broadband across 11 parishes in the western part of the National Park;
- YDNPA's *Sustainable Development Fund* supported 28 local projects, worth over £750,000.

There is only one objective where little or no progress has been made:

- Providing basic mobile phone coverage (F8).

In addition, there are 14 objectives where progress is behind schedule. These include:

- The condition of Conservation Areas and the 'Barns and Walls' landscape (A2 and A4)
- The condition of nationally-designated wildlife sites (C1) and rivers (C4)
- The provision of new housing to meet local needs (F1)
- Safeguarding local services (F2, F3, and F7)

Park Profile 2017

Area		
Total Park area	218,482 ha	Natural England, 2017
Parishes totally or partly in the Park	110	YDNPA, 2017
Population		
Resident population	23,637 ¹	ONS, 2012 + YDNPA 2016
School and pre-school age (0-15)	15% ²	ONS, 2012
Working age (16-64)	59% ²	ONS, 2012
Pensionable age (65+)	26% ²	ONS, 2012
Housing		
Housing stock	13,396 ³	YDNPA, 2016
Resident households	10,480 ⁴	YDNPA, 2017
Owner occupied	7,712 ⁴	YDNPA 2017
Private rented	2,069 ⁴	YDNPA 2017
Social housing	699 ⁴	YDNPA 2017
Second homes and holiday lets	2,916 ⁴	YDNPA 2017
Natural Environment		
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	57,338 ha	Natural England, 2017
Area of priority habitat	83,191ha	Natural England 2017
Land use		
Moorland, heath & rough unenclosed grassland	n/a	
Farmland	n/a	
Woodland	8,037 ha	Forestry Commission, 2015
Developed land	n/a	
Heritage		
Scheduled Monuments	292	Historic England, 2017
Conservation Areas	46	YDNPA, 2017
Listed Buildings	2,123	Historic England, 2017
Grade I	25	Historic England, 2017
Grade II*	102	Historic England, 2017
Grade II	1,996	Historic England, 2017
Recreation		
Total Rights of Way	2,620 km	YDNPA, 2017
Public footpaths	1,748 km	YDNPA, 2017
Public bridleways	783 km	YDNPA, 2017
Other public rights of way	89 km	YDNPA, 2017
National Trails	174 km	Natural England, 2017
Publicly-accessible land	129,680 ha	Natural England, 2017

¹ Includes YDNPA estimate of 3,876 residents in the new area of the National Park

² Indicative figure based on the pre-1 August 2016 National Park area (ONS, 2012)

³ ONS 2012 + YDNPA estimate for the new area of the National Park

⁴ Indicative estimate based on the pre-1 August National Park area (ONS, 2012)

A distinctive, living, working cultural landscape that tells the ongoing story of generations of people interacting with their environment

Objective (edited)	Progress	Lead Body	Status
<i>A1. Maintain at least 80% of the Park in basic 'Environmental Stewardship' agreements and increase the area covered by enhanced management agreements to at least 55% by 2017.</i>	83% of the former National Park was in Environmental Stewardship and 73% in the 'Higher Level' scheme. However, there is likely to be a time lag in removing expired agreements from the figures, so the actual current coverage may be significantly less.	Natural England	✓
<i>A2. No more than 70 listed buildings, 15 scheduled monuments, and no conservation area 'at risk' by 2020.</i>	69 Listed Buildings, 5 Scheduled Monuments and 4 Conservation Areas 'at risk'.	YDNPA	
<i>A3. By 2015 provide clear guidance on which traditional farm buildings should be a focus for public investment, and those that can best be adapted for re-use or allowed to decline.</i>	' Barns Toolkit ' published in 2016. It supports new policies on barn conversion in the new Local Plan (adopted December 2016).	YDNPA	✓
<i>A4. Enhance the Swaledale-Arkengarthdale Barns and Walls Conservation Area so that by 2016 it is no longer considered 'at risk'.</i>	Local Plan policy L2 permits a wider range of new uses for roadside barns but will not change the status of the Conservation Area. Muker barns restoration project underway but works won't start until later this year.	YDNPA	
<i>A5. Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity can be found, and implement a range of measures to enhance and promote its dark skies.</i>	Satellite mapping by the Campaign to Protect Rural England showed that the National Park is the fourth darkest area in England (behind Northumberland NP, Exmoor NP and the Isles of Scilly).	YDNPA	
<i>A6. Establish a professional network to encourage innovative, high-quality and more sustainable building design and publish new design guidelines by 2016.</i>	Text of the Design Guide has been published on the website, and is being used. Final publication of the full version has been postponed to July to allow images to be added.	YDNPA	
<i>A7. Support local communities to establish the extent of potential threats from 'Heritage Crime' (theft, vandalism etc.), and promote measures to help reduce it.</i>	North Yorkshire Police's Rural Task Force was launched in April 2016. Its role includes providing crime prevention advice regarding heritage sites.	NY Police & Cumbria Constabulary	
<i>A8. Use the Historic Environment Record to research, record and promote the stories of the National Park area, and carry out and co-ordinate regular surveys of important historic structures and landscapes.</i>	Rolling programme of annual surveys of listed buildings and scheduled monuments was carried out by Dales Volunteers and local heritage groups.	YDNPA	✓
<i>A9. Put at least another 10 km of existing overhead power lines underground by 2018.</i>	7.4 km of overhead power lines placed underground to date, with further projects in development.	ENW & Northern Power Grid	
<i>A10. Support delivery of large-scale projects such as the 'Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership' to enhance the wider landscape of Ribblesdale and Chapel-le-Dale by 2019.</i>	First year of IDL programme was successfully completed. More than £72,000 has been distributed to groups and individuals. Grants have helped fund the rebuilding of 1,438m of dry stone wall, a series of self-guided walk leaflets about Ingleborough's archaeology, and the restoration of Selside village green.	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust	

✓

Achieved

On course

Some progress


Little or no progress

A friendly, open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities

Objective (edited)	Progress	Lead Body	Status
B1. Promote the Yorkshire Dales National Park as a leading sustainable tourism destination in the UK, renowned for its local distinctiveness.	Destination Dales group directs the development of tourism in the Yorkshire Dales. Range of events, forums and support for businesses taking place, including e.g. Dark Skies Festival .	Dales Tourism Partnership	
B2. Maintain and promote the network of public rights of way so that, on average, 90% are 'easy to use' each year.	88% of rights of way were recorded 'as 'easy to use' in 2016. The average figure since 2013 is still 90%.	YDNPA	✓
B3. Maintain and keep under review appropriate measures to manage the use of recreational motor vehicles on sensitive green lanes and continue to work with enforcing agencies as required.	98% compliance with the Traffic Regulation Orders that were in place in the former National Park area.	YDNPA	✓
B4. Work with the organisers of large-scale events to ensure they are well run, and provide positive benefits for local communities and businesses, and establish a fund to cover the full cost of maintaining the '3 Peaks' route.	£26,000 raised for the ' 3 Peaks' fund in 2016/17. An additional £27,000 was secured from the ' Mend our Mountains ' campaign to fund repairs to the 'Swine Tail' route on Ingleborough.	YDNPA	✓
B5. Carry out works to improve access on appropriate routes so that 170 km (8%) of rights of way are suitable for users of all ages and abilities by 2018, and introduce 5 short, waymarked walks from main villages.	A further 12 km of routes were improved in 2016/17. In total, 168 km (7.8%) of public rights of way are now suitable for users of all ages and abilities. New waymarked routes have been introduced in 3 main villages (Aysgarth, Grassington and Malham).	YDNPA	
B6. Make the Yorkshire Dales National Park accessible and relevant to a diverse range of groups, including providing 1,000 session places for local disadvantaged people by 2018.	306 'session places' provided by the National Park Authority in 2016/17, taking the total so far to 1,233.	YDNPA	✓
B7. Through the 'Green Futures' project, use educational and skill-based activities to inspire up to 4,000 young people from in and around the National Park to discover, explore and enhance the environment by 2021.	Green Futures has worked with 603 young people in the first year of the 4-year programme.	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust	
B8. Continue to provide at least 5,000 volunteer days per year, with 10% coming from under-represented groups by 2018.	6,249 days provided. 1,098 days (17.5%) from under-represented groups.	YDNPA	
B9. Work with local people to deliver world-class cycling events, and develop a range of new opportunities for people to explore the National Park by bicycle, including creating 3 new routes for family-friendly cycling by 2018.	The National Trust's route at Malham Tarn has been completed. The National Park Authority has secured £50,000 from Richmond District Council and £98,000 from the Dales LEADER programme for a new 'Swale Trail'. The owners of Greenfield forest are creating a new 8 km route through the forest.	North Yorkshire County Council	

 Achieved

 On course

 Some progress

 Little or no progress

Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

Objective (edited)	Progress	Lead Body	Status
<i>C1. Support farmers and landowners to get 85% of the area covered by priority habitats into 'good condition' by 2016, and to get around 38% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest into 'favourable condition' by 2020, including all geological sites.</i>	89% of priority habitats were in 'good condition' in 2014. Next full condition report will be produced in 2017. There has been no change in the condition of SSSIs with 28% currently in 'favourable' condition, and 95% of geological SSSIs in 'favourable' condition.	Natural England	
<i>C2. Support farmers and landowners to increase the area of priority habitats, including creating at least 20 ha of upland hay meadows by 2020.</i>	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has restored 137 ha of upland hay meadow since 2013.	YDNPA	✓
<i>C3. Ensure that 50% of all ancient semi-natural woodland is in good condition or being well managed by 2018.</i>	42% of ancient semi-natural woodland is being well managed through agreements with the Forestry Commission. Condition of other sites will be assessed in 2017.	Forestry Commission	
<i>C4. Achieve good ecological status for at least 60% of rivers and 33% of water bodies by 2022.</i>	47% of rivers and 17% of water bodies (lakes and reservoirs) are in good ecological condition (no change from the previous year).	Environment Agency	
<i>C5. Establish baseline population estimates for all monitorable priority species by 2016, and set targets to get the population of these species stable or increasing.</i>	46 'monitorable' species have been identified, all of which have baseline population estimates. The target is to get 95% (43) of these stable or increasing by 2020.	YDNPA	
<i>C6. Work with parish councils, local community groups and landowners to increase from 20 to 45 the number of sites that are being managed for nature by local community or volunteer groups by 2018.</i>	41 sites (up from 36 the previous year) are now being managed by local groups through YDNPA's Parish Wildlife project .	YDNPA	
<i>C7. Help landowners and other organisations to manage invasive, non-native species, including establishing which ones can be effectively managed, and mapping their distribution by 2018.</i>	136 sites in the National Park are being monitored by the Environment Agency, including for the presence of invasive species. <i>Ad hoc</i> work is taking place at various sites, with two more significant projects underway in Lunesdale (Lune Rivers Trust) and on the Upper Wharfe SSSI (Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, and YDNPA).	Environment Agency	

✓ Achieved

On course

Some progress


Little or no progress


Resilient and responsive to the impacts of climate change, storing more carbon each year than it produces

Objective (edited)	Progress	Lead Body	Status
<i>D1. Through the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, help farmers and landowners to restore more natural drainage across a further 5,000 hectares of degraded peatland, taking the total to 19,000 hectares by 2018.</i>	The Yorkshire Peat Partnership helped farmers and landowners to restore 510 ha of degraded peat in the winter of 2016/17. This brings the total restored so far in the National Park to 18,683 ha.	Yorkshire Peat Partnership	On course
<i>D2. Increase the take up of small-scale renewable energy so that at least 5 megawatts have been installed by 2018.</i>	After significant increases in 2014 and 2015, there was a further small increase in capacity in 2016 (to 4.1 mW) following cuts to the feed-in-tariff for biomass installations.	YDNPA	On course
<i>D3. Promote take up of energy efficiency measures that are suited to the traditional building stock, so as to support efforts to eliminate fuel poverty by 2016.</i>	During the year the Authority published new design guidance supporting energy efficiency, including the retro-fitting of measures into existing properties.	District Councils	Some progress
<i>D4. Make semi-natural habitats more resilient and adaptable to the uncertainties of climate change and the risks from new pests and diseases by helping famers and landowners to 'buffer' or link together a number of the key gaps by 2018.</i>	The 'TeeSwale - Naturally Connected' bid to the national HLF panel was unsuccessful. It is intended that a revised bid will be submitted later this year.	YDNPA	Some progress
<i>D5. Help local communities to adapt to the impacts of more extreme weather conditions, including identifying sites most at risk and using these to target appropriate local interventions and resilience measures.</i>	The new Local Plan contains policies that steer development away from areas of higher risk of flooding. The policy also aims to reduce downstream runoff by managing surface water from new development. A number of natural flood management projects are scheduled to start in 2017.	County Councils	On course
<i>D6. Support farmers and landowners to create at least 400 ha of new native woodland by 2020.</i>	New agreements were entered into for 48 ha of woodland. This takes the total created since 2013 to 227 ha.	YDNPA	On course
<i>D7. Ensure that at least 66% of all woodland is in active management by 2018, and develop a locally-based wood-fuel initiative.</i>	65% of woodland is in active management (slight drop from previous year but only because of the inclusion of the new area of the National Park in the figures).	Forestry Commission	On course
<i>D8. Establish rail links at the three quarries in Ribblesdale and reduce combined road haulage from these quarries by at least 50% (compared to 2011), by 2018.</i>	Combined annual road haulage from Dry Rigg and Arcow quarries was reduced by a further 50,000 tonnes this year. The total reduction for Ribblesdale since 2011 is 35% (850,000 tonnes per annum). All quarry traffic through Ribblesdale has now ceased on Saturdays and Sundays.	Quarry companies	On course

 Achieved

 On course

 Some progress

 Little or no progress

Providing an outstanding range of benefits for the nations based on its natural resources, landscape and cultural heritage, which underpin a flourishing economy

Objective (edited)	Progress	Lead Body	Status
<i>E1. Promote the National Park as a high quality place to live and work, so as to attract new 'low impact' businesses with high quality jobs, and increase the proportion of young adults and people of working age living in the National Park.</i>	Craven and South Lakeland District Councils have secured £1.5 million for a project to undertake research to establish what is culturally important to the area between Skipton and Kendall, and how that culture can be used this to attract younger people to live and work in the area.	District Councils	
<i>E2. Provide access to high quality (>10mbps) broadband across the whole National Park by 2019, and further increase access to superfast broadband.</i>	Through B4RN , a community benefit society, hyperfast (1Gb) broadband is being installed across 11 parishes (c8%) of the National Park. This is in addition to the on-going mainstream roll-out of superfast broadband installed through 'Superfast North Yorkshire' and 'Connecting Cumbria'.	County Councils	
<i>E3. Maintain and develop strong business networks covering farming, tourism, creative industries and knowledge-based businesses.</i>	<i>No information available</i>	Local Enterprise Partnerships	
<i>E4. Increase the value of tourism by 20% in real terms by 2020.</i>	The value of tourism in the National Park in 2016 was estimated to be £252 million – an increase of 16% in real terms compared to 2012 (baseline).	Dales Tourism Business Network	
<i>E5. Increase in real-terms the total level of financial support to farmers and landowners through agri-environment and other environmental support schemes.</i>	The total annual value of national Environmental Stewardship Scheme agreements was £11.094 million, compared to £9.069 million in 2013. However, there is likely to be a time lag in removing agreements that expired in 2016 from the figures, so the actual current level of funding may be significantly less.	Natural England	✓
<i>E6. Work to improve the quality and value of farm produce from the National Park and promote local food, including through the '30:30' campaign.</i>	YDNPA has secured funding from Defra to develop activities that will encourage businesses to use the Park's special qualities – including local food - to promote the area. Ideas being explored include development of a cheese festival and food trails.	Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network	
<i>E7. By 2015 prepare a new Local Plan that sets out how the local planning system will be used positively to help achieve the vision and objectives in this Management Plan.</i>	A new Local Plan was adopted in December 2016.	YDNPA	✓
<i>E8. Support the Settle-Carlisle Railway and the re-opening of other rail lines, including Bolton Abbey to Skipton and reinstatement of the Wensleydale Railway from Redmire to Aysgarth by 2020.</i>	The new Local Plan provides clear support for development associated with the Settle-Carlisle Railway and the reinstatement of the former Wensleydale Railway. The economic evidence demonstrating the benefits of the western extension of the Wensleydale Railway was reviewed and updated.	Wensleydale Railway	
<i>E9. Provide a range of apprenticeships with organisations in the National Park, including at least 40 in farming, countryside management and heritage skills by 2019.</i>	22 apprenticeship opportunities previously provided (through YDMT's Dales Rural Trainees scheme and the Farmer Networks for the Dales and Cumbria). Currently 3 apprentices being supported through the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership and 8 through the Green Futures programme.	District Councils	

✓ Achieved

On course

Some progress

Little or no progress

Objective (edited)	Progress	Lead Body	Status
<i>F1. Support construction of at least 75 affordable dwellings and 75 'local market' dwellings by 2018.</i>	88 affordable or local market dwellings have been constructed since 2013. 143 permissions have been granted over the same time period.	Housing Associations	
<i>F2. Support improved community health facilities including the delivery of new extra care housing services in Grassington, Hawes, and Reeth by 2020.</i>	The new Local Plan containing a policy specifically supporting specialist accommodation for elderly and vulnerable adults but no new extra care housing has yet been identified.	County Councils	
<i>F3. Safeguard services essential to the long-term viability of local communities, including retaining good access to: primary health care services; nursery provision; primary and secondary schools; and, colleges that serve the National Park.</i>	Horton primary school is programmed to close after July 2017 having fallen below an intake that the Education Authority considers sustainable, financially and in education terms.	County Councils	
<i>F4. Use the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), New Homes Bonus (NHB), and other funding sources to support at least 20 new projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.</i>	YDNPA's Sustainable Development Fund supported 28 local projects, worth over £750,000. In addition, 3 economic/community projects were supported through Craven's New Homes Bonus.	YDNPA	✓
<i>F5. Safeguard existing community meeting and recreational places that the community considers is particularly important to protect.</i>	The new Local Plan contains a policy that prevents loss or significant harm to community meeting spaces, except where they are no longer needed. A separate policy identifies and safeguards important open space.	YDNPA	
<i>F6. Publish criteria that communities can use to identify, assess and record locally-important heritage features, and use the Local Plan to put in place appropriate measures for their management by 2016.</i>	The new Local Plan contains relevant policies to conserve, maintain and re-use locally-important heritage features and buildings. Criteria to support that policy will be published in 2017.	YDNPA	
<i>F7. Maintain public and community transport services to meet the needs of local communities and visitors to the National Park.</i>	The growth in community transport schemes – such as the Upper Wharfedale Venturer , which was launched in 2016, has helped to retain services for local communities and visitors.	County Councils	
<i>F8. Provide at least basic mobile phone coverage to all significant clusters of properties across the Park by no later than 2018.</i>	No increase in coverage since 2013.	DCMS	
<i>F9. Support the development of 'Community Led Plans' and the identification of buildings or land that are 'Assets of Community Value'.</i>	Five 'Neighbourhood Plans' have been adopted in the National Park. Assets of community value were submitted to Craven District Council in Long Preston and Stainforth (public houses).	District Councils	
<i>F10. By 2020, deliver a co-ordinated programme of support for local regeneration through the Yorkshire Dales and Cumbria Fells and Dales LEADER programmes.</i>	The 2015–2020 Yorkshire Dales LEADER programme supported 2 projects in the National Park worth over £25,000. The CFD LEADER Programme funded one project situated in the National Park worth over £40,000.	County Councils	

✓ Achieved

On course

Some progress

Little or no progress