Corporate Plan 2026/27



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

A vision for the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Through their passion for this special place, local people and businesses will keep the Yorkshire Dales National Park a thriving area. Its unique cultural landscape will be treasured for its stunning scenery, exceptional heritage and wonderful wildlife, and every year millions of people will be inspired to be a part of it.

By 2040 it will be:

- ***home to the finest variety of wildlife in England***
- ***resilient and responsive to the impacts of climate change, storing more carbon each year than it produces***
- ***a friendly open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities***
- ***a distinctive living, working cultural landscape that tells the story of generations of people interacting with their environment***
- ***providing an outstanding range of benefits for the nation based on its natural resources, landscape and cultural heritage, which underpin a flourishing local economy.***
- ***home to strong, self-reliant and balanced communities with good access to the services they need***

Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2025-2030

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority was created by the Environment Act 1995 as an independent body within the framework of local government.

Our role is very clearly defined by Parliament in our two statutory purposes to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park;
- promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

In pursuing these purposes, we are also required to:

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

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan is the most important document for the National Park. It sets out a vision for the National Park and specific objectives for the next five to ten years. It is produced by a partnership that includes local organisations and representatives of local businesses, farmers and landowners. The 2025-30 plan was reviewed and produced during 2024-25. To read the full Management Plan, visit https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/national-park-management-plan/.

This Corporate Plan

Our Corporate Plan sets out the specific objectives that the National Park Authority will work towards over the next three years. Most of these come directly from the National Park Management Plan (see above) but are supplemented with a number of objectives that centre on trying to be an effective organisation providing an excellent level of service.

Our work is organised into 38 ‘sub-programmes’, which are resourced according to their level of priority. The current priorities are:

- Education
- Farm Conservation
- Outreach
- Planning
- Recreation & Health
- Rights of way
- Wildlife
- Woodland

The objectives that relate to these eight priorities are highlighted in **bold** on the following pages.

Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

Objectives	Progress by March 2027
1. Support farmers and landowners to restore or create 750 hectares of new wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2030.	600 ha created (cumulative)
2. Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of semi-natural habitats in one 'nature recovery area' ('Tees-Swale') and develop similar initiatives for at least 2 additional areas by 2030.	Complete Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected
3. Ensure that recovery plans are in place and being implemented for all 'priority wildlife species' by 2030.	2 recovery plans produced
4. Work with farmers, landowners to improve the condition of rivers – including significantly reducing diffuse pollution from farming through the Catchment Sensitive Farming programme.	160 farmers advised

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

Objectives	Progress by March 2027
5. Work with farmers and landowners to encourage creation of a further 200ha of native broadleaf and mixed woodland, including, scrub, wood pasture and natural regeneration by 2031, to create a network that increases resilience to climate change and reduce downstream flood peaks.	50 ha (cumulative)
6. Work with farmers and landowners to support food production through the use of regenerative farming practices, working with natural processes, across at least 40 farm holdings by 2028.	30 farm holdings (cumulative)

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

Objectives	Progress by March 2027
7. Manage and maintain the standard of all public rights of way, so that, on average, 90% remain 'easy to use'	90%
8. Create 5 new 'miles without stiles' routes that are suitable for a diverse range of ages and abilities.	2 new routes (cumulative)
9. By 2030 work with 150 community groups to co-design activity days, support and training to help people from under-served communities to experience the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park more easily.	80 community groups (cumulative)
10. Provide curriculum-based outdoor learning and skills-based activities to enable 3,000 young people from in and around the National Park to explore and take action to enhance their environment each year and embed youth participation in the work of the Authority and the National Park Management Plan Partnership.	3,000 young people
11. Help to tackle health inequalities and improve people's health and well-being by enabling at least 1,500 people with health conditions to connect with and experience the special qualities of the National Park through 'social prescribing' activities by 2030.	350 people (cumulative)
12. Give people from all backgrounds an opportunity to enjoy and contribute to looking after the National Park by providing at least 5,000 volunteer days per year, with at least 20% coming from under-served communities by 2029.	5,000 volunteer days
13. Enhance at least five 'green lanes' by 2030 and manage use by recreational motor vehicles and motorcycles - encouraging and supporting responsible use.	2 'green lanes' enhanced (cumulative)
14. Manage and promote the Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway and Coast-to-Coast National Trails and other established long-distance routes and improve linkages from the Coast-to-Coast route to 5 nearby settlements by 2030.	1 linkage improved (cumulative)

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

Objectives	Progress by March 2027
15. **Support farmers and landowners to enhance the Dales' landscape, and support nature, climate and farming resilience, including planting field trees to mitigate the impact of ash dieback on tree cover outside woodlands, and creating or restoring 35 km of hedgerows by 2028 (from a 2022 baseline).**	28 km of hedgerows restored (cumulative)
16. Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity and remoteness can still be found, including taking action to retain international 'Dark Sky Reserve' status.	Dark Sky Reserve status retained
17. Support farmers and landowners to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape of field barns and drystone walls, so that at least one of the Barns and Walls Conservation Areas (Swaledale & Arkengarthdale and Littondale) is no longer at risk.	Complete character appraisal for Littondale
18. Help local people to record, restore, repair and – where possible - bring back into use historical sites, buildings and features.	3 listed buildings at risk conserved

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

Objectives	Progress by March 2027
19. **Provide an efficient development management service that supports appropriate opportunities for economic and community development whilst helping to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park, including ensuring that 65% of minor and 80% of 'other' planning applications are being determined within eight weeks and at least 80% of applicants are satisfied with the service provided.**	65%/80% of applications determined on time
20. **Establish an integrated National Park farm advisory service to: support regenerative farming; increase take-up of national agri-environment schemes and green finance opportunities; and so, support the viability and retention of low input livestock farming across the National Park.**	Introductory service established
21. **Make the National Park more accessible to a diverse range of ages and abilities, including by providing 4 locations that all have 'Changing Places' accessible toilet facilities, all terrain mobility scooters, and 'miles without stiles' routes.**	1 location with all services (cumulative)

22. Encourage and support farms and estates to provide more opportunities for visitors and schools groups to experience the special qualities of the National Park, including establishing a 'peer mentoring' network to help build capacity by 2029.	Audit of existing provision
23. Develop and promote events and attractions based on the National Park's special qualities that will be attractive to a new, more diverse and younger audience, so that 15% of visitors each year are coming for the first time.	15% first time visitors
24. Improve the quality, sustainability and accessibility of the tourism 'offer' and information to encourage visitors to stay overnight, come 'out of season', and experience parts of the National Park that are currently less visited.	Run the Dark Skies Festival
25. By 2030 provide at least 15 apprenticeships or traineeships, and wider programmes of training in land management, heritage and green skills, including the new skills needed by businesses to support more nature-friendly farming and tackle climate change.	7 apprentices or trainees (cumulative)

Home to strong, self-reliant and balanced communities with good access to the services they need

Objectives	**Progress by March 2027**
26. Grant sufficient planning permissions (around 75) each year to support the completion of 250 new dwellings by 2030, of which at least half will be social housing, affordable or local occupancy homes to attract and retain younger working age households.	Planning permission granted for 75 dwellings
27. Increase the proportion of dwellings that are permanently occupied by requiring all new dwellings to be for principal occupancy.	Adopt new Local Plan
28. Support programmes of activity by other bodies to encourage sustainable development within the National Park, including initiatives that improve access to services, support green jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	SDF grants to at least 10 local projects
29. Develop and contribute to relevant local plans and projects to improve connections for walking, cycling, wheeling and horse-riding and create at least two new multi-use routes by 2030, including one linking Garsdale–Hawes.	Complete Phase 2 of ATE Capability Funding Programme

To be a highly effective organisation that delivers quality services and is widely recognised for its expertise in National Park policy, practice and partnership-working

Objectives	Progress by March 2027
30. Plan and manage the Authority's work to make the most effective use of its resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms.	Expenditure of at least £10.3m
31. Provide high quality, efficient and effective services to the public and other stakeholders, achieving substantial assurance through an annual Customer Service audit.	Substantial assurance
32. Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and Report.	Unqualified audit opinion for 2025/26
33. Ensure that we have HR policies, procedures, terms and conditions to attract and support the right people with the right skills, core values and behaviours to deliver the Authority's work effectively, as evidenced by accreditation under the Investors in People standard.	Retention of IIP standard
34. Provide facilities and IT systems that are fit for purpose and support the effective delivery of our services and high standards of health, safety and well-being.	Reasonable assurance – internal IT audit
35. By 2030, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our operations by at least 95% compared to 2005/06	83% reduction (cumulative)
36. Provide high-quality, engaging communications to audiences in a variety of formats, including generating 2 million web views a year.	2,000,000 web views

Organisation and funding

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has 25 Members – our Board. The local unitary, county and city councils appoint fifteen. Four are put forward by local parish councils, and six are appointed by the Secretary of State at Defra as representatives of the 'national' interest. The Authority has also appointed two co-opted young Members to its Finance and Resources Committee to strengthen the breadth of experience and skills available to the Committee and the wider work of the National Park Authority.

Our core funding comes from central Government, not from local taxpayers. This reflects the fact that our responsibilities are different to those of other local authorities and extend to people who live well beyond the National Park boundary.

The Authority employs 137 full-time equivalent staff providing a range of specialist services. This includes 4 apprentices, 2 trainees and 16 fte project officers funded by external grants. This reflects the fact that achieving our objectives depends increasingly on raising significant funding from sources other than our core Government grant. Income from these other sources was around £7.5 million in 2025/26 and accounted for over half of our expenditure.

Driving improvement

We continually seek to improve the quality and value for money of our services. Our Audit and Review Committee has lead responsibility for this aspect of our work. A number of processes are in place to monitor and report publicly on our performance and ensure we strive for improvement. To find out more, visit our website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/our-service-to-you/our-performance/

Involving others

Achieving our objectives is dependent on our working with many other bodies and with local communities. We believe that the public and our partners should help to shape our responsibilities as a National Park Authority. Before we make important decisions about our priorities for action or the activities we plan to undertake, we aim to involve those who have an interest or who may be affected. To find out about recent and forthcoming consultations, visit our website at https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/have-your-say/

Partnerships

We work closely with a range of local partner organisations, as well as the people who own and manage the land and buildings – local businesses, farmers, landowners and communities. The most important of these formal partnerships is the National Park Management Plan Partnership, which is responsible for producing and monitoring the National Park Management Plan.

Our vision

To use our expertise and passion for conserving, enhancing and sharing this special place, so that:

- Local people, businesses and organisations will keep the Yorkshire Dales National Park a thriving area;
- Its unique cultural landscape will be treasured for its stunning
- scenery, exceptional heritage and wonderful wildlife; and,
- Every year millions of people will be inspired to be a part of it.

Our core values

Our core values underpin the way in which we will achieve our mission and deliver key services and targets:

- **Improvement:** we will continually strive to improve our performance in delivering National Park purposes.
- **Accountability**: we will explain and take responsibility for our decisions and actions.
- **Commitment**: we will do what we say we will do.
- **Integrity**: All our relationships will be built on honesty, respect, transparency, equality and impartiality.
- **Open and Approachable:** We will be open to new ways of doing things, and will work positively with others to achieve our objectives in ways that help them meet theirs .
- **Valuing and Empowering Our People**: We will value the people who work for us and will work to ensure that they are equipped, supported and empowered to provide professional services to the public.

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