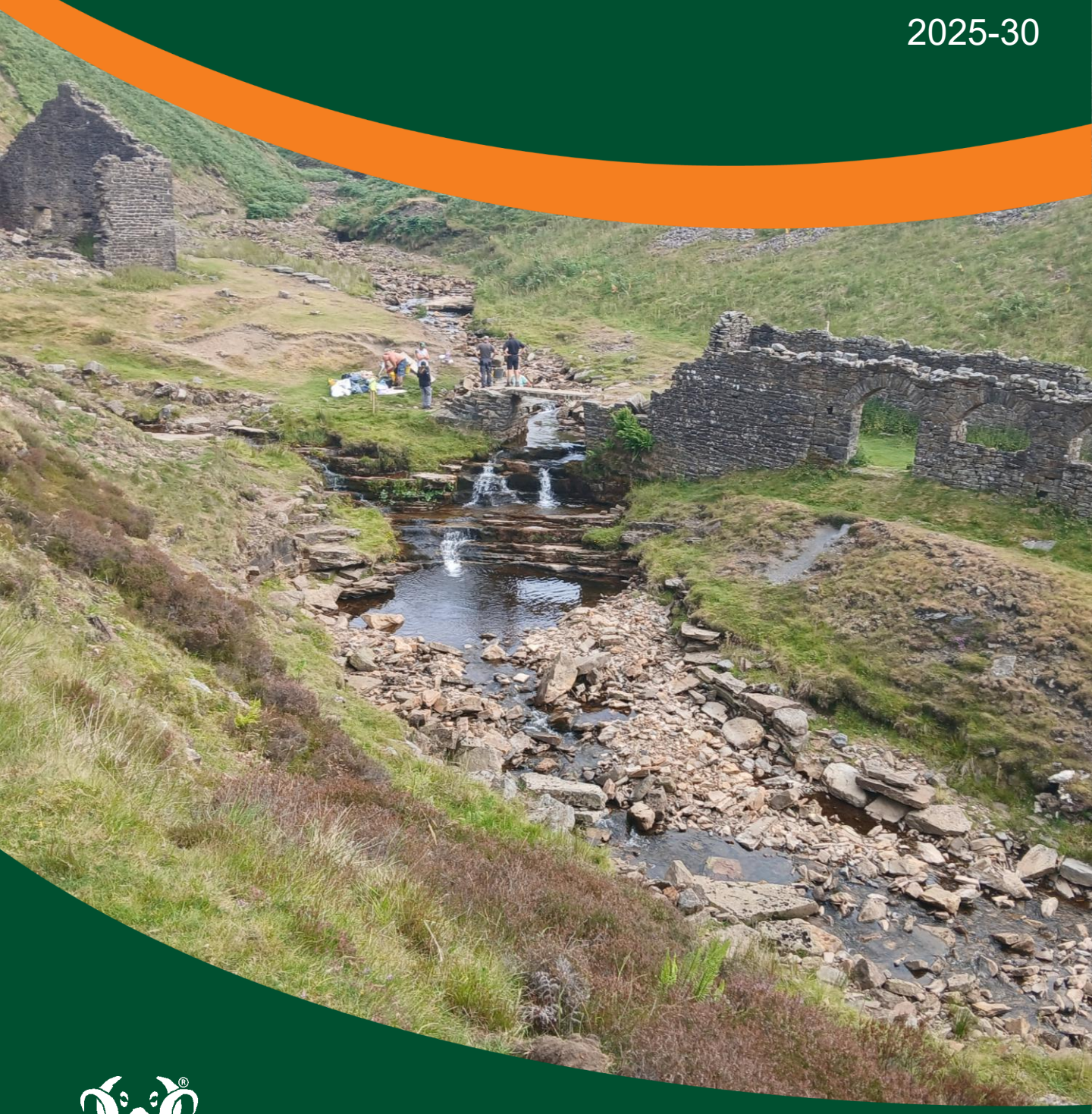
Cultural Heritage Strategy

2025-30



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

A Cultural Heritage Strategy for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

2025-2030

1. Introduction

This strategy is concerned with the 'cultural heritage' of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The conservation and enhancement of the "natural beauty, wildlife *and cultural heritage* of the National Parks" is one of the two purposes of National Parks, as set out in section 61 of the Environment Act 1995.

What is cultural heritage?

For the purposes of this strategy, cultural heritage is defined as the collective story of the human past. It encompasses much of the physical environment as well as evolving knowledge, beliefs and traditions. It is commonly expressed in terms of:

- 'tangible' cultural heritage, such as buildings and historic places, monuments, artifacts, etc., that are considered worthy of preservation for the future (commonly referred to as the 'historic environment'); and,
- 'intangible' cultural heritage, such as traditions, customs, practices and events local to specific places, aesthetic and spiritual beliefs, artistic expression, language and other aspects of human activity.

For a more comprehensive definition of cultural heritage, see Convention concerning the protection of world cultural and heritage (UNESCO 1972) and Conservation Principles (English Heritage 2008).

Purpose of this Strategy

The statutory National Park Management Plan 2025-30 was reviewed and updated by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Partnership. The Partnership includes local authorities, statutory environmental bodies, and the voluntary sector, as well as local farmers, landowners, tourism businesses and young people. The Plan was published in October 2025.

The Government expects stakeholders, including public agencies and authorities to collaborate both in the development and review of the Management Plan, and in the delivery of its objectives. The Management Plan therefore sets out a shared vision for the future of the National Park.

Two of the Management Plan objectives relate directly to the conservation of cultural heritage. In addition, there are a number of objectives that are relevant to the management and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This strategy, therefore, sets out more specifically what the National Park Authority intends to do over the next 5 years to:

- help to achieve the objectives for cultural heritage that are set out in the National Park Management Plan; and,
- provide an efficient and effective cultural heritage service, including meeting the commitments set out in other relevant strategy documents, notably, the recently

revised and updated Joint Statement on the Historic Environment in the National Parks of England, Scotland and Wales (*Appendix 1*)

Joint statement on the Historic Environment:

The Joint Statement on the Historic Environment is a shared commitment by all UK National Park Authorities and Government Agencies (arms-length bodies and non-departmental public bodies) across England, Scotland and Wales. It is of fundamental importance in its recognition of the value of the historic environment in Protected Landscapes and guides the preparation of plans and strategies. It is a statement of priorities with 4 key themes relating to: Planning Places and Protection; Advocacy and Partnerships; Landscapes for Everyone; Heritage in Nature Recovery & Climate Change.

At the time of writing the revised wording for the Joint Statement and its related action plan are being circulated for comment before the text is finally agreed. The documents will then be sent to the CEOs of each National Park and appropriate representatives of the other partners for their signatures and adoption by the Group.

Special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales cultural heritage

Those special qualities of the National Park that relate to cultural heritage and which underpin the management plan are described in Appendix 2.

The work of the Authority and our ambition for cultural heritage

The vision and ambition as expressed in the YDNP Management Plan 2025- 2030 are:

"Through their passion for this special place, 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."

By 2040, it will be:

- *A distinctive, living, working, cultural landscape that tells the ongoing story of generations of people interacting with their environment.*
- *A friendly, open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities.*

2. The Authority's resources for cultural heritage work

The core Authority resource for cultural heritage work is based in two main programmes - Historic Environment and the Dales Countryside Museum, with further support spread across a range of programmes and sub-programmes.

The Authority determines the priority of its various programmes/sub-programmes every 3 years. For the three years starting from 2025/26, the main programmes that will underpin delivery of this strategy have all been set as either 'adequate', which means that the current approach to the programme will be maintained, with significant improvements being dependent on access to external funding, or 'limited', which means that progress will be dependent on external funding, and we will only do the minimum necessary to meet legal duties. Significant progress will, therefore, be dependent on continuing to seek opportunities to secure funding for heritage work as part of wider Authority projects and programmes (like Farm Conservation) or working partnership with other bodies, like Historic England.

There is also an ambition to build more engagement with cultural heritage as part of the Authority's programmes on Health and well-being and education and outreach.

Cultural Heritage resources

The Authority's Historic Environment programme includes an operational budget for the following: Buildings at Risk, Conservation Areas, Historic Environment Record and Monuments at Risk.

Income generation

Each year the Authority's heritage work generates a modest amount of income as a result of charging for:

- Responding to Commercial HER enquires.
- Provision of advice and relevant HER data for agri-environment schemes, some planting proposals and input to bespoke projects run by DEFRA and Natural England.

Officer time is also charged for in relation to substantial input to heritage related work through the Farming in Protected Landscapes initiative, Landscape Recovery Projects, such as the Yorkshire Peat Partnership Ure Dales LRP and discrete externally-funded schemes such as the recent Coast-to-Coast path project.

Running the annual Yorkshire Dales Archaeology Day usually results in a modest profit for the Authority when all outgoings have been accounted for. Small sums are also generated through receiving fees for delivering talks to external groups.

External Project funding

Historic Environment related projects are funded from a variety of sources. These include the National Heritage Lottery Fund and Government agencies such as Historic England and Natural England. Sporadically private donors provide funds for projects such as barn restorations. These funds usually are administered via the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

In kind contributions: the HE team regularly work with Historic England on projects in the National Park. This can involve us contributing some pump-priming budget towards

much bigger projects such as the Westmorland Dales aerial mapping project which used LiDAR imagery and aerial photographs to generate Historic Environment Records of earthwork sites in the recently incorporated area of the National Park. Also, following the Scheduling of Dudderhouse Cairn in 2025, Historic England have undertaken drone-based photogrammetric recordings of that monument and a nearby Scheduled prehistoric settlement site at no cost to the Authority.

The 2022 Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill became an Act of Parliament in 2023. This included a requirement for Local authorities to manage and maintain an Historic Environment Record as a Statutory Duty. At that time, it was recognised that there would be a burden on local authorities to meet this new requirement. It was then stated that the financial impact of this would be met by Government within the annual local government finance settlement, albeit not ring-fenced for this purpose.

At that time, we advised that, as the YDNPA does not have a dedicated HER Officer, it was expected that the financial impact would be new staffing and resources to meet the new Statutory Duty. Subsequently, however, there has been a change of government and there is no progress to report on this matter, though it may be regenerated in future.

3. Objectives for Cultural Heritage

For continuity, in this strategy, the relevant cultural heritage objectives from the National Park Management Plan have been grouped under three broad themes that were used in the previous Cultural Heritage Strategy document (2019–24):

- Historic landscapes
- Conservation of heritage assets
- Research, information management and community engagement

The objectives under each theme are then grouped into core cultural heritage objectives, and incidental cultural heritage objectives. Core objectives are dealt with in greater detail.

Historic landscapes

NPMP Objective 4.1 - Support farmers and land managers to maintain and improve the outstanding landscape, geology, wildlife and heritage of the National Park, so that at least 80% of land managers have adopted nature-friendly farming or land management on at least 15% of their land by 2030.

Current situation

At the time of production of this document DEFRA's mechanism for rural grants and payments is through the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme. There are three ELM themes: Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI); Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) and Landscape Recovery - land going into this agreement must consist of at least 500 connected hectares.

Of the three themes, CSHT and SFI pay land managers to optimally manage heritage assets under a range of options.

Holdings which enter into CSHT and SFI must have an Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER). This lists and maps all heritage assets on the farm holding, including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas (or parts of) and SHINE (Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England) data, or features which have been noted as part of the survey to inform the HEFER.

In Protected Landscapes an additional source of funding for the management of historic built features and archaeological sites is available through the Farming in Protected Landscapes Scheme (FIPL). Since the scheme began in 2021 a number of designated and non-designated traditional farm buildings have benefited from repairs funded through it in the Yorkshire Dales. FIPL funds have also been used to support archaeological field survey projects to inform interpretation of sites and structures, and in a few cases to fund research projects related to specific land holdings.

Landscape Recovery Schemes

The Landscape Recovery scheme was designed to complement the Sustainable Farming Incentive, which supports action at farm level to make farming more sustainable, and Local Nature Recovery, which supports action at local level to make space for nature alongside food production.

This scheme is for landowners and managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate goods on their land. In the Yorkshire Dales, to date, applicants for the development phase of these schemes are owners and managers of large areas of land including, for example, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the National Trust.

Since the first tranche of pilot schemes for LRP, Heritage is now an integral aspect of these projects with applicants having to demonstrate that they have considered in the development phase how heritage assets and features of historic significance will be preserved in the life of the scheme, and the conservation and enhancement of culturally significant sites and landscapes

The applications for the two-year delivery phase of the first round of LRPs were opened in 2022. Since this time the Historic Environment team have been involved in providing heritage advice to three proposed schemes in the Yorkshire Dales:

- The Three Counties LRP focussing on land around the Ingleborough massif and it is being delivered by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust;
- Ure Dales LRP which covers uplands lying between Wensleydale, Coverdale and Bishopdale. This is focused largely on peatland restoration. This is being delivered by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, which is part of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In bidding for the funds to undertake the delivery phase of this scheme, which is currently on-going, YPP requested £40,000 to cover the funding of archaeological advice and Historic Environment Record enhancement of the LPR

area. These funds are being used to employ the current Community Heritage Officer post holder on a 0.5 fte basis for two years to provide this service.

- Working with the National Trust's archaeologists, HE team staff, have provided archaeological advice and information on the Heart of the Dales NT LRP development phase of the Heart of the Dales LRP which focusses on land owned by the NT in Wharfedale.

Implementation

The Authority will:

- Ensure the sustainable management of the historic environment through its inclusion within agri-environment agreements which will continue to be a core area of work for the Authority.
- Provide timely and effective responses to agri-environment scheme consultations, including those for peatland restoration and woodland planting schemes.
- When required, provide evidence to DEFRA/Natural England in support of the continued management of historic environment features in agri-env schemes.
- Work closely with the organisations that deliver peatland restoration to ensure optimal management of the palaeo-environmental and archaeological remains in the uplands whilst ensuring the greatest area possible is available for restoration.

NPMP Objective 4.4 - 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.

Current Situation

Traditional field barns are one of the most distinctive elements of the Dales' landscape. The most recent estimate was that there were over 4,000 field barns within the National Park[1]. Over 2,000 of these were assessed as being in poor or very bad condition. However, since this estimate the National Park has been extended by 217 km^2 in 2016, and the total number of field barns will now be substantially higher than the aforementioned estimate. While previous national agri-environment schemes have provided significant investment in repairing and restoring barns, the sheer scale of this issue means they have had limited impact on the overall trajectory of decline. Two Conservation Areas (the largest in England) have been designated specifically for their outstanding 'barns and walls' landscape (in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale; and Littondale). Both are categorized as 'at risk' and will remain so under current conditions.

Whilst national funding has declined dramatically in recent years, the Authority has been involved in a number of conservation schemes, including a pilot conservation scheme covering a small number of traditional farm buildings in 5 National Parks, including the Yorkshire Dales. This scheme, titled the Historic Building Restoration Grant, was a standalone capital grant scheme set up by Defra with the involvement of Natural

[1] *Field Barns – A Wasting Asset,* R White (1988)

England, Historic England, participating National Park Authorities and a number of other parties, and it ran from 2018 until 2023. The YDNPA oversaw the successful repair and restoration of 12 barns under this scheme, including 7 listed buildings, with a total of approximately £1.2 million grant funding spent in the Yorkshire Dales, with funding allocated at 80% for each barn with the remaining 20% made up by the applicant.

In addition to this scheme, The Authority undertook a project to restore traditional barns in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale using legacy funding, with an additional private donation, resulting in repairs to 7 barns between 2021 and 2023 with over £80,000 contributed in grant funding. Since 2021 the Authority has also been participating in Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) grant programme. To date this has enabled the funding of repairs and restoration works to at least 13 traditional barns within the Yorkshire Dales. The Authority's participation in the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership between 2019 and 2014 also saw the restoration of an additional 2 field barns.

A significantly larger scheme would be required to make to make any statistical impact on the overall observed decline in the condition of traditional field barns. In addition, the processes available through current and recent projects would be difficult, for reasons of capacity, to replicate at a larger scale. It is suggested that major funding and a range of activities, including an emphasis on the sensitive adaptive reuse of farm buildings will be needed to make headway on the issue of conservation of traditional farm buildings, with a particular focus on one or both of the 'barns and walls' Conservation Areas.

Implementation

The Authority will:

- Continue to support current project initiatives, and advocate for the development of simple schemes that allow for the adaptive reuse of TFBs for agricultural and other low impact uses.
- Support the adaptive re-use of suitable traditional farm buildings through the development management process.
- Consider what can be done to further support development of alternative, lower intensity, adaptive re-use initiatives, including the barn pod idea
- Work with Historic England) to identify ways to improve the risk status of the two Barns & Walls Conservation Areas, including producing a Character Appraisal and Management Plan for the Littondale Barns and Walls Conservation Area.
- Where highly significant farm buildings are under threat, consider listing as a fallback measure to enable future conservation work
- Where there is no hope of retaining traditional farm buildings, ensure that an appropriate level of recording is undertaken prior to their total loss.

Conservation of Heritage Assets

NPMP objective 4.3 - Help local people to record, restore, repair and – where possible bring back into use historical sites, buildings and features, including ensuring that no more than 12 nationally designated heritage assets are at risk by 2030.

Current Situation

The National Park now contains 2,143 listed buildings and 293 scheduled monuments.

When the previous CHS was prepared in 2019 the condition of listed buildings and scheduled monuments was regularly assessed through volunteer-led monitoring, administered by the Authority. That monitoring has been discontinued due to insufficient resources to administer it.

Following the appointment of a Historic Environment Trainee in October 2025, and the extra resources became available to administer the outputs of this programme it is planned to restart the Monuments at Risk survey in the next financial year (2026-27).

Whilst the Authority takes a lead on the majority of conservation projects affecting significant heritage assets in the National Park, Historic England is the statutory consultee and consenting body for all works affecting scheduled monuments and grade I and II* listed buildings. The Authority has a very good working relationship with regional Historic England officers. There is regular communication on casework with Regional Inspectors, and we have recently been successful in attracting Historic England's Survey team to undertake work on sites in the Ingleborough area of the National Park.

Listed Buildings at Risk (BARs)

As of January 2026, there are 7 Grade I, Grade II*, or Grade II ecclesiastical or scheduled listed buildings on the national 'Heritage at Risk' Register. A further 57 Grade II listed buildings are considered to be at risk. Another 128 are classed as 'vulnerable'. The Authority's funding for buildings at risk has generally been targeted at individual small projects and supporting owners to do work to vulnerable buildings to prevent them from reaching 'at risk' status.

Larger scale projects that can be resolved through finding beneficial economic use for a building are facilitated by the Authority's development management function, both through the development of supportive policies and planning application casework.

There are over a hundred public bridges that are listed in the National Park. A significant number of these are serially at risk from vehicle collisions and have suffered incrementally from poor repair.

Continuing to operate under current conditions is likely to result in the numbers of at risk and vulnerable buildings remaining fairly static. There are a significant number of listed buildings at risk that require substantial and complex interventions. Some of these are currently considered intractable – because of the costs, the desire or ability of the owner to play a role in finding a solution, other external factors; or all three. The proposed strategy is, therefore, about pragmatism and prioritisation, using limited resources to achieve positive outcomes for smaller, less complex cases, while carefully selecting a limited number of more complex cases where there is a realistic prospect of achieving a positive outcome.

Monuments at Risk

Scheduled monuments are more diverse in nature than buildings. They are legally protected from damage and disturbance as they represent the cohort of nationally important monuments and archaeological remains in England. The aim of this protection is to preserve the best examples of these for the benefit of current and future generations.

The majority of monuments are in stable management. Of the 293 Scheduled monuments, 10 (3.4%) are identified as being 'At Risk' on the national 'Heritage at Risk' Register[2]. A further 57 (20%) are identified as being 'vulnerable'.

Of the contingent of 'at Risk' monuments, several have long-standing, intractable issues that would be both physically and financially difficult to resolve. There are a number of monuments in the new area of the National Park that are still to be assessed, so the overall picture may change a little.

The Authority has had some success in acquiring external funding for the conservation of Scheduled Monuments in recent years. Some monuments require regular/ongoing management, typically in the form of e.g. scrub or bracken control, and the NPA has used both volunteers and contractors to undertake this.

Implementation

The Authority will:

- Reinstate the collation of monitoring data from volunteer-led surveys of scheduled monuments at risk; review the methodology; and, complete surveys of all accessible monuments in the National Park over the course of the period of this CHS.
- Use relevant planning data to monitor condition of listed buildings and update the BARs register annually.
- Implement a clearer and more coordinated approach to BARs, prioritising cases and making pragmatic use of limited resources, including:
    - 'quick win' repair projects - typically small monuments, milestones, walls, private bridges etc. that are incapable of providing a direct economic return and that can be directly funded by the Authority, or through the Farming in Protected Landscapes Grant programme;
    - buildings capable of viable re-use – these can be promoted through the planning process so that permissions are obtained and the buildings marketed or converted;
    - for buildings that have no viable conservation prospects, pursue recording, consolidation or accept managed decay;
    - work with the highway authorities to improve standards of work to listed bridges and remove delays associated with obtaining consents and rectifying poor repairs.

[2] *Heritage at Risk 2025, Historic England (2025) Lammerside Castle has two entries as it is both an SM and a LB (1019580 and 1145017)*

    - complex cases – identify one complex project each year to receive concerted effort in order to improve the prospects of it being removed from the at-risk register, including engaging the landowner, exploring funding possibilities, publicity and enforcement measures as appropriate
- Run a programme of volunteer and contractor-led maintenance work on SMs that require regular management;
- Seek opportunities for new management scheme funding for SMs from Historic England
- Undertake at least one significant SM conservation project each year
- Work with the Environment Agency and Rivers Trusts to seek support for a wider programme of works to mitigate the effects of diffuse pollution from historical lead mining sites in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale.

Non-designated buildings

Current situation

The Authority currently responds to both formal planning applications and to pre-application enquiries; in each case, providing information about the significance of heritage assets affected by proposals, and advice on appropriate measures to maintain and enhance heritage assets through the planning process. Casework is informed by guidance produced by Historic England and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)[3]. This activity forms part of the Authority's statutory function and is one of the key tools for protection and enhancement of the National Park's heritage. Planning casework is tightly time-bound, and fluctuates to a lesser degree than project work, for example. One of the challenges the Authority faces in relation to planning and the historical environment is balancing the fluctuating demands of project work against statutory casework. This can only be done by limiting specialist heritage officer input to those applications affecting statutorily designated heritage assets and cases which impact on above and below ground archaeological remains. Applications affecting many non-designated heritage assets are dealt with by the Authority's skilled development management officers.

Following the extension of the National Park in 2016, the Authority took the decision to prepare a single Local Plan for the whole of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. As of January 2026, a new emerging Local Plan (2025-2040) has been submitted for inspection by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. The Authority has started to give weight to some emerging Local Plan Policies.

The emerging Local Plan contains new and updated policies relating to heritage assets (including non-designated heritage assets), the conversion of traditional buildings, and the demolition and alteration of traditional farm buildings. Upon formal adoption, these new policies will represent an opportunity to apply a more consistent approach to development proposals affecting non-designated heritage assets throughout the National Park, in line with current National Planning Policy.

[3] *Historic England HEAG 099 Understanding Historic buildings, HEAN 17 Planning and Archaeology, CIfA Archaeological works: a guide for construction companies and householders (March 2023)*

This process has also provided an opportunity to contribute to the revision of the supporting Design Guidance and to provide updated guidance on the production of Heritage Statements.

Implementation

The Authority will:

- Provide timely and proportionate advice through its development management service to encourage the development that helps to conserve, enhance and bring back into use the most important non-designated historical buildings.
- Remain abreast of developments in historic environment guidance and professional good practice. Officers maintaining memberships/contact with CiFA, the Association of Local Government Archaeologists, and IHBC, and attending the meetings of regional heritage officer groups.
- Use the emerging Local Plan process to make updates and changes to policy and guidance covering the historic environment by reviewing or providing additional supplementary guidance where it is relevant to the cultural heritage (e.g. Design Guide).

NPMP 5.3 - By 2030 provide at least 30 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.

Current Situation

A two-year Apprenticeship post for the Historic Environment team was created in 2017 and was filled three times.

In 2025 an Historic Environment trainee post was created, with the successful applicant working largely with the Historic Environment team, with additional training and experience being provided by our partners including University of Central Lancaster and Historic England.

Implementation

The Authority will:

- Maintain a Historic Environment Apprentice/Trainee post
- Continue to look for opportunities to provide early career training in Heritage. This will depend on funding being available to cover the costs of the post and/or training provider depending on what schemes are available at the time.

Research, information management and community engagement

Current Situation

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for the National Park, a digital database and physical source collection, contains data on over 45,000 archaeological and historic sites, monuments, structures and find spots. It encompasses both designated and non-designated heritage assets. Currently the database is managed and updated only on an ad-hoc basis by existing staff, as and when time or externally funded projects allow. The YDNPA does not employ a dedicated HER Officer at the present time.

Over the period of the last Cultural Heritage Strategy the Historic England/YDNPA funded aerial archaeology project to date has generated over 1000 new records for the 2016 extension (Westmorland Dales) area of the National Park. Cultural heritage related projects which were part of the landscape scale WDLP NHLF project also generated significant new and enhanced records, notably through the Small-Scale Heritage features project which added items such as churn stands and clapper bridges to the HER in five villages in the Westmorland Dales.

Subsequently involvement of the team in the Ure Dales Landscape Recovery Project (LRP) has funded extended HER enhancement within the boundary of the LRP application area (focusing on uplands south of Wensleydale and north of Langstrothdale).

In order to maintain a viable Historic Environment Record, every five years the Authority has to take part in an HER audit process which is overseen and signed off by Historic England's Heritage Information Partnerships Team. The HER Audit is a comprehensive review of the Historic Environment Record service, covering service provision, database and GIS content, data management practices, and organisational management including staffing and forward planning.

Community Engagement

A number of community archaeology projects were led or assisted by the Authority over the period of the last CHS. The Authority employs a Community Heritage Officer to secure external funding to deliver community engagement outcomes. These have included the development and delivery of volunteer projects within larger scale externally-funded schemes (such as Gamelands, Digging the Past and Monuments at Risk for the WDLP, Brant Fell Community Walkover and Ingleborough Cave Project for Our Common Cause), the delivery of volunteer training events, and the delivery and development of in-house, YDNPA community archaeology projects (such as The Quaker Field project and Knights Close survey). Further engagement was achieved through giving talks to local groups and guided walks, to educate the wider public about the historic environment of the national park. The Authority has also continued to use social media channels and the YDNPA blogs to expand the reach of this activity, although the capacity to do this is very dependent on having a Historic Environment Apprentice in post. The Authority has run an annual 'Dales Archaeology Day', with speakers generally presenting on recent research for the last 21 years. The event now moves between different venues in order to be available to as much as possible of the population within and around the National Park. Provision of advice and information to local groups or individuals seeking to carry out research, or to develop and deliver community heritage projects within the YDNP has also been undertaken, as well as monitoring and guiding any fieldwork that such projects undertake in the NP.

Within the Yorkshire Dales National Park there are a number of long-established local archaeological and historical societies. These groups do valuable work, not least as active partners in bringing in external funding such as National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) grants for a range of heritage related projects.

It's important that their input and support is recognised, otherwise there is a danger that this valuable partnership will fade away. The successful delivery of objective A3 is likely to rely on working with partners in the voluntary sectors to both secure funding and be involved in practical conservation work. The conservation and management of the Historic Environment is also embedded within the Landscape Recovery Projects which are currently being developed in the national park; and also burgeoning NLHF bids.

Both these funding strands provide opportunities for public involvement in elements of these schemes. For the historic environment this could be the monitoring, recording and practical conservation of heritage assets. Working on such projects is also increasingly being seen as a valuable method of 'social prescribing'. The outputs of this work would then contribute to the development of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Historic Environment Record.

Implementation

The Authority will:

- Complete an HER Audit in line with Historic England's specification in 2029.
- Seek opportunities for the promotion of understanding of the historic landscape of the Dales by increasing public involvement in monitoring and recording of heritage assets; and contributing to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Historic Environment Record.
- Based on the success of working with archaeological specialists from UCLAN continue to build new links with university-based researchers, and facilitate new external research-based projects into various aspects of the National Park historic environment
- Working with education and outreach teams in the Authority seek opportunities to deliver heritage related social prescribing events on an annual basis.
- Continue to run the annual Dales Archaeology Day
- Maintain the Authority's historical environment social media and blog accounts when resources allow.
- Continue to seek external funding to develop and deliver community heritage projects to provide training and participation opportunities
- Continue to provide advice and support to local groups seeking to develop community heritage projects

Dales Countryside Museum

Current Situation

The Dales Countryside Museum (DCM) shares the stories of the people and places of the Yorkshire Dales and provides opportunities for involvement in heritage related projects. The collection, research facility, displays, temporary exhibitions and volunteer opportunities are all used as a focus for community engagement with heritage.

Future activity and implementation:

The Authority will:

- Through the externally funded Going Places project (2025-2030), involve local communities and particularly young people, in the recording of oral histories, encourage and facilitate research activities and share voices and knowledge through the exploration of collections and the co-creation of exhibition materials.
- As the base for the Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' club, celebrate the 20th anniversary of the club in 2026. With the support of the volunteer team, continue to provide opportunities for children and young people to explore archaeology and the broader heritage of the Dales and to be inspired to help conserve it.
- Engage audiences through the DCM website and social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram and X.
- Continue to explore collections related to the lives of rural women with a view to creating an exhibition with socially engaged photographer, Jo Coates, in 2027.
- Make the collection database available online via the Museum Data Service managed by the Collections Trust.
- Work with universities to make the collection and history of the Museum collection and its founders more accessible, including working with a Leeds University PhD student to explore the life and work of DCM Marie Hartley, Ella Pontefract and Joan Ingilby, digitise material and co-create an exhibition in 2029.
- Continue to work with Leeds University in relation to research into and exploration of dialect and heritage, enabling active contributions, volunteering opportunities and making the archive accessible to the communities to which it relates.
- Continue to enhance the accessibility of the site and collections for visitors.
- Explore opportunities for improving environmental controls within gallery spaces, particularly within the temporary exhibition hall to enable cultural heritage collections to be shared without risk of damage.

Appendix 1: Joint Statement on the Historic Environment
https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/rural-heritage/protected-rural-landscapes/joint-statement-historic-environment-aonb/

Appendix 2: Special qualities of the National Park: cultural heritage
https://staging.yorkshire.whereverly.com/documents/special-qualities-of-the-yorkshire-dales-national-park/html