Progress on Objectives 2024/25

Objectives that are in bold and prefixed with 'priority' were priorities for 2024/25. The status reflects the progress towards the objective, not the target by March 2025 (unless they are the same).

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

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
1. Priority: Support farmers & landowners to deliver a range of public benefits through national agri-environment schemes & similar initiatives, including the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme.	£1.6 million in FiPL grants	£2.45 million in grants paid to farmers and land managers in 2024/25 for a range of projects supporting nature, climate, people and place.	Achieved
2. Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can be found and retain 'Dark Skies Reserve' status.	Retain Dark Sky Reserve status	Light meters installed for ongoing monitoring. Continued support for better lighting through development management advice. Annual Report submitted to Dark Sky International in Jan 2025.	Achieved
3. By 2024, secure significant funding to repair, restore, and, where appropriate, find adaptive new uses for traditional field barns, particularly those in Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Littondale.	30 barns repaired or re-used	44 barns repaired/restored/reused – 18 funded through FiPL and 26 converted (i.e. completed) to residential uses.	Achieved
4. Help local people to restore, repair and - where possible - bring back into use nationally-important historical sites, buildings and structures so that fewer than 4% of scheduled monuments and listed buildings are 'at risk' by 2024	12 SMs 'at risk' 80 LBs 'at risk'	10 (3.4%) Scheduled Monuments remain at risk (no change from 2019/20). 60 (2.8%) of Listed Buildings remain 'at risk' (down from 76 (3.6%) in 2019/20).	Achieved
5. Use DCM and the Historic Environment Record to help local heritage groups to research and record the stories of the National Park, including completing the enhancement of the HER for the new area of the National Park by 2024.	Complete enhancement of Western Dales HER	Concluding phase partially completed but now delayed by the withdrawal of the consultants. We are working with Historic England to re-let the contract for completion this year.	Near miss

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

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
6. Priority: Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that, on average, 90% are 'easy to use'.	88%	'Ease of Use' survey figures of 92%. Bridges at Kex Gill, Beamsley replaced and new bridge at Horton-in Ribblesdale installed.	Achieved
7. Priority: Run a cohesive programme of inspirational, participatory activities that attract at least 4,000 people each year to find out more about the National Park's special qualities.	4,000 people	7,941 people have attended events e.g. DCM, Dark Skies festival, Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected, film festival. Black Nature in Residence final exhibition took place.	Achieved
8. Priority: Increase opportunity for people with a disability to access the Park so that by 2026, 15% of visitors using Miles without Stiles routes self-identify as having a disability/long-term health condition.	12%	User survey shows 12% of visitors using Miles without Stiles routes had a disability/long term health condition. A new Tramper route has been created at Aysgarth.	On course
9. By 2024 provide 5,000 people from under-represented groups with activity days that enable them to access the special qualities of the National Park, and increase their understanding, enjoyment, health and well-being.	5,000 people [cumulative]	Cumulative total = 8,647. 932 people at activity days through Generation Green 2, BMW Reach Out & Recharge, Tees-Swale, Green Social Prescribing and partnerships with outdoor providers.	Achieved
10. Through educational and skills-based activities, inspire 1,500 young people from in and around the National Park to explore and enhance their environment each year.	1,500 young people	1,647 young people have attended educational activities - 85% schools from outside of the National Park. Green Careers Day delivered with Lancaster University. 110 FIPL funded school visits on farms.	Achieved
11. Give people from all backgrounds an opportunity to enjoy and contribute to the National Park by providing at least 7,000 volunteer days per year, with 15% coming from under-represented groups.	7,000 volunteer days	5,565 volunteer days provided with 1,462 coming from under-represented groups (26%). Reduction in volunteer days due to monitoring programmes within Trees & Woodlands; Heritage; Ranger-led activities.	Not achieved
12. Work with organisers of large-scale events to ensure they are well run, benefit local businesses, and contribute to the maintenance of the National Park's natural capital, e.g. funding the cost of maintaining the Three Peaks route.	Secure £26,000 for 3 Peaks route	To date £29,455 has been secured. Worked with several large-scale events including a public sector event with 800 participants and the 3 Peaks Fell Race. 460m of surfacing works completed at Beecroft.	Achieved
13. Maintain 'green lanes' and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.	90% compliance with TROs	The 2024 Annual report recorded 94% compliance with TROs. With North Yorkshire Council, continued with improvements to unsurfaced unclassified roads on Cam High Road, Hawes and Busk Lane, Marsett.	Achieved

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
14. Maintain and promote the Pennine Trails and other recognised long-distance routes and implement the Coast-to-Coast path as a National Trail through the National Park by 2025.	Complete signing of the C2C	25% of signs erected. 6 Public Path Orders completed. Remaining legal works continue to establish the route. 900m flagging completed on White Mossy Hill, with remaining section to be completed before Dec 2025.	On course
15. Promote and encourage responsible cycling, enabling the development of two 'cycle hubs', & work with local Highway Authorities & other partners to undertake the work necessary to develop one further family-friendly cycling route by 2024.	2 cycle hubs	2 cycle hubs already in place. Negotiations with landowners along the proposed Garsdale – Hawes multi-use route continued throughout 2024/25, with several agreeing in-principle to offer access.	Achieved

Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
16. Priority: By 2025 draw up and adopt a plan for monitoring species that are sensitive to landscape-scale changes in habitat.	Adopt the monitoring plan	A plan for monitoring species that are sensitive to landscape changes in habitat is being finalised for the Biodiversity Forum to adopt at their meeting in September 2025.	On course
17. Priority: Work with farmers, landowners and partner organisations to restore or create 500 ha of species-rich grassland habitats by March 2027	Restore 120ha of grassland	Through Tees Swale: Naturally Connected, 23 ha of meadow restoration and 31 ha of species-rich grassland management. A further 18 ha was restored through FiPL.	Not achieved
18. Priority: Deliver a co-ordinated 5-year programme of investment to support nature recovery through the Tees-Swale: naturally connected programme, and identify other potential landscape-scale 'nature recovery areas'.	Complete year 4 of Tees-Swale programme	In addition to the grassland restoration work (see above), projects have been carried out to support rush management and wetland creation, planting of 0.78 ha woodland and 977 m of hedgerow	On course
19. Priority: Work with farmers and landowners to improve the condition of the Aire, Eden, Lune, Ribble, Swale, Ure and Wharfe so that 70% of all rivers achieve 'good ecological status' by 2025.	70% in good ecological status	51% in 2024; Awaiting 2025 figures from the Environment Agency. Through CSF we worked with 160 farmers & landowners advising on water quality, soil health and Natural Flood Management.	Not achieved

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
20. Priority: Work with moorland managers… to end illegal persecution of raptors, including independent and scientifically robust monitoring, and co-ordinated hen harrier nest and roost site protection.	Local coordination of nest and roost protection	The YD Bird of Prey Partnership has published annual Evidence Reports. Monitoring of most species is incomplete. Successful nests down this year and still incidents of illegal persecution being reported.	Not achieved

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

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
21. Priority: Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects.	Work with the OuseWem programme	Worked with OuseWem project team to identify and introduce key landowners within the Widdale & Gayle beck target areas. Those introduced are now working with OuseWem team on current and future projects.	Achieved
22. Through Grow Back Greener & other local funding programmes, support farmers & landowners to create at least a further 225 ha of native broadleaved & mixed woodland that enhances the National Park's landscape by 2025.	225 ha (cumulative)	A further 34 ha was created in 2024/25, bringing the cumulative total over the past 4 years to 220 ha. Grow Back Greener has been extended for another year, therefore we expect to achieve 225 ha by March 2026.	Near miss

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

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
23. Priority: Encourage & facilitate high quality proposals for new housing in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices, such that around 85 new dwellings are approved each year….	85 dwellings approved	86 dwellings approved, taking the average over the last 6 years to 92 per year.	Achieved
24. Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support 15 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.	15 new projects funded	19 projects supported including new visitor facilities and events, restoring historic buildings and sites, revealing and celebrating local heritage, enhancing community facilities, and conserving wildlife and dark skies.	Achieved

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

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
25. Priority: Provide an efficient development management service, including ensuring that 65% of minor and 80% of 'other' planning applications are being determined within 8 weeks……	65%/80% of applications determined on time.	82% of 'minor' applications and 91% of 'other' have been determined within eight weeks.	Achieved
26. Priority: Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2025, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan.	Submission to Planning Inspectorate	Delayed by an additional round of consultation arising from the work of the Member Working Group on housing sites. Expect Plan to be adopted early in 2026.	Near miss
27. Develop and promote events, festivals and attractions based on the National Park's special qualities and local distinctiveness so that at least 10% of visitors each year are coming for the first time.	10% first time visitors	Delivered the Cheese Festival and Dark Skies festival 10th anniversary. The 2022 visitor survey found that 15% of visitors interviewed were visiting the National Park for the first time, the next survey is due in 2027.	On course
28. Increase opportunities for visitors to understand and enjoy the National Park, so that by 2026 over 60% of total visitors to the 4 National Park 'Visitor Hubs' go into the Visitor Centre.	58%	Measured via surveys on car parks outside NPVC's. Average number of visitors going into Visitor Centres 71%.	On course
29. In partnership with key organisations, and in consultation with local communities and visitors, update the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) by 2025, giving priority to tackling the climate and nature emergencies.	Complete consultation on full draft	Full draft Plan issued for public consultation in January. NPMP Partnership has considered the responses and a final set of objectives will be coming to the Authority for adoption in June.	On course

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

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
30. Plan and manage the Authority's work so as 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 across the extended National Park area	Expenditure of at least £9.7m	Total gross expenditure (£13.9 million) was £1.4m higher than the previous year and the highest in real terms since 2010.	Achieved

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
31. Provide high quality, efficient and effective services and communications to the public and other stakeholders, and so maintain the Customer Service Excellence standard every year.	CSE standard retained	CSE assessment carried out during the summer, and accreditation has been maintained.	Achieved
32. Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.	Unqualified External Audit opinion for 2022/23	Annual Governance Report completed. The external audit opinion for 2022/23 was disclaimed as a result of well publicised delays to Local Authority audits which meant that a full audit was not conducted..	Near miss
33. Ensure that we have HR policies, procedures, terms and conditions to attract and support the right people with the right skills to deliver the Authority's work effectively, as evidenced by accreditation under the Investors in People standard.	Maintain IIP accreditation	Various HR policies and procedures reviewed and the full 3-yearly Investors in People assessment took place in Oct/Nov 2024. The Authority achieved the Silver level 'We invest in people' IIP accreditation.	Achieved
34. Provide facilities and IT systems that are fit for purpose and support the effective delivery of our services, as evidenced by the external auditor's annual 'value for money' opinion, and high standards of health, safety and wellbeing.	Unqualified VfM opinion	An unqualified VfM opinion was received. Completed acquisition of land for a new southern area ranger base. IT systems upgraded with a new phone system and dual factor authentication.	Achieved
35. By 2030, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our operations by at least 95% compared to 2005/06, and achieve annual carbon savings from woodland planting of at least 30 times our residual annual emissions.	Emissions -77%	Carbon emissions reduced by 76%. EV charging points installed at all work bases. Electric vans (6), and Pool Vehicles (4) procured and delivered.	Near miss

BLANK PAGE