National Park Management Plan

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

- Statutory plan for the National Park
- Contains:
  - Long-term ambitions
  - Short-term objectives
- Updated every 5 years
- Produced by a local Partnership

National Park Management Plan Partnership

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

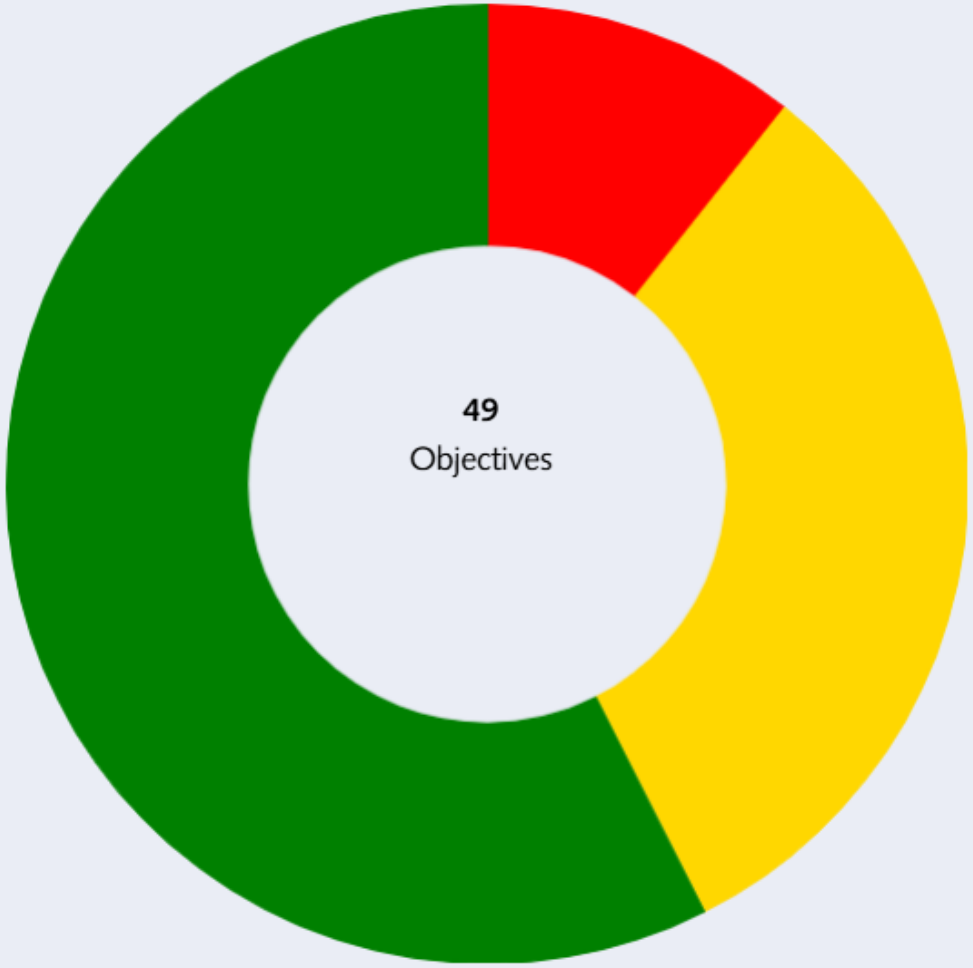
Prepared by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Partnership

- Cumbria Tourism Businesses
- Farmers (Cumbria, Lancashire)
- Forestry Commission
- Natural England
- Rural Estates (Cumbria, Lancashire)
- Westmorland & Furness Council
- Yorkshire & Humber Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
- Youth Representatives
- Environment Agency
- Farmers (Yorkshire)
- Historic England
- North Yorkshire Council
- Rural Estates (Yorkshire)
- York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
- Yorkshire Tourism Businesses

Overall progress 2019-2025

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HOW THE LOCAL PARTNERS ARE DOING



Achieved	27
On-course	0
Some progress	15
Little or no progress	5
Information not available	2

Achievements since 2019

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- Designated as an International Dark Sky Reserve;
- £5.2 million provided to farmers through Farming in Protected Landscapes programme;
- Coast to Coast footpath designated as a National Trail
- Ran outdoor learning sessions for over 29,000 school children
- Over 1,500 ha of native and mixed woodland has been planted and over 7,000 ha of peatland brought into restoration.
- Economic value of tourism grew by over 11% in real terms
- Over 400 new homes completed

Challenges

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- Decline in the condition of rivers
- Decline in the condition of important habitats
- Decline in the condition of important species
- Incidents of illegal persecution still being reported

Updating the Plan

- Public consultation on ‘the big issues’ (Jan-Feb 2024)
- Published 6 detailed ‘Evidence Reports’ (Apr 2024)
- Held the Annual Forum for local organisations (May 2024)
- Set up 6 expert ‘drafting groups’ (Jun-Sep 2024)
- Published draft proposals for public consultation (Jan 2025)
- Final recommended objectives adopted (Jun 2025)
- Plan launched (Oct 2025)

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Management Plan

2025-2030



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1 Finest Wildlife

Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England



Dormouse | Freeholders Wood © YDNPA

1.1. Improve the condition of protected wildlife sites so that 60% of features in Sites of Special Scientific Interest are assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by the start of 2028, and at least 45% are in favourable condition by 2030.

1.2. Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of semi-natural habitats in six 'nature recovery areas' ('Cumbria Connect'; 'Heart of the Dales';'Snaizeholme'; 'Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected'; 'Three Dales'; and 'Ure Dales'), and develop similar initiatives for at least three3 additional areas.

1.3. Increase the area of priority habitat outside of Sites of Special Scientific Interest that is in favourable management through agri-environment or similar funding schemes by 10,000 hectares by 2030.

1.4. Ensure that recovery plans are in place and being implemented for all 'priority wildlife species' by 2030, so that 85% of those species have stable or increasing populations by 2035.

1.5. Work with farmers, landowners and water companies to improve the condition of rivers – including significantly reducing the frequency of spills from storm overflows at 10 sewage treatment works - so that 65% are in 'good ecological status' by 2031.

1.6. Support implementation of the national Wildlife Crime Strategy, so as to end the illegal killing and disturbance of birds of prey and other wildlife by 2028.

1.7. Support farmers and landowners to restore or create 5,000 hectares of new wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2030 (from a 2022 baseline).

1.8. Support farmers and landowners to bring 75% of woodland into sustainable management by 2030, including positive management of conifer plantations to increase habitat for red squirrels and black grouse.

2 Climate Mitigation

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



Fleet Moss © Yorkshire Peat Partnership

2.1. Work with farmers and landowners to support food production through the use of regenerative farming practices, working with natural processes, across at least 100 farm holdings (c.15,000 hectares) by 2030.

2.2. Work with farmers and landowners to bring all remaining degraded peatland (c.28,000 hectares) into initial restoration and management by 2035.

2.3. Work with farmers and landowners to encourage creation of 6,000 hectares 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 reduces downstream flood peaks.

2.4. Significantly increase take up of natural flood management measures to reduce flood risks inside and outside the National Park, including 're-naturalising' 25 km of watercourses by 2030.

2.5. Support more services along the Settle-Carlisle Railway and the reinstatement of other rail lines, increase bus and shared transport links to surrounding towns, and improve infrastructure for electric vehicles, so as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from travel by 50% by 2030 (compared to 2019).

2.6. Support initiatives to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and increase small-scale and community renewable energy schemes, so as to reduce energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industrial, commercial and domestic properties by 50% by 2030 (compared to 2019).

3 Welcoming Place

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



Malham Cove © Stephen Garrett

3.1. Manage and maintain the standard of all public rights of way, so that, on average, 90% remain 'easy to use', and create five new 'miles without stiles' routes that are suitable for a diverse range of ages and abilities.

3.2. 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 five nearby settlements by 2030.

3.3. By 2030 work with 200 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.

3.4. Provide curriculum-based outdoor learning and skills-based activities to enable 5,000 young people from in and around the National Park to explore and take action to enhance their environment each year.

3.5. Give people from all backgrounds an opportunity to enjoy and contribute to looking after the National Park by providing at least 7,000 volunteer days per year, with at least 20% coming from under-served communities by 2029.

3.6. Enhance at least five 'green lanes' by 2030 and manage use by recreational motor vehicles and motorcycles - encouraging and supporting responsible use and enforcing restrictions where necessary.

3.7. 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.

4 Cultural Landscape

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



Collier Holme Farm © John Bentley

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.

4.2. 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.

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.

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.

4.5. 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 60 km of hedgerows by 2030 (from 2022 baseline).

4.6. Continue to reduce the visual impacts of intrusive infrastructure and equipment, including putting a further 15km of overhead power lines underground by 2028.

5 Flourishing Economy

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



Yorkshire Dales Cheese Festival © Stephen Garnett

5.1. 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.

5.2. Provide advice, training and support for rural and land-based businesses to help them to innovate, diversify, and secure investment in their natural assets and create 'green jobs', so as to retain at least the same number of jobs within the sector.

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.

5.4. 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, so that the value of tourism grows by at least 5% in real terms by 2030.

5.5. Make the National Park more accessible to a diverse range of ages and abilities, including by providing five locations that all have 'Changing Places' accessible toilet facilities, all terrain mobility scooters, and 'miles without stiles' routes.

5.6. Develop and promote events and attractions based on the special qualities of the National Park 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.

5.7. 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.

6 Strong Communities

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



New houses in Bainbridge © Wendy McDonnell

6.1. 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.

6.2. Increase the proportion of dwellings that are permanently occupied by requiring all new dwellings to be for principal occupancy, and, encouraging change of use from second homes, so that fewer than 20% of properties are under-occupied by 2031.

6.3. Improve local access to services that are essential to the long-term viability of local communities, including providing access to gigabit broadband to 99% of properties in the Cumbrian part of the National Park by 2026, and superfast (over 30Mbs) to 97% of properties in the North Yorkshire part by 2030.

6.4. Empower community groups to take on and manage services, take ownership of local assets and develop community wealth initiatives such as shops and community renewable energy.

6.5. Improve connectivity by reducing mobile phone 'not spots' from 21% of the National Park to less than 10% by 2027.

6.6. Develop and promote events and attractions based on the special qualities of the National Park 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.

6.7. Produce local plans to improve connections for walking, cycling, wheeling and horse-riding, so it is easier for residents and visitors to travel for work, for school and to access key services and visitor destinations without needing a car, and create at least two new multi-use routes by 2030, including one linking Garsdale–Hawes.

Parish Councils

- Plan acknowledges the critical role that Parish Councils play in helping to shape the landscape and culture of the National Park
- Practical things that Parishes could do, include:
  - Install ‘dark skies-friendly’ street lighting, and encourage others to do so
  - Develop community-led housing schemes
  - Improve energy efficiency of council buildings, and encourage others to do the same
  - Manage your land for nature

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www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/national-park-management-plan/