YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2030

DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)

December 2024

Prepared on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Partnership

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1. Background

Legislative Context

The Environment Act 1995 requires that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority produce a Management Plan for the National Park. The Management Plan sets out how the statutory National Park purposes and the social and economic duty are going to be delivered over the next 5 years. A new Management Plan, covering the period 2025-30, is currently being prepared by the National Park Management Plan Partnership[1].

Under European Directive 2001/42/EC the Management Plan is required to be assessed to evaluate its potential impact on the environment. This is referred to as Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA. UK Government guidance also requires programmes such as the Management Plan, to be the subject of sustainability assessment (SA) to help steer it towards policies and outcomes that will put the components of the environment, community and the economy, into better balance. The Government describes the concept of 'sustainability' as *'making the necessary decisions now to realise our vision of stimulating economic growth and tackling the deficit, maximising wellbeing and protecting our environment, without negatively impacting on the ability of future generations to do the same*'.[2]

In preparing the Management Plan, the Partnership is not necessarily expected to always pursue the most sustainable objective, or indeed the most environmentally beneficial. SEA/SA is a process to help understand the likely impact, to consider the alternatives, to consider how potential negative impacts can be mitigated and positive impacts enhanced; before adopting a final programme of action.

The Management Plan is also now being produced with the context of Section 245 of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act (LURA) (2023). It requires public bodies and statutory undertakers to 'seek to further' National Park purposes (detailed on page 5) when carrying out their functions in relation to the National Park.[3] This replaces the previous duty on relevant authorities to 'have regard to' the statutory purposes, and is intended to facilitate better outcomes for England's Protected Landscapes[4]. The duty applies to the preparation and implementation of Management Plans, as well as day to day functions that may have an impact upon a protected landscape.

Draft SA Report

This document is the draft SA Report for the emerging Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2025-2030. It incorporates the requirements of SEA. This version contains an appraisal of the draft Management Plan objectives to help inform the Partnership's final decisions. It is being published alongside the draft Management Plan objectives to inform/support the consultation.

[1] The Partnership is made up of the authorities and organisations that have a major contribution to delivering the objectives in the Management Plan. Further details can be found here.
[2] Mainstreaming Sustainable Development, 2011
[3] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/section/245
[4] Protected Landscapes is the collective name for National Parks and National Landscapes (formerly AONBs)

2. Assessment of the Management Plan

SA Methodology

This appraisal has been undertaken in line with the methodology set out in the SEA Regulations[5] which covers the 5 key stages set out below:

Stage A - Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

Stage B - Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.

Stage C - Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage D - Consulting on the SA Report

Stage E – Monitoring and reporting after adoption

Stage A - Setting the Context and Scope

Developing the SA Framework

Stage A establishes the context for the SEA/SA and a framework against which the potential effects of the Management Plan can be assessed. For the purposes of this appraisal, the SA framework adopted for the emerging YDNP Local Plan (2025-40) is being used.

The SA Framework was developed following consultation on a Scoping Report in late 2020/early 2021. The SA Scoping Report identified other relevant policies, plans and programmes, set out the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area and identified the key sustainability issues facing the National Park. From this, a set of sustainability indicators and objectives, also known as the SA Framework, was developed. As the SA of the new Local Plan is still a 'live' process, the policy context, baseline information and the key sustainability issues have been kept up to date as necessary.

One minor change has been made to the sustainability objective relating to transport in order to make it relevant to the Management Plan (as opposed to a development plan). The updated SA Framework that is being used to measure the sustainability of the Management Plan is shown in **Appendix 1**.

Appraisal Methodology

The scoring system below has been used to make a judgement about the likely impact of each Management Plan objective on the sustainability objectives/indicators. The judgements are recorded as follows:

- positive (✓)
- negative (×)
- neutral (0)
- uncertain (?)

[5] In the UK the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 implement Directive 2001/42/EC as regards plans and programmes.

Where potential negative effects are identified mitigation measures should be considered and identified. Similarly, opportunities should be taken to maximise positive effects.

Stage B - Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.

Developing the Management Plan Objectives

Early in the Management Plan development process, the Partnership agreed to retain the vision and 6 ambitions for 2040 that are set out in the current Management Plan (2019-24).

The Management Plan objectives were then developed following:

- an initial public consultation on the key issues the Management Plan needs to respond to,
- a meeting of the Annual Forum to widen local engagement on the development of the Management Plan; and,
- the publication of 6 'Evidence Reports' – one for each of the 6 ambitions in the Plan.

Six specialist 'drafting groups' were then set up (one for each of the six ambitions) to review the information gathered and to produce an initial set of draft objectives.

SA is more effective where a range of options can be assessed so that judgements can be made to favour the more sustainable outcomes, or at least understand why certain actions are preferred where they would not otherwise deliver the most sustainable outcome. However, the scope of the Management Plan is rather restricted by the two statutory National Park purposes that it is seeking to deliver. These are to:

1. *Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park*
2. *Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.*

In pursuing the purposes there is also a legal duty on the Authority and its partners, to: *seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.* But note this is only within the context of pursuing the statutory purposes – not a free-standing socio-economic duty.

The range of alternatives options is, therefore, limited by the need to comply with the statutory purposes for which the National Park was designated, and the new requirements of the LURA Duty on all public bodies to seek to further those statutory purposes when carrying out their functions.

Assessing the Management Plan objectives

The initial set of objectives produced by the drafting groups has been refined to minimise duplication (primarily) and to ensure that the proposed objectives have clearly defined outcomes that are capable of being measured.

The outcome is a set of 40 draft Management Plan objectives, each of which has been appraised against the SA Framework. The detailed appraisals are set out in **Appendix 2**. Chapter 3 summarises the main likely significant effects.

3. The likely significant effects

Drawing on the information presented in **Appendix 2**, this section summarises the assessment of the draft management plan objectives under each of the six ambitions.

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

These objectives aim to maintain and improve the landscape, heritage and special qualities of the National Park. The heritage and landscape-related objectives would have positive impacts against a wide range of sustainability indicators, particularly those relating to biodiversity, landscape, enjoyment and understanding and special qualities. Most of the remainder would be neutral.

With regards to objective A5, it is acknowledged that above and below ground archaeology can potentially be damaged by ground preparation, tree roots and the vehicles and machinery required for woodland planting and ongoing woodland management. However, in practice there are significant practical safeguards in place to mitigate risks and prevent damage. These include overall policy guidance through the Dales Woodland Strategy; the National Park Woodland Siting and Design Guide, and a range of statutory consultation processes associated with woodland grant schemes and the Town and Country Planning system.

Ambition B: A friendly, open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities.

These objectives are about improving access, engagement with, and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities. As may be expected, all the objectives will positively impact upon on the enjoyment and understanding of the National Park.

Those objectives that seek to improve rights of ways and connections around the National Park will support sustainable modes of transport/travel, which could benefit both visitors and residents. These will have positive effects on the 'Community' and 'Transport' sustainability objectives. Management plan objectives promoting skills-based activities and volunteering have scope to impact positively on the 'biodiversity' and 'landscape' sustainability objectives.

The objectives that encourage new people to visit and experience the National Park in a variety of ways may also have positive effects on the 'economy and employment' objective, particularly if it results in return and longer visits.

None of the management plan objectives are likely to have negative impacts on the sustainability objectives. The majority of the impacts are expected to be neutral**.**

Ambition C: Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England:

These objectives focus on improving the condition of a range of valuable habitats working with farmers and landowners. None of the objectives are likely to have negative impacts on the sustainability objectives. All are expected to have a positive impact on the 'biodiversity' indicator, and many may have a positive impact on the 'landscape', 'enjoyment and understanding' and 'special qualities' indicators due to the positive effects they will have on wildlife and habitats. Subject to the availability of public funding through

agri-environment schemes, and green finance investment, there are likely to be significant ‘economy and employment benefits too – particularly in relation to the farming and land management sector.

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

These objectives are about regenerative farming practices, woodland planting, energy efficiency, peat restoration and flood mitigation. These are very significant objectives that address issues around the causes and impacts of climate change. The deep peat areas of the National Park play a nationally significant role as a carbon store, whilst water runoff from the National Park contributes to downstream flooding of urban areas across northern England. Also, because the National Park is one of the least wooded areas in the country, the contribution that can be made from tree planting is locally significant.

The climate change objectives are generally well aligned with the environmental sustainability indicators.

A number of objectives have been assessed as having an uncertain impact. This is because the impacts will be dependent upon site location and characteristics. For example, the impact of peatland restoration on below ground archaeology will depend upon whether archaeology is present in the location where works are proposed. The impact of improvements to the energy efficiency of historical buildings will depend upon the nature, characteristics and suitability of the building and its setting. In practice, a range of safeguards is in place to ensure appropriate assessments are carried out and impacts avoided, or mitigated.

Ambition E: Providing an outstanding range of benefits for the nation based on its natural resources, which will underpin a flourishing local economy:

These objectives seek to support sustainable agriculture and tourism, as well as apprenticeships, training and business support. The economic objectives are of a nature and scale such that their environmental impact will be minimal or can be absorbed. Hence, they are largely scored neutral in relation to the environmental indicators.

The objectives should have a positive impact on the ‘economy and employment’ and the ‘enjoyment and understanding’ indicators as they will help to grow and diversify the economy and support sustainable tourism.

The impact of encouraging more visitors and overnight stays is uncertain in relation to the ‘transport’ and ‘climate change’ objectives. This is because it may result in more visitors coming to the National Park by car. Objectives D5 and F6 seek to mitigate this by improving sustainable transport and active travel links.

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

These objectives seek to support local communities and local services. A modest level of new housing, including affordable housing, is proposed to enable more working-age people to live in the National Park and to support the vibrancy and sustainability of communities.

The objectives impact positively on the ‘community’ indicator and those relating to ‘enjoyment and understanding’ and ’economy and employment’. Whilst some objectives (e.g. the completion of new housing) have the potential for negative impacts on the environment, appropriate mitigation measures will be in place through the site selection process and planning policy safeguards. The community objectives are not aimed at environmental enhancement so on the whole they will have neutral impacts against those indicators.

4. Conclusion and Next Steps

Given the environmental nature of the statutory National Park purposes, it should not be surprising that after assessment of the Management Plan objectives there is a high degree of compatibility with the sustainability indicators. The Management Plan is not expected to pursue projects that would be harmful to the special qualities of the place.

The draft Management Plan includes a range of social, economic and environmental objectives which – when taken together – should help to support sustainable development.

The SA Report will be published for consultation alongside the draft Management Plan in early 2025.

In light of the consultation responses, the next steps will be for the Partnership to determine the final Management Plan objectives. The role of the SA at this stage is to inform the Partnership about the likely sustainability outcomes to help support their final decision-making.

Appendix 1: Environmental and Sustainability Indicators (SA Framework)

	Indicator	Objective
1	**Biodiversity**	Safeguard and enhance internationally, nationally and locally important species and habitats.
2	**Landscape**	Reduce large scale extraction of aggregate minerals.
		Prevent or remove detrimental impacts on the landscape and deliver landscape enhancement.
		Safeguard and enhance geodiversity.
3	**Water**	Promote sustainable water supplies and appropriate wastewater treatment methods.
		Safeguard and enhance water quality through the reduction and prevention of pollution incidents.
		Prevent vulnerable development in flood risk areas and ensure appropriate land management and development that does not contribute to downstream flood risk.
4	**Pollution**	Avoid harmful emissions of light and noise and maintain air quality across the National Park.
5	**Archaeology/ Built Heritage**	Protect below ground archaeology and preserve nationally important remains.
		Conserve and enhance above ground archaeology including built heritage, listed buildings, conservation areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
		Ensure a high quality of design that respects or enhances its setting.
6	**Community**	Facilitate a mix of housing types and tenures in order to ensure all have the opportunity to meet their housing needs in accommodation of adequate quality.
		Safeguard and improve access to services.
		Contribute to the creation and maintenance of vibrant and inclusive communities.
		Support a fair and representative system of governance, encouraging widespread participation and public involvement.
		Work to ensure that the maximum possible number of households have access to mobile signal and high-speed broadband.
7	**Waste**	Support the movement towards a circular economy as well as appropriate waste management and disposal methods.
8	**Climate Change & Energy**	Support energy efficiency measures and a reduction in energy use.
		Support appropriate development of, and research into, renewable energy generation.
		Take action to adapt to the changing climate, mitigate against further changes and increase resilience to climate change.
9	**Public Enjoyment & Understanding**	Support sustainable tourism.
		Maintain and improve opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park.
		Understand and respond to the changing patterns of visitors to the National Park.
10	**Economy & Employment**	Facilitate the growth and diversification of a resilient economy, through the development of existing and new enterprises.
11	**Transport**	Support a sustainable transport network which encourages the use of public transport, cycling and walking, minimises traffic congestion, reduces carbon emissions and improves air quality.
12	**Agriculture**	Understand and respond to changes in agricultural policy and land management change.
		Support appropriate agriculture, including opportunities for farm diversification.
13	**Special Qualities**	Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park. (A list of the special qualities is provided in **Appendix 3**)

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

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

Management Plan objectives	Environmental and Sustainability Indicators												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Biodiversity	Landscape	Water	Pollution	Archaeology / Built environment	Community	Waste	Climate change & energy	Enjoyment & understanding	Economy & employment	Transport	Agriculture	Special Qualities
A1. Support farmers and land managers to maintain and improve the outstanding landscape, geology, wildlife and rural heritage of the National Park, so that at least 80% of land managers have adopted nature-friendly farming on at least 15% of their land by 2030.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓
A2. Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness can be found, by retaining Dark Skies Reserve status	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓
A3. Reduce the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk, so that no more than 12 are at risk by 20230.	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓
A4. 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.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓
A5. Support farmers and landowners to take up measures that will enhance the wider Dales' landscape, and support nature, climate and farming resilience, including planting 6,000 field trees, creating 300 ha of wood pasture, and creating or restoring 60 km of hedgerows by 2030 (from 2022 baseline)	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓
A6. Continue to reduce the amount of intrusive overhead power lines and other equipment, including putting another 15km of existing power lines underground by 2028.	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

Comment: The heritage and landscape management plan objectives would have positive direct and indirect impacts against a wide range of indicators; economic, social and environmental. Most of the remainder would be neutral. The impact of trees on historic environment features is assessed as neutral overall. It is acknowledged that above and below ground archaeology can potentially be damaged by ground preparation, tree roots and the vehicles and machinery required for ongoing woodland management. However, in practice there are significant practical safeguards in place to mitigate risks and prevent damage. At the initial point of contact from a landowner, a constraints check is carried out prior to any design phase of a project. The constraints process looks at all available data for wildlife and the historic environment and officers will provide appropriate advice.	Key: ✓ = positive impact × = negative impact 0 = neutral ? = impact uncertain	

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

Management Plan objectives	**Environmental and Sustainability Indicators**												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Biodiversity	Landscape	Water	Pollution	Archaeology / Built environment	Community	Waste	Climate change & energy	Enjoyment & understanding	Economy & employment	Transport	Agriculture	Special Qualities
B1. Manage and maintain the standard of all public rights of way, so that, on average, 90% remain 'easy to use' and at least 10% are suitable for a diverse range of ages and abilities.	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓
B2. 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	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

B3. By 2030, provide activity days, support and training to 200 groups from under-served communities, helping more people to experience the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park more easily.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0
B4. Provide outdoor learning and skills-based activities to enable 5,000 young people from in and around the National Park to explore and enhance their environment each year.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0
B5. 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	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓
B6. 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.	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓
B7. 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.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0

Comment:

None of the management plan objectives are likely to have negative impacts on the sustainability objectives. Most impacts are expected to be neutral, but with a good number of positives too**.**

As may be expected, all of the objectives supporting this ambition will positively impact upon on the public enjoyment and understanding of the National Park. Those objectives that seek to improve rights of ways and connections around the National Park will support sustainable modes of transport/travel which could benefit both visitors and residents. These will have positive effects on the 'Community' and 'Transport' sustainability objectives.

Management plan objectives promoting skills-based activities and volunteering have scope to impact positively on the 'biodiversity' and 'landscape' sustainability objectives. Objectives B2, B3 and B4 also have the potential to impact positively on the economy and employment sustainability indicator, by broadening the range of people which visit the National Park (and make return visits) which is likely to have positive benefits for local businesses and services.

Key: ✓ = positive impact
× = negative impact
0 = neutral
? = impact uncertain

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

C: Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

Management Plan objectives	Environmental and Sustainability Indicators												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Biodiversity	Landscape	Water	Pollution	Archaeology / Built environment	Community	Waste	Climate change & energy	Enjoyment & understanding	Economy & employment	Transport	Agriculture	Special Qualities
C1. Improve the condition of protected wildlife sites so that 60% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest are assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by the start of 2028, and 45% are in favourable condition by 2030.	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓
C2. Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of semi-natural habitats in 5 'nature recovery areas' (Cumbria Connect; Snaizeholme; Three Dales; Heart of the Dales; and Ure Dales), and develop similar initiatives for at least 3 additional areas.	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓
C3. Ensure that all the priority habitat outside of Sites of Special Scientific Interest is in favourable management through agri-environment or similar funding schemes by 2042.	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓
C4. Ensure that monitoring plans are in place for all 'priority wildlife species' by 2030 and undertake conservation projects so that 85% of those species have stable or increasing populations by 2035.	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓
C5. Work with farmers, landowners and water companies to reverse the decline in the condition of rivers so that 65% are in 'good ecological status' by 2031.	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓
C6. Support implementation of the national Wildlife Crime Strategy to end the illegal killing and disturbance of birds of prey and other wildlife by 2028.	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓
C7. 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).	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

C8. Support farmers and landowners to bring 70% of woodland into sustainable management by 2030, including positive management of conifer plantations to increase habitat for red squirrels and black grouse	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓
Comment: None of the wildlife-related objectives are likely to have negative impacts on the sustainability indicators. All are expected to have a positive impact on the 'biodiversity' indicator, and many may have a positive impact on the 'landscape', 'enjoyment and understanding' and 'special qualities' indicators due to the positive effects they will have on wildlife and habitats.								Key: ✓ = positive impact × = negative impact 0 = neutral ? = impact uncertain					

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

Management Plan objectives	Environmental and Sustainability Indicators												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Biodiversity	Landscape	Water	Pollution	Archaeology / Built environment	Community	Waste	Climate change & energy	Enjoyment & understanding	Economy & employment	Transport	Agriculture	Special Qualities
D1. Work with farmers and landowners to support food production through the use of regenerative farming practices across at least 100 farm holdings (c15,000 ha) by 2030.	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓
D2. Work with farmers and landowners to bring all remaining degraded peatland (c28,000 ha) into initial restoration and management by 2035, so that all the 67,000 ha of peat in the National Park has been restored by 2050.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

D3. Work with farmers and landowners to encourage creation of 6,000 ha of native broadleaf and mixed woodland, including, scrub, wood pasture and natural regeneration by 2031, to create a network that is more resilient to climate change and helps to reduce downstream flood peaks.	✓	?	✓	0	?	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓
D4. Significantly increase take up of natural flood management measures, including re-naturalising 25 km of rivers by 2030, to reduce flood risks inside and outside the National Park.	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	?	✓
D5. Support more services along the Settle-Carlisle Railway and the reinstatement of other rail lines, increase bus and community transport links to surrounding towns, and improve infrastructure to support electric vehicles, so as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from travel in the National Park by 50% by 2030 (compared to 2019 levels).	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0
D6. 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).	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
Comment: The climate change objectives are generally well-aligned with the environmental sustainability indicators. A number of objectives have an 'impact uncertain' rating. This is because the impacts will be dependent upon site location and characteristics. For example, the impact of peatland restoration or woodland creation on below ground archaeology will depend upon whether archaeology is present in the location where works are proposed. The impact of improvements to the energy efficiency of buildings on the historic built environment will depend upon the nature, characteristics and suitability of the building and its setting. Small-scale renewable energy sources also have the potential to impact negatively on the landscape. However, all these issues should be capable of mitigation if relevant assessments are undertaken beforehand. Natural flood management has the potential to impact positively and negatively on agriculture. It will be important to make sure schemes are sensitively designed and managed. New woodland may change the landscape but not necessarily in a negative way.								Key: ✓ = positive impact × = negative impact 0 = neutral ? = impact uncertain					

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

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

Management Plan objectives	Environmental and Sustainability Indicators												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Biodiversity	Landscape	Water	Pollution	Archaeology / Built environment	Community	Waste	Climate change & energy	Enjoyment & understanding	Economy & employment	Transport	Agriculture	Special Qualities
E1. 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	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓
E2. 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.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0
E3. Make the National Park more accessible to a diverse range of ages and abilities, including by providing 'Changing Places' accessible toilet facilities, all terrain mobility scooters, and accessible routes at 10 locations, and creating 5 new 'access for all' trails.	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0
E4. Develop and promote events and attractions based on the special qualities of the National Park that will be attractive to a more diverse and younger audience, so that 15% of visitors each year are coming for the first time.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0
E5. By 2030 provide at least 30 apprenticeships or traineeships, and wider programmes of training in land management, heritage and countryside skills, including the new skills needed by businesses to support more nature-friendly farming and tackle climate change.	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

E6. Provide advice, training and support for rural and land-based businesses to help them to innovate, diversify and secure investment in their natural assets so as to retain at least the same number of jobs within the sector.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0
E7. Improve the quality and sustainability of the tourism 'offer' and visitor information to encourage more overnight stays, and to encourage visitors to 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0
Comment: The economic objectives are of a nature and scale such that their environmental impact will be minimal or can be absorbed, hence they are largely scored neutral in relation to the environmental indicators The objectives impact positively on the 'economy and employment' and the 'enjoyment and understanding' indicators as they will help to grow and diversify the economy and support sustainable tourism. The impact of encouraging more visitors and overnight stays is uncertain in relation to the 'transport' and 'climate change' objectives. This is because it may result in more visitors coming to the National Park solely by car. Objectives D5 and F6 seek to mitigate this by improving sustainable transport and active travel links.								Key: ✓ = positive impact × = negative impact 0 = neutral ? = impact uncertain					

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

Management Plan objectives	**Environmental and Sustainability Indicators**												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Biodiversity	Landscape	Water	Pollution	Archaeology / Built environment	Community	Waste	Climate change & energy	Enjoyment & understanding	Economy & employment	Transport	Agriculture	Special Qualities
F1. Support the completion of 250 new dwellings by 2030, including at least 135 social housing, affordable or local occupancy homes to attract and retain younger working age households.	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0

Appendix 2: Assessment of Management Plan Objectives

F2. 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.	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0
F3. 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.	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0
F4. 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	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0
F5. Improve connectivity by reducing mobile phone 'not spots' from 21% of the National Park to less than 10% by 2027.	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0
F6. Produce local plans to improve connections for walking, cycling, wheeling and riding in and around the National Park, so it is easier for residents and visitors to travel between places for work, for school and to key visitor destinations without needing a car, and create at least two new multi-user routes by 2030.	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓
Comment: These objectives impact positively on the 'community' indicator and those relating to 'enjoyment and understanding' and 'economy and employment'. Whilst some, e.g. the completion of new housing, have the potential for negative impacts on the environment, appropriate mitigation measures will be in place through the site selection process and planning policy safeguards. The management plan community objectives are not aimed at environmental enhancement so on the whole they will have neutral impacts against those indicators.								Key: ✓ = positive impact × = negative impact 0 = neutral ? = impact uncertain					

Appendix 3: Special Qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Special Qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

In the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the interaction of people with nature has produced a landscape of remarkable beauty and distinctive character that is cherished and enjoyed by the nation.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is a home and a workplace for over 24,000 people, with around 95% of the land in private ownership. It is also a place that millions of people visit every year.

The area's unique landscape character is created by the particular combination of many elements - the managed moorland, pastures and valley grasslands; small woodlands; dispersed villages and farmsteads; the local building materials; strong field patterns; drystone walls and field barns. This is what makes it such a special place.

Natural Beauty

The area straddles the Pennines, the backbone of northern England. The underlying geology, natural processes and human activity have created a hugely varied landscape and numerous dramatic features and beautiful views:

Dales with distinctive stepped profiles, produced by the weathering of layers of limestone interspersed with shales and sandstones from the Carboniferous period.

Fells that rise to over 700 metres at High Seat, Great Shunner Fell, Wild Boar Fell and the Millstone Grit-capped 'Three Peaks'. Glaciers and rivers have cut deep dales into the extensive moorland plateaux, each distinctive in character and atmosphere.

One of the best examples in Britain of classic limestone scenery, with its scars such as those at Gordale and Attermire, and limestone pavements, such as those above Malham Cove and Great Asby Scar.

The most extensive caving area in the United Kingdom, including the longest cave system in Britain - the Three Counties System – and the largest cave in Britain and the largest waterfall in Britain at Gaping Gill.

The Howgills, a series of grassy rounded hills made up of rocks from the older Silurian period, sweeping steeply upwards from deep ravines to broad rounded tops.

Significant glacial and post-glacial landforms and features, including: drumlin fields, such as the one at Ribblehead; erratics, including those at Norber; moraines; and the post-glacial lakes of Semerwater, Malham Tarn and Sunbiggin Tarn.

Spectacular waterfalls, such as: Hardraw Force (the longest unbroken drop in England), Uldale Force, and Rutter Force; the Aysgarth Falls series; and, Cautley Spout, with a broken drop of 180 metres.

Appendix 3: Special Qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

A traditional pastoral landscape created by livestock farmers over several centuries. This historical landscape is acknowledged as internationally important and includes:

- an intricate network of drystone walls (as well as hedgerows in Lower Bishopdale, the Lune Valley, Dentdale and Sedbergh) that create a patchwork of enclosures across valleys and valley sides;
- traditional stone-built field barns, the density of which in some parts of the National Park notably Swaledale, Wharfedale and Wensleydale, is unique.

A highly *legible* landscape, in which there is still a very clear and evident link between the underlying geology and landform, the historic use and management of the land, the current land uses and land cover.

A landscape of striking contrasts, between the deep, sheltered dales and the open, exposed, sweeping fells above.

Wildlife

Over a quarter (57,000ha) of the Yorkshire Dales National Park is made up of **nationally and internationally important wildlife habitats** – the largest area of any English National Park.

Over a quarter of England's remaining **flower-rich upland hay meadows and pastures,** produced by traditional, low-intensity management of grazing land over many decades. Oustanding examples can be found in Swaledale and Langstrothdale.

A range of rare limestone habitats linked directly to the geology of the Craven and Westmorland Dales. The area's 'limestone country' is internationally recognised for its biodiversity, which includes rare wet meadows, over half of England's calcareous grassland, and over 30% of England's limestone pavement.

Extensive areas of moorland, much of it (42% of the area of the National Park) managed as grouse moor, that contain upland heath and blanket and raised bog, which are internationally important for wildlife and the carbon they store as peat. These habitats cover vast areas and contain a variety of plant species and important bird populations.

Small areas of broadleaf woodland (2.5% of the area of the National Park) representing remnants of former more extensive broadleaved woodland or later plantings. Surviving areas of ancient woodland are of particularly high biodiversity value.

Nationally important populations of birds like curlew, lapwing, black grouse, and ring ouzel; rare lime-loving plants such as bird's-eye primrose, rigid Buckler fern, globeflower and baneberry; rare and scarce invertebrates such as the northern Brown Argus butterfly and the Atlantic white-clawed crayfish; and important mammals, notably the red squirrel.

Appendix 3: Special Qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Cultural Heritage

The Yorkshire Dales National Park has been home to communities and industry for several millennia, helping to shape much of what we now think is special. There is an exceptional amount of evidence of these previous generations of occupation, connecting past communities to the present and providing a highly visible record of the area's social and economic history, including:

A culture of community spirit, self-sufficiency, determination and self-belief, which has been shaped by the area's physical environment and remoteness, nurturing self-dependency and close-knit communities.

Livestock farming, with distinct sheep breeds like Rough Fell, Wensleydale, Dalesbred and Swaledale that are important for genetic diversity, and a strong tradition of upland cattle rearing, that is still deeply interwoven into local life and culture, and made famous through Wensleydale Cheese. Livestock sales and agricultural shows play an important part in the lives of local people.

An exceptional range of archaeology, which provides the evidence of human activity from the earliest hunters of the Palaeolithic through to 20th century industrial remains.

The remains of former rural industries, whose influences on the area's culture and social fabric are still evident today. They include lead and lime extraction and processing sites, as well as water mills.

Powerful reminders of periods of dominance by large estates and religious houses through place names and some surviving structures, such as Bolton Castle, Bolton Abbey, Barden Tower, Pendragon Castle and Marrick Priory.

Distinctive, traditional architecture where the local building materials used link directly to the area's geology.

Numerous **small, attractive villages and hamlets** most of which have been there for over a thousand years.as well as **scattered farmsteads,**

Minor roads along the dales, bordered by drystone walls or hedgerows and flower-rich verges. Higher up, unfenced roads cross open moorland and offer dramatic views.

The Settle-Carlisle Railway Line, opened in 1876, is unique and displays impressive engineering and conserved Midland Railway architecture. It offers a very special way of enjoying the dramatic landscape along its route. Elsewhere, the imposing structures of former railways at Smardale and the Lune Viaduct are testament to earlier feats of engineering.

A distinctive linguistic, literary and artistic heritage, inspired by the landscape and by the history of the communities – past and present – who have lived and worked here.

Appendix 3: Special Qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Enjoying the experience of being here

Most of the people who spend any time in the National Park will experience a range of emotions, triggered by the beauty, grandeur and other, less tangible qualities. These all help create the 'spirit of place' that is unique to this National Park:

Extensive areas where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can still be found, which is rare in England today.

The natural sounds of wind, water and birdsong, which are important to the recreational experience; the 'spiritual exercise and enjoyment' that is at the heart of National Park designation.

Expansive views that show to advantage the areas beauty and variety.

Ever-changing light, seasonal change and occasional severe weather, which creates visual drama and contrast that enhance personal experience.

Dark night skies - as it suffers little from light pollution, the moon, night sky and atmospheric effects can be fully appreciated. The National Park was designated **Dark Sky Reserve** status in December 2020.

Its historical and extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and tracks, including the Pennine Trails, Coast-to-Coast, Yorkshire '3 Peaks' and Malham Landscape Trail, some of the best known and loved walks in the country.
Extensive areas of public access, rivers, crags and caves – offering outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation from paragliding to caving, with some of the hardest sport climbing in the World at Malham Cove.

Welcoming and friendly people and places, each with its own special character, but all with *a* very close sense of community, reflected in the wide range of local village shows, festivals, social activities, traditional pubs, and entertainment.