



**NATIONAL PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2019 – 2024**

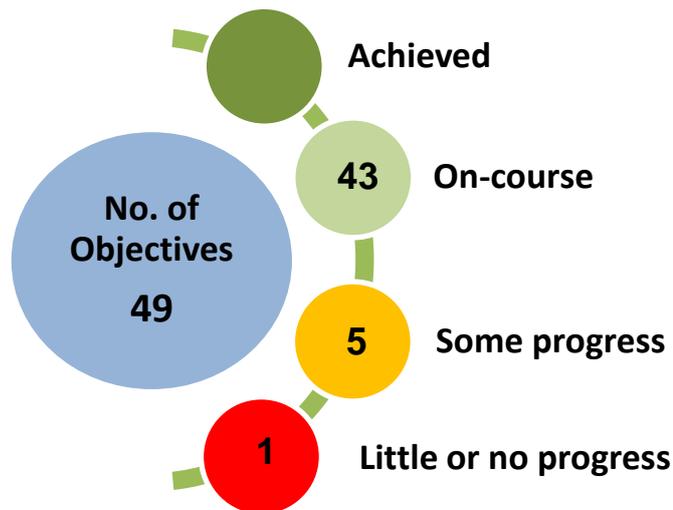
**ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 2019**

Prepared on behalf of the National Park Management Plan Steering Group

Members of the Steering Group

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Summary



Significant achievements made by local partners in the last year include:

- Launched the £3.5 million Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (A7)
- Completed year 3 of the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership programme (A7)
- Produced a Three Peaks 'Code of Conduct' and launched a notification scheme for event organisers (B8)
- The Catchment Sensitive Farming programme provided grants to 58 farms across the National Park, with each grant worth at least £10000 each, funding on-farm development to reduce pollution (C3)
- Secured DEFRA funding for a 2.5 year extension to the national pilot of a results-based agri-environment payment scheme in Wensleydale (C4)
- Helped farmers and landowners to restore a further 950 ha of degraded peatland, through the Yorkshire and Cumbria Peat Partnerships (D3);
- Negotiated an agreement at Swinden Quarry to reduce road haulage by 50% (D4).
- Launched a five-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households (F2)
- Great Places: Lakes and Dales project has undertaken research to identify what will encourage younger people to the area and developed a multi-faceted scheme, with arts and culture at its centre, as part of 'place making'.
- supported 27 local projects, with a total value of almost £900,000 through YDNPA's Sustainable Development Fund (F6).

There is only one objective in the Plan where there is clear evidence that the desired progress is not being made:

- The provision of new housing to meet local needs (F1)

Park Profile 2019

Area		
Total Park area	218,482 ha	Natural England, 2019
Parishes totally or partly in the Park	110	YDNPA, 2019
Population		
Resident population	23,637 ¹	ONS, 2012 + YDNPA 2016
School and pre-school age (0-15)	15% ²	ONS, 2012
Working age (16-64)	59% ²	ONS, 2012
Pensionable age (65+)	26% ²	ONS, 2012
Housing		
Housing stock	13,396 ³	YDNPA, 2016
Resident households	10,480 ⁴	YDNPA, 2017
Owner occupied	7,712 ⁴	
Private rented	2,069 ⁴	
Social housing	699 ⁴	
Second homes and holiday lets	2,916 ⁴	YDNPA 2017
Natural Environment		
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	57,338 ha	Natural England, 2018
Area of priority habitat	83,191ha	Natural England 2017
Land use		
Moorland, heath & rough unenclosed grassland	n/a	
Farmland	n/a	
Woodland	8,046 ha	Forestry Commission, 2016
Developed land	n/a	
Heritage		
Scheduled Monuments	292	Historic England, 2018
Conservation Areas	46	YDNPA, 2019
Listed Buildings	2,128	Historic England, 2018
Grade I	25	
Grade II*	102	
Grade II	2,001	
Recreation		
Total Rights of Way	2,620 km	YDNPA, 2017
Public footpaths	1,748 km	
Public bridleways	783 km	
Other public rights of way	89 km	
National Trails	174 km	Natural England, 2017
Publicly-accessible land	129,680 ha	Natural England, 2017

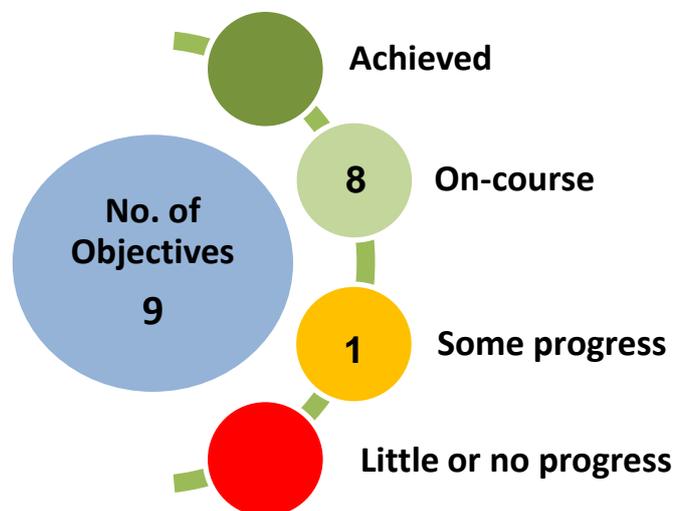
¹ Includes YDNPA estimate of 3,876 residents in the new area of the National Park

² Indicative figure based on the pre-1 August 2016 National Park area (ONS, 2012)

³ ONS 2012 + YDNPA estimate for the new area of the National Park

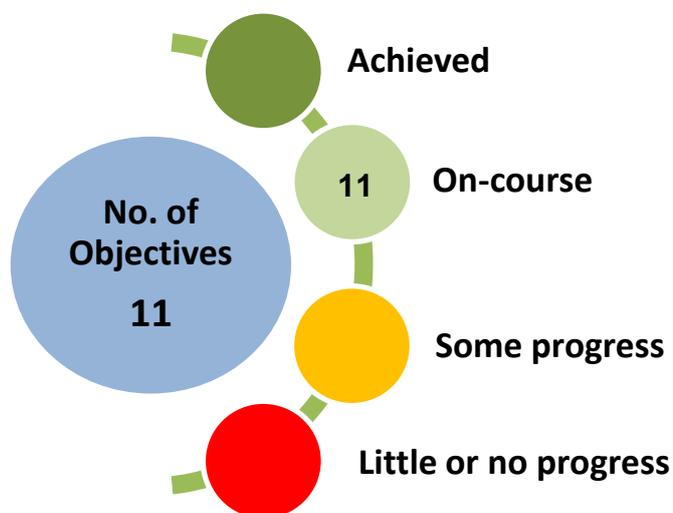
⁴ Indicative estimate based on the pre-1 August National Park area (ONS, 2012)

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



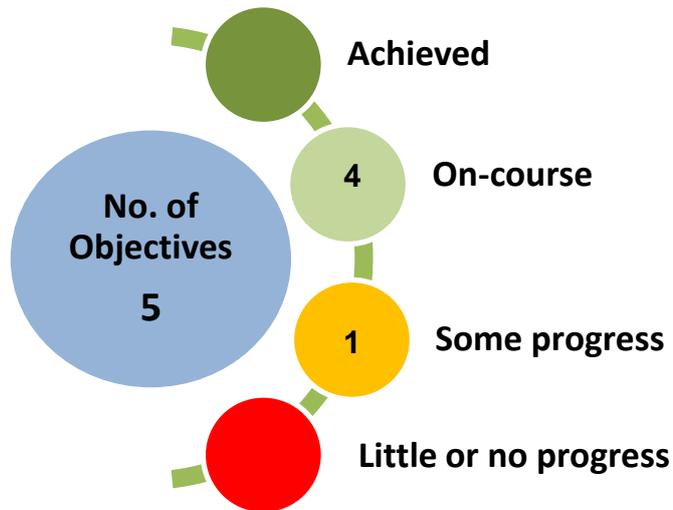
A1	During Brexit transition, support farmers and landowners to continue to deliver a range of public benefits through national agri-environment scheme agreements and other similar initiatives, and monitor take-up.
A2	Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can be found, and, by 2021, obtain Dark Skies Reserve status to enhance and promote enjoyment of its night sky.
A3	By 2020, produce a simplified and updated Landscape Character Assessment for the National Park, and use it to support initiatives, policies and plans to enhance local distinctiveness and promote positive landscape change.
A4	Continue to reduce the amount of overhead power lines and other equipment, including putting another 20km of existing power lines underground by 2024.
A5	Use the Dales Countryside Museum and the Historic Environment Record to help local heritage groups to research, record and promote the stories of the National Park area, including completing the enhancement of the Historic Environment Record for the new area of the National Park by 2024.
A6	Help local people to restore, repair and - where possible - bring back into use nationally-important historical sites, buildings and structures so that less than 4% of scheduled monuments and listed buildings are considered 'at risk' by 2024.
A7	Deliver co-ordinated programmes of activity that enhance the distinctive landscape, geology and cultural heritage of the 'Ingleborough Dales' (by 2020) and the 'Westmorland Dales' (by 2023).
A8	By 2022, develop a locally tailored, locally delivered, outcome-focused environmental land management scheme to maintain, restore and improve the outstanding natural capital and rural heritage of the National Park.
A9	By 2022, secure significant funding to repair, restore, and - where appropriate - find adaptive new uses for traditional field barns, particularly those in Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Littondale.

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



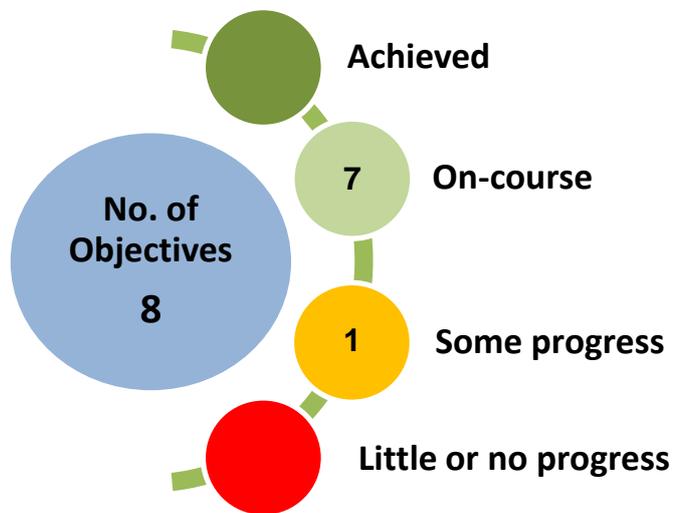
B1	Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2023.
B2	Maintain and promote the Pennine Trails and other recognised long-distance routes, identify opportunities for new multi-user routes, and campaign for the Coast-to-Coast path to become a National Trail by 2024.
B3	Carry out works to improve access on appropriate public rights of way and established permissive routes, so that 262km (10%) are suitable for users of all ages and abilities by 2024.
B4	By 2024, provide 6,000 people from under-represented groups with activity days that enable them to access the special qualities of the National Park, and so increase their understanding, enjoyment, health and well-being.
B5	Through educational and skills-based activities, inspire 6,000 young people from in and around the National Park to explore and enhance their environment each year.
B6	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.
B7	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.
B8	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, for example, funding the cost of maintaining the 'Three Peaks' route.
B9	Promote and encourage responsible cycling by supporting world class events that showcase the National Park, enabling the development of four 'cycle hubs', and creating at least one further family-friendly cycling route by 2023.
B10	Maintain 'green lanes' and - where appropriate - manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.
B11	Develop and launch an annual farm and estate 'open day' programme by 2020 to enable more people to experience and understand the roles that farming, food production, woodland and moorland management play in looking after the distinctive landscape of the National Park.

C: Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England



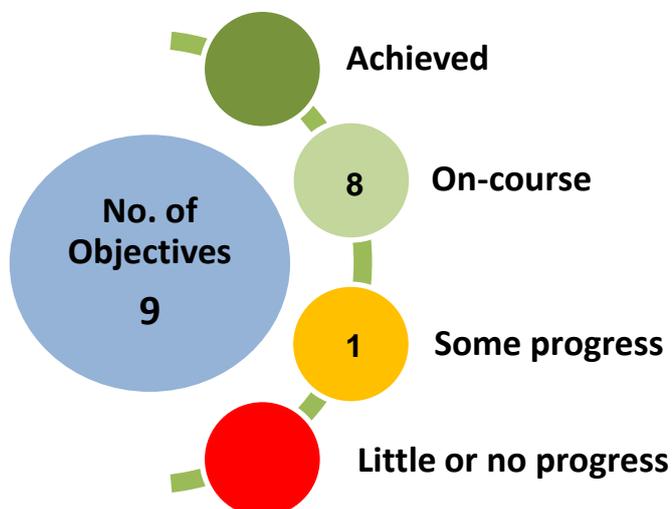
C1	Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of priority habitats, so that: a) all the blanket bog in nationally and internationally important wildlife sites is 'recovering', and 50% of the other land in such sites has reached 'favourable' condition by 2024; b) 30% of the priority habitats outside nationally-designated wildlife sites are in good condition by 2024; c) <u>at least one landscape-scale 'nature recovery area' has been created by 2021.</u>
C2	Work with farmers and landowners to achieve and maintain stable or increasing populations for 90% of priority species by 2026, including the UK 'red-listed' upland birds — black grouse, curlew, hen harrier, lapwing, merlin, skylark and yellow wagtail — for which the National Park is renowned, and those of international importance.
C3	Work with farmers and landowners to improve the condition of the Aire, Eden, Lune, Ribble, Swale, Ure and Wharfe, so that at least 90% of all rivers achieve 'good ecological status' by 2027.
C4	Work with farmers in Wensleydale to demonstrate the benefit of 'high nature value', low-input farm systems through a five-year trial of a 'payment by results' approach to agri-environment funding.
C5	Work with moorland managers and other key stakeholders to devise and implement a local approach to end illegal persecution of raptors, including independent and scientifically robust monitoring, and co-ordinated hen harrier nest and winter roost site protection.

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



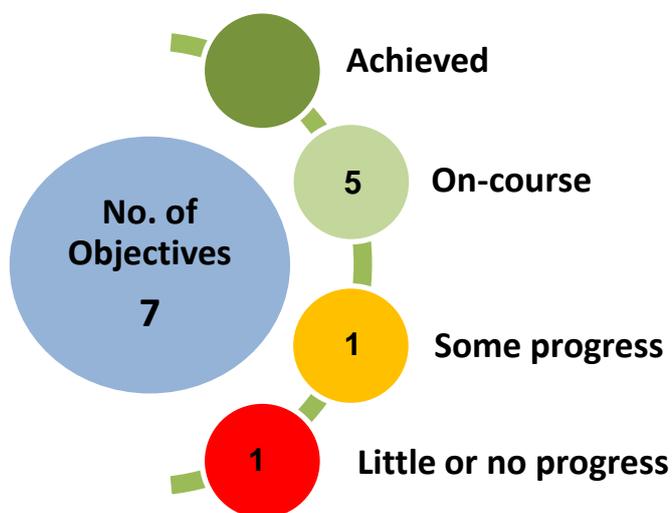
D1	Work with farmers and landowners to ensure that at least 70% of all woodland is in active management by 2023, including positive management of conifer plantations to increase suitable habitat for red squirrels and black grouse.
D2	Support landowners to create at least a further 450 hectares of native broadleaved and mixed woodland that enhances the National Park's landscape by 2024, with priority given to projects that strengthen habitat networks, increase carbon storage and help to reduce flooding.
D3	By 2030, restore all degraded blanket bog/deep peat habitat to ecologically and hydrologically functioning bog that is actively sequestering and storing carbon, and is being managed sustainably.
D4	Create a railhead at Horton Quarry and continue other measures to reduce road haulage limits from quarries by 50% compared to 2011.
D5	Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Aire, Eden, Lune, Ribble, Swale, Ure and Wharfe catchments.
D6	By 2020, produce an online, interactive habitat network map that helps farmers and land managers to develop connected, climate-resilient habitats.
D7	Support land managers to create more resilient landscapes through the development and implementation of strategies that reduce the risk and spread of invasive non-native species, and respond to threats from pests and diseases that threaten the environment of the National Park.
D8	Develop and implement 'Circular Economy' strategies that reduce litter and waste in the National Park, and increase recycling in line with the National Waste Strategy.

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



E1	Connect Grassington, Hawes, Reeth and Sedbergh to fibre-to-the-premises broadband by 2024, and secure at least the Universal Service Obligation (10mbps) for the rest of the National Park.
E2	Improve the quality, variety and marketing of the tourism 'offer' to encourage more overnight stays and more visitors in the quieter months, so that the value of tourism grows by at least 5% in real terms by 2024.
E3	Promote the National Park as a leading sustainable tourism destination, including enhancing the locations of four National Park Centres to create 'visitor hubs' that promote local distinctiveness and assist destination promotion for local activities, accommodation, food and itineraries.
	By 2020, undertake a costed audit of the public benefits of sustainable land management, and use it to support an increase in the total level of funding to support farmers and landowners undertaking that management.
E5	Support the development of rail services and related economic uses along the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle Railway, and measures to re-instate other lines to and within the National Park, including the reinstatement of the Wensleydale Railway to Garsdale, starting with the stretch from Redmire to Aysgarth by 2024.
E6	Develop and promote new 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.
E7	By 2023, provide at least 20 apprenticeships that focus on the skills that are essential to maintaining the National Park's special qualities.
E8	Deliver at least one significant economic development project in each of Craven, Eden, Richmondshire, and South Lakeland, and increase the number and quality of jobs so as to increase gross value added (GVA) by 10% by 2024.
E9	Support sustainable farm businesses, rural business innovation and diversification, so as to increase the average less favoured area farm business income to match the national average wage and increase the number of jobs within the sector to 3,250 full-time equivalents by 2025.

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



F1	Support the completion of 400 dwellings in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices, by 2024.
F2	Undertake a five-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households (18-44 year-olds) to help halt the decline in their numbers.
F3	Retain access to services – like primary schools and GP surgeries - that are essential to the long-term viability of local communities, using the four main service ‘hubs’ (Grassington, Hawes, Reeth and Sedbergh) and their surrounding ‘spoke’ settlements to create economies of scale.
F4	Provide basic mobile phone coverage across the National Park to reduce ‘not spots’, and ensure 4G (or later) services are available on all networks in the four service ‘hubs’ and their surrounding ‘spoke’ settlements by 2021.
F5	Through ‘Great Place: Lakes and Dales’ deliver a programme of research and investment in local culture, arts and heritage so as to retain and attract younger people and businesses to the rural corridor linking Skipton to Grasmere.
F6	Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources to support 20 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.
F7	Determine the demand from local communities and visitors for bus services to and within the National Park, and use that information to work with operators and community transport providers to provide services that meet the needs of local communities (with Grassington, Hawes, Reeth, and Sedbergh linked throughout the year to their nearest main service centre and railway station), and link the main visitor destinations to the main visitor catchments.