A vision for the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Through their passion for this special place, local people and businesses will keep the Yorkshire Dales National Park a thriving area. Its unique cultural landscape will be treasured for its stunning scenery, exceptional heritage and wonderful wildlife, and every year millions of people will be inspired to be a part of it.

By 2040 it will be:

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

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

- home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

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

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

- home to strong, self-reliant and balanced communities with good access to the services they need
The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority was created by the Environment Act 1995 as an independent body within the framework of local government.

Our role is very clearly defined by Parliament in our two statutory purposes to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park;
- promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

In pursuing these purposes, we are also required to:

- seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan is the most important document for the National Park. It sets out a vision for the National Park and specific objectives for the next five to ten years. It is produced by a partnership that includes local organisations and representatives of local businesses, farmers and landowners. To read the full Management Plan, visit www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/management-plan

This Corporate Plan

Our Corporate Plan sets out the specific objectives that the National Park Authority will work towards over the next three years. Most of these come directly from the National Park Management Plan (see above), but are supplemented with a number of objectives that centre on being an effective organisation providing an excellent level of service.

Our work is organised into 14 ‘work programmes’, which are resourced according to their level of priority. The table below shows the current priority of these work programmes.

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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 considered ‘at risk’ by 2024.

5. 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).

6. 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.
A friendly open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities

7. 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. 86%

8. Maintain and promote the Pennine Trails and other recognised long-distance routes, and campaign for the Coast-to-Coast footpath to become a National Trail by 2024. Funding secured for 3-year programme

9. 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. 196km suitable for all users

10. 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. Activity days for 900 people

11. 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. Activities for 1,500 young people

12. 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. Activities for 4,000 people

13. 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

14. 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. Raise £20,000

15. 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. 1 hub

16. 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
Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

17. Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of priority habitats so that:
   a. 30% of the priority habitats outside nationally-designated wildlife sites are in good condition by 2024;
   b. at least one landscape-scale ‘nature recovery area’ has been created by 2021.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. Work with farmers in Wensleydale to demonstrate the benefit of ‘high nature value’, low-input farm systems through a 5-year trial of a ‘payment by results’ approach to agri-environment funding.

21. 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.

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

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Aire, Eden, Ribble, Lune, Swale, Ure and Wharfe catchments.
**Home to strong, self-reliant and balanced communities with good access to the services they need**

25. Support the completion of 400 dwellings in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices by 2024.

26. Undertake a 5-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households (18-44) to help halt the decline in their numbers.

27. 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.

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

28. Provide an efficient development management service that supports appropriate opportunities for economic and community development whilst helping to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park, including ensuring that 65% of minor and 80% of ‘other’ planning applications are being determined within eight weeks and at least 80% of applicants are satisfied with the service provided.

29. 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.

30. Promote the National Park as a leading sustainable tourism destination, including enhancing the locations of 4 National Park Centres to create ‘visitor hubs’ that promote local distinctiveness and assist destination promotion for local activities, accommodation, food and itineraries.

31. 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.

32. By 2023, provide at least 20 apprenticeships that focus on the skills that are essential to maintaining the National Park’s special qualities.

33. Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2023, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan.
An effective organisation, providing high quality services

34. 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. 

Progress by March 2020

£7.9 million

35. 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

36. Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.

Unqualified audit opinion

37. Ensure that we have personnel policies, procedures, terms and conditions to attract and support the right people with the right skills to deliver the work of the Authority effectively, as evidenced by accreditation under the Investors in People standard.

Maintain IIP accreditation

38. 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 internal audit’s reporting on relevant systems.

Implement 2019/20 IT plan
Organisation and funding

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has 25 Members – our Board. The county and district councils appoint fifteen. The Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) appoints ten. Of these, six are appointed as representatives of the ‘national’ interest and four as representatives of parishes in the National Park.

The Authority employs 108 full-time equivalent staff working in three directorates, each providing a range of specialist services. Our core funding comes from central Government, rather than directly from local taxpayers. This reflects the fact that, unlike local councils, our responsibilities extend to people who live well beyond our boundaries.

On 1 August 2016, the boundary of the National Park was extended to include parts of the Orton Fells, the northern Howgill Fells, Mallerstang, Barbon, Middleton, Casterton and Leck Fells. This increased the size and population of the National Park by about 24%.

Following cuts of almost 40% in real terms (2011-2016), the Government has protected the budget for National Parks for the last four years. However, continuing to provide a high quality service in priority areas (access for all, development management, land management, and rights of way) now depends on raising significant funding from other sources (charges for services, fees, external grants, etc.). Income from these other sources has increased by almost £1 million (55%) since 2014/15.

Driving improvement

We continually seek ways to improve the quality and value for money of the services we provide. The Authority’s Audit and Review Committee has lead responsibility for this aspect of our work. A number of different processes are in place to monitor and report publicly on our performance and ensure we strive for improvement. To find out more, visit our website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/performance

Involving others

Achieving our objectives is crucially dependent on our working with many other bodies and local communities. We believe that the public and our partners should help to shape our responsibilities as a National Park Authority. Before we make important decisions about our priorities for action or the activities we plan to undertake, we aim to involve those who have an interest or who may be affected. To find out about recent and forthcoming consultations, visit our website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/haveyoursay

Partnerships

We work closely with a range of local partner organisations, as well as the people who own and manage the land and buildings – local businesses, farmers, landowners and communities. Where more formal partnerships are concerned, clear arrangements are in place for deciding whether to enter, sustain or exit them. Current key partnership arrangements include the National Park Management Plan Steering Group, the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership, and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.
Our mission

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority exists to secure for the public good the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and better understanding of the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales: its landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Our aim is that, through our passion for this special place, we will inspire local communities and businesses to ensure that the Yorkshire Dales National Park is a thriving area. Its unique cultural landscape will be treasured by those who live here and those who visit for its stunning scenery, exceptional heritage and wonderful wildlife.

We strive to deliver high quality efficient and welcoming services that are effective in helping ourselves and others to achieve that aim.

We want to be widely recognised as a centre of expertise and excellence in conservation and recreation policy and practice.

Our core values

Our core values underpin the way in which we will achieve our mission and deliver key services and targets:

**Improvement**: we will continually strive to improve our performance in delivering National Park purposes.

**Accountability**: we will explain and take responsibility for our decisions and actions.

**Commitment**: we will do what we say we will do.

**Integrity**: our relationship with the public, partners and each other will be built on honesty, transparency, equality, impartiality and consistency.

**Involvement**: we will be open, approachable and proactive in working with local people, businesses and visitors to achieve our shared objectives and in encouraging wider and diverse participation in achieving our statutory purposes.

**Valuing people**: we will value the people who work for us and will ensure that they are equipped and empowered to provide professional services to the public.

Published 15 March 2019 © YDNPA