

**Date: 27 June 2023**

**Report: NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022-23**

### **Purpose of the report**

1. To inform Members of the progress made in implementing the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan 2019-24.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That Members:
  - a. note and comment on the progress made through the actions of a range of local bodies in implementing the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan 2019-24;
  - b. approve the publication of the 2022-23 progress report.

### **Strategic Planning Framework**

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework.

### **Background**

4. The National Park Management Plan (2019-24) is the most important document for the National Park. It was prepared – and developed through widespread consultation – by the National Park Management Plan Steering Group. As most Members will be aware, the Steering Group is a partnership of 16 local organisations/representatives who have the main responsibility for implementing the objectives.
5. The primary means of reporting progress is via the NPMP website pages. For each objective, a page has been created providing details of the rationale behind the objective, the organisations directly involved in their delivery, and the progress being made. All these pages can be viewed here:  
<https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/national-park-management-plan/>

## **The 2022/23 progress report**

6. The Steering Group's Annual Report is attached as an **Appendix**. It should be stressed that it is a summary of the collective activity of *many* different organisations, people and businesses.
7. As always, it should be noted that collating progress data from so many different organisations can be challenging, and there are a number of objectives for which up to date information is still awaited.
8. Overall, there are:
  - 35 objectives that have either been achieved or remain on course;
  - 11 objectives where there has been some progress;
  - 3 objectives where there has been little or no progress.
9. The summary report highlights the many significant achievements from last year, and these are not repeated here.
10. It is worth noting that, of the 9 objectives where there has been limited progress, three – Barns (A9); Rail Services (E5); and, Housing (F1) are part of the cohort of what were described at the time as six “very ambitious objectives” for which there was no funding in place at the time the Management Plan was adopted.
11. There are only three objectives where little or no progress is being achieved - Priority Species (C2); Woodland Management (D1) and Invasive Non-Native Species (D7). On the first of these, Members may be aware that a new Nature Recovery Plan is nearly complete and will be brought to the Authority meeting in September.

## **Conclusion**

12. The Steering Group's view is that, overall, good progress is still being made in implementing most of the Plan's 49 objectives. Whilst some significant challenges remain – notably in relation to nature recovery - the work of the many local organisations, groups and individuals is making a significant and measureable difference to the National Park.

**Gary Smith**  
**Director of Conservation and Community**

**13 June 2023**

















# **NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019–2024**

# **ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2023**

Prepared on behalf of the National Park Management Plan Steering Group

# Members of the Management Plan Steering Group

 <p><b>Destination Dales Group</b> <i>Bringing Business to Business</i></p>	<p><b>Cumbria Tourism Businesses</b></p>		<p><b>Lord Shuttleworth</b> Rural Estates (Cumbria/Lancashire)</p>
 <p><b>Destination Dales Group</b> <i>Bringing Business to Business</i></p>	<p><b>Jonathan Smith</b> Yorkshire Tourism Businesses</p>		<p><b>Adrian Thornton-Berry</b> Rural Estates (Yorkshire)</p>
 <p><b>Environment Agency</b></p>	<p><b>Martin Christmas</b> Environment Agency</p>	 <p>Westmorland &amp; Furness Council</p>	<p><b>Angela Jones</b> Westmorland &amp; Furness Council</p>
	<p>Farmer Network, Cumbria</p>		<p><b>David Sharrod</b> Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust</p>
	<p><b>Anthony Bradley</b> Farmer Network, Yorkshire</p>	 <p><b>YORKSHIRE DALES</b> National Park Authority</p>	<p><b>David Butterworth</b> Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority</p>
 <p><b>Forestry Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Crispin Thorn</b> Forestry Commission</p>	 <p><b>YORKSHIRE DALES</b> National Park Authority</p>	<p><b>Neil Heseltine</b> Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority</p>
	<p><b>Paul Duncan</b> Natural England</p>	<p>Youth representative</p>	<p><b>Joe Hudson</b></p>
 <p><b>NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL</b></p>	<p><b>Karl Battersby</b> North Yorkshire Council</p>	<p>Youth representative</p>	<p><b>Laura Day</b></p>

## Summary

- 17 objectives that have been achieved;
- 18 objectives that remain on course;
- 11 objectives where there has been some progress but not yet enough;
- 3 objectives that have seen little or no progress.

This report summarises the work undertaken in 2022-23 by **a wide range of local partners** towards achieving the 49 objectives set out in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2019-24. Further details of each objective, the organisations involved, and the progress made can be found at:

<https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/national-park-management-plan/>

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

- 1.8 km of overhead power lines were placed underground at Gamelands Stone Circle, near Raisbeck. This brings the total so far through the current programme to almost 18 km (**A4**);
- Through the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership £780,000 was invested in a range of projects, working with local communities to enhance the landscape, cultural heritage, and visitor welcome (**A7**);
- Defra's *Farming in Protected Landscapes* programme provided grants worth £885,000 to 74 farm projects. Amongst other things, the programme has supported: restoration of over 175 ha of grassland; creation/restoration of 12,000m of hedgerows; and restoration of 3 traditional barns (**A8**);
- Over 90% of Rights of Way in the National Park are now 'easy to use', up from 82% at the start of the Plan period (**B1**);
- The Coast to Coast Path National Trail was formally designated by the Secretary of State for the Environment in October 2022. Implementation of the route has started and is scheduled for completion by October 2025 (**B2**);
- Collectively, the YDNPA, Bolton Abbey estate and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust ran curriculum based outdoor sessions with primary and secondary schools inspiring just under 6,000 young people to engage with nature (**B5**);
- Over 7,000 volunteer days were undertaken in the National Park in 2022/23, through the National Park Authority's 'Dales Volunteers' and a range of other local and visitor groups. The proportion of the days being done by under-represented groups increased to 22%, from 18% the year before (**B7**);
- Over £56,000 was raised from donations and sales to support the maintenance of the 'Three Peaks' route (**B8**);
- Around 600 ha of native broadleaved and mixed woodland was planted in 2022/23, taking the total to almost 1,000 ha since 2018 (**D2**);
- The Yorkshire Peat Partnership completed initial restoration of almost 1,400 ha of degraded peatland. Over 24,000 ha has now been brought into restoration since 2009 (**D3**);

- The Cheese Festival and Dark Skies Festival included 58 events held by local businesses and the Dales Countryside Museum. A visitor survey showed that 15% of visitors in 2022 were on their first visit (**E6**);
- A further 8 apprentices were supported by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and National Park Authority. This takes the cumulative total so far to 34 (**E7**);
- The former Craven District Council completed the first phase of business development at the Langcliffe Quarry site for a variety of employment uses, and the development was officially opened in January 2023 (**E8**);
- £185,000 was awarded in grants from the National Park Sustainable Development Fund to support 16 local projects, including creating an accessible community meeting space at St Mary's Church in Arkengarthdale (**F5**).

Objectives where there is some progress being made, include:

- The 2021 Trends and Status Report reported drops in the proportions of priority habitats outside of SSSIs that were in 'good condition' (**C1b**);
- The most recent figures (2021) showed a 13% reduction in the value of tourism compared to the baseline in 2017. This compares to a 50% reduction in 2020 (**E2**);
- 55 new dwellings were created, taking the cumulative total to 262 compared to a target of 333 (**F1**);
- Little change in mobile phone coverage but a significant amount of investment that will yield improvements in future years. 10 new masts were installed and a further 7 were granted planning permission (**F4**).

There are three objectives in the Plan where little or no progress is being made:

- The 2021 Trends and Status Report reported drops in the proportions of priority species whose populations are either stable or increasing (**C2**);
- The most recent figures (March 2022) showed that 60% of woodland in the National Park was in active management, down from 65% in 2019 (**D1**);
- There has been no progress in the work of the Yorkshire Dales Invasive Non-native species (INNS) Working Group to identify priorities for action (**D7**).

# Park Profile 2022

<b>Area</b>		
Total Park area	218,482 ha	Natural England, 2019
Parishes totally or partly in the Park	110	YDNPA, 2022
<b>Population</b>		
Resident population	23,711	ONS, mid-year estimate 2020
School and pre-school age (0-15)	13%	ONS, mid-year estimate 2020
Working age (16-64)	55%	ONS, mid-year estimate 2020
Pensionable age (65+)	32%	ONS, mid-year estimate 2020
<b>Housing</b>		
Housing stock	12,688	Royal Mail's Postcode Address File 2019 (Edge Analytics)
Resident households	10,806	
Owner occupied	7,834	
Private rented	2,172	
Social housing	810	
Second homes and holiday lets	2,916 <sup>1</sup>	YDNPA 2017
<b>Natural Environment</b>		
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	57,366 ha	Natural England, 2020
Area of priority habitat	83,191 ha	Natural England 2017
<b>Land use</b>		
Moorland, heath & rough unenclosed grassland	n/a	
Farmland	n/a	
Woodland	8,147 ha	Forestry Commission, 2021
Developed land	n/a	
<b>Heritage</b>		
Scheduled Monuments	292	Historic England, 2022
Conservation Areas	46	YDNPA, 2022
Listed Buildings	2,143	Historic England, 2022
Grade I	25	
Grade II*	105	
Grade II	2,013	
<b>Recreation</b>		
Total Rights of Way	2,637 km	YDNPA, 2022
Public footpaths	1,754 km	
Public bridleways	793 km	
Other public rights of way	90 km	
National Trails	174 km	Natural England, 2017
Publicly-accessible land	129,680 ha	Natural England, 2017

<sup>1</sup> Indicative estimate based on the pre-1 August National Park area (ONS, 2012)