

29 September 2026

National Park Management Plan Annual Report 2025-26

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the progress made in the first year of the National Park Management Plan 2025-2030.

Recommendation(s)

2. That Members note the progress made by a wide range of bodies towards achieving the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan.

Strategic Framework

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

Background

4. The National Park Management Plan is the most important document for the National Park. It is produced by the [National Park Management Plan Partnership](#) - a group of 17 local organisations and representatives. An updated Management Plan (2025-30) was produced by the Partnership last year and was launched in October 2025.
5. The Partnership is also responsible for monitoring progress towards achieving the objectives in the Plan.
6. As with the previous Management Plan, the primary means of reporting progress will be via the Authority's website.

Annual Report

7. The Management Plan Partnership's annual progress report (see **Annex**) covers the first year of the new Management Plan. Overall, there are:
 - 21 objectives that remain on course;
 - 13 objectives where some progress had been made;
 - 3 objectives where there has been little or no progress;

- 3 objectives that lack sufficient data for assessment.
8. Full details of progress on each of the 40 individual objectives will be set out on the Authority's new website, which is due to be launched next month.
 9. Collating progress data for this first report has been particularly challenging because:
 - a) the Plan contains many new objectives that were not agreed until part way through the last financial year. So, we – and our partners – have been starting from scratch in setting up appropriate monitoring processes.
 - b) some objectives are based on national targets for which monitoring and datasets are still being developed, and some for which the baseline is historical – requiring several years' worth of data to be collated in one go.
 - c) the ongoing development of a new Authority website has required the creation of a new set of webpages to enable us to continue to report progress on each objective.
 10. Nonetheless, with the support of the Partnership and many other local organisations involved in supporting achievement of the objectives in the Management Plan, the first progress report presents a robust picture of progress to date. The remaining handful of gaps in the data should be resolved over the next few months.

Financial and Legal Implications

11. The Management Plan Partnership is currently working with the lead partners for each of the 40 objectives to produce estimates of the costs of achieving each objective – and the current shortfall in funding (if any).

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

12. The Management Plan was subject to an Equality Impact Assessment during its preparation (November 2024). This can be viewed on the Authority's website at: <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2025/01/Equality-Impact-Assessment-NPMP-December-2024.pdf>
13. The Plan contains eight objectives that are particularly positive towards equality. Of these, six are on course and the other two have made considerable progress.

Climate Change Implications

14. The Management Plan includes an overall ambition for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and six objectives that are specifically intended to support the achievement of that ambition (and most of the other objectives in the Plan will support climate mitigation and adaptation). It is not possible to quantify yet the impact of activity this year on greenhouse gas emissions across the National Park because there is a two-year time-lag in the national data (the figures published in 2026 are for 2024). Those

figures show an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 10% between 2019 and 2024.

Conclusion

15. Overall, the Partnership's view is that good initial progress has been made towards achieving the objectives in the National Park Management Plan 2025-30, many of which are deliberately very ambitious. This reflects the combined efforts of many different local organisations and individuals.

Gary Smith
Director of Conservation and Community

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