

29 September 2026

Dales Woodland Strategy 2020-2030

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to end the Dales Woodland Strategy, as it has been superseded by the Nature Recovery Plan adopted in 2023. cancel

Recommendation

2. That Members agree to end the Dales Woodland Strategy.

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:
 - **National Park Management Plan Objective 2.3:** Work with farmers and landowners to encourage creation of 6,000 hectares of native broadleaf and mixed woodland, including scrub, wood pasture and natural regeneration, by 2031, to create a network that increases resilience to climate change and reduces downstream flood peaks.

Background

4. The most recent iteration of the Dales Woodland Strategy was produced in 2020 by the Dales Woodland Forum. It set 3 ambitions for: creating new woodland habitat; bringing more woodland into positive management; and, planting individual or small groups of field trees. It also set out principles to follow for tree and woodland planting and management. The Strategy can be viewed here: [Dales Woodland Strategy: 2020-2030](#).
5. In 2023 the Authority adopted the Nature Recovery Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It sets out a clear vision for nature recovery in the Park through to 2040. The Plan was produced by the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum - which includes representatives from the Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust - in consultation with both the Dales Woodland Forum and the Farming and Land Management Forum. So, it reflects perspectives from across the land management sector. It includes a specific section on trees and woodland – including the 3 ambitions from the Dales Woodland Strategy - as well as setting out how trees and woodlands could be integrated into each of the four main landscape types in the National Park. The Plan can be viewed here: [Nature-Recovery-Plan](#).

6. The three ambitions are now also enshrined in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, meaning they are part of the Government's national targets for increasing tree cover, creating wildlife-rich habitat and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Consideration

7. The Dales Woodland Strategy is now over 5 years old and is due to be reviewed. With the creation of the wider Nature Recovery Plan – which covers a longer time frame – there is no longer a need for a separate strategy for woodland.
8. All new woodland created in the National Park must be compliant with the UK Forestry Standard, which requires many of the design principles that the Strategy was originally intended to implement.
9. As part of strengthening the governance and accountability for implementation of the National Park Management Plan, the Dales Woodland Forum is being wound up. Woodland issues will be considered, as appropriate, by the Biodiversity Forum or the Farming and Land Management Forum. All former members of the Woodland Forum are now members of one (or both) of these two forums.

Financial Implications

10. None.

Legal Implications

11. None.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

12. None.

Conclusion

13. It is recommended that Members agree that the Nature Recovery Plan replaces the Dales Woodland Strategy.

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