



**YORKSHIRE DALES**  
National Park

# NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007 – 2012

# FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2011

Prepared on behalf of the National Park Management Plan Steering Group

## **Members of the Steering Group**

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## SUMMARY

Overall, strong progress is still being made towards delivering the 70 objectives set out in the Management Plan. 27 objectives have now been achieved; 25 are still on course to be achieved by their original target time; and a further 13 are making reasonable progress. Major achievements in 2010/11 include:

- Over 30,000 hectares of land was brought into Natural England's Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme;
- The National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund funded 15 local economic, social and environmental projects, worth almost £950,000;
- All the 30 sensitive 'green lanes' (unsurfaced, unclassified roads) now have active management plans in place;
- 92% of public rights of way are now 'easy to use';
- Over £300,000 was provided to rural regeneration and rural service projects by through the two LEADER funding programmes covering the Park.
- 64 ha of new native woodland is being created, taking the total created over the lifetime of the Plan to 454 ha;
- Over 5,000 days of work were provided by volunteers through the National Park Authority;
- The number of Scheduled Monuments 'at risk' was reduced by 7 (to 47), and is now almost half the figure in 2008.
- 24 ha of hay meadow were restored or enhanced through the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's '*Hay Time*' project, taking the total restored to 166 ha.
- 20 km of rights of way were made accessible to users with limited mobility. The total length is now 127 km (6% of the network)
- Over 200 young people took part in outdoor activity 'taster days' through the 'Go Dales' project.
- 12 listed buildings were removed from the 'at risk' register. The total number at risk is now 70 (3.9% of all listed buildings)
- 2 hydro-power schemes, totalling 85kW were installed.
- 99% of the Pennine Bridleway route through the Park is now open

One objective (**AR9** – Quiet Lanes) has previously been abandoned. Two others (UE5 and UE8) have also now had to be abandoned as the result of Government funding cuts to the National Park Authority.

More detailed information on progress on all of the objectives is available on-line at:

[www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/yorkshire\\_dales\\_national\\_park\\_management\\_plan.htm](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/yorkshire_dales_national_park_management_plan.htm)

### Summary of Progress against NPMP Objectives

Landscape		Community and Culture		Access and Recreation		Understanding and Enjoyment		Nature Conservation		Historic Environment		Economy and Employment	
L1	On course	CC1	Some progress	AR1	Achieved	UE1	Achieved	NC1	Achieved	HE1	Achieved	EE1	Some progress
L2	Some progress	CC2	On course	AR2	Achieved	UE2	Achieved	NC2	Some progress	HE2	Some progress	EE2	On course
L3	Some progress	CC3	On course	AR3	Achieved	UE3	Achieved	NC3	Some progress	HE3	Achieved	EE3	Some progress
L4	On course	CC4	On course	AR4	Achieved	UE4	Achieved	NC4	Some progress	HE4	On course	EE4	Achieved
L5	On course	CC5	On course	AR5	Achieved	UE5	Abandoned	NC5	Some progress	HE5	Achieved	EE5	Achieved
L6	Some progress	CC6	On course	AR6	Some progress	UE6	Achieved	NC6	On course	HE6	On course	EE6	On course
L7	On course	CC7	On course	AR7	Achieved	UE7	Achieved	NC7	Achieved	HE7	Some progress	EE7	Achieved
L8	Some progress	CC8	On course	AR8	On course	UE8	Abandoned	NC8	Achieved	HE8	Achieved	EE8	On course
L9	On course	CC9	Achieved	AR9	Abandoned	UE9	Some progress	NC9	Achieved	HE9	On course	EE9	On course
L10	On course	CC10	On course	AR10	Some progress	UE10	Achieved	NC10	Achieved	HE10	Achieved	EE10	On course

✓	Achieved
On course	On course
Some progress	Some progress
Little or no progress	Little or no progress
Abandoned	Abandoned

31.08.2011

All the objectives are listed in full in the National Park Management Plan and on the National Park Management Plan website (see address at the bottom of page 3)

# CONTEXT

There are a number of general issues that provide important context for what is happening in the Park already or will do so in the future. They include:

- **Population & Housing**

The number of people living in the Park has increased steadily since 1971. The latest estimated population of the Park is 20,280 (2009). During 2010 house prices recovered and reached their highest ever value (average selling price of £287,180). With average annual household income largely unchanged, the ratio between average household income and average house price more than 8 to 1.

- **Climate change**

Many of the special qualities of the Park are vulnerable to the likely impacts of climate change but it may also provide some opportunities. A detailed assessment of the likely impacts has been produced, and will be used to inform the production of the next National Park Management Plan in 2012.

- **National Park boundary**

Natural England has completed further public consultation on proposed changes to the boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks. The results will be reported to the Natural England Board in September. The Board will decide what recommendations to make to the Secretary of State.

- **Economic downturn**

Nationally, the economy remains fragile, and the Dales economy – by virtue of its reliance on tourism, agriculture and micro-businesses —remains especially vulnerable. Cuts in public sector funding are beginning to bite and will have implications for the level of ambition that can be set in the next National Park Management Plan. The cuts will also exacerbate the challenges to sustain the smaller, more traditional upland farming businesses that contribute to the ongoing management of the special features of the Park but depend on public funding to survive.

- **Government policy**

The Government's 'Localism' and 'Big Society' agendas are being given effect through legislation and changes to the allocation of funding for e.g. conservation activity under the Water Framework Directive. These changes – including notably the proposed new National Planning Policy Framework - will have a significant impact on the way in which development is managed in the Park, and on the way in which Management Plan objectives are achieved in the future.

- **Natural Environment White Paper**

The White Paper sets out ambitious proposals for enhancing the natural environment and reconnecting people and nature. The National Park will have a key role to play in helping to deliver many of those ambitions. Of equal importance is the emphasis on the concept of 'ecosystem services', which will change the way in which natural environment issues are considered, and, in the longer term should present real opportunities for Dales farmers and landowners to gain economic benefit from the 'ecosystem services' they provide.

## PARK PROFILE 2010/11

ITEM	STATISTIC	DATA SOURCE
<b>Area</b>		
Total Park Area	176,180 ha	Ordnance Survey, 2010
No. of parishes totally or partly in the Park	83	Office of National Statistics, 2001
<b>Population</b>		
Resident population	20,229	Office of National Statistics, 2007
School and pre-school age (0-15)	3,229 (16%)	Office of National Statistics, 2007
Working age (16-64)	12,359 (61%)	Office of National Statistics, 2007
Pensionable age (65+)	4,641 (23%)	Office of National Statistics, 2007
No. of settlements with 3,000+ population	0	Office of National Statistics, 2001
<b>Housing</b>		
Housing stock	10,236	Office of National Statistics, 2001
Resident households	8,363	Office of National Statistics, 2001
Owner occupied	6,194 (74%)	Office of National Statistics, 2001
Private rented	1,614 (20%)	Office of National Statistics, 2001
Social Housing	555 (6%)	Office of National Statistics, 2001
Second and holiday lets	1,498 (15%)	Office of National Statistics, 2001
<b>Nature Conservation</b>		
Site of Special Scientific Interest	50,769 ha	Natural England, 2009
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	28,606 ha	Natural England, 2009
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	40,063 ha	Natural England, 2009
RAMSAR Sites	285 ha	Natural England, 2009
National Nature Reserves	1,278 ha	Natural England 2009
Moorland, heath land and unenclosed grassland	92,500 ha	Countryside Commission, 1991
Farmland	71,800 ha	Countryside Commission, 1991
Woodland	6,000 ha	Countryside Commission, 1991
<b>Heritage</b>		
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	203	English Heritage, 2010
Conservation Areas	37	YDNPA 2010
Listed Buildings		
Grade I	18	English Heritage, 2010
Grade II*	70	English Heritage, 2010
Grade II	1,709	English Heritage, 2010
<b>Recreation</b>		
Public footpaths	1,452 km	YDNPA, 2010
Public bridleways	616 km	YDNPA, 2010
Other public rights of way	58 km	YDNPA, 2010
Open Access land	109,300 ha	YDNPA 2010

## **THEMATIC OVERVIEWS**

## LANDSCAPE

### Progress against Objectives

None of the objectives has yet been achieved but progress on most of the objectives remains encouraging. Particular achievements since last year include:

- No significant development ‘detractors’ were granted permission within the Park (**L4b**).
- The final year of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust/North Yorkshire County Council/YDNPA road verge project brought 5 km of important verges into active management. (**L8**).
- All geological SSSIs are in ‘favourable’ or ‘recovering’ condition (**L6**)
- Planning permission was granted for 17 small-scale renewable energy schemes. Two hydropower schemes (a 45kW community scheme at Bainbridge, and a 40kW private landowner scheme at Halton Gill.) were completed. In addition, the National Park Authority funded 9 feasibility studies for potential hydropower projects (**L10**).

### Issues

Over 30,000 ha of land was brought into Natural England’s Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme in 2010/11. The total area of land in some form of environmental agreement increased to 78% - still just below the objective of 80%<sup>1</sup> (**L2**).

A further 48 hectares of commercial conifer plantation were removed in 2010. As in previous years, this is less than originally planned but reflects a change in conservation policy to assist the continuing expansion of the red squirrel population within the Park (**L3**).

There were no new works to ‘underground’ over-head power lines in 2010. However, Electricity North West and CE Electric have now agreed new 5-year programmes of works with the National Park Authority (**L4d**)

The North Yorkshire Geodiversity Partnership continued to appraise potential sites for designation as ‘Regionally Important Geological Sites’. However, due to Government funding cuts, the National Park Authority is no longer able to take this work forward (**L6**).

There has been no progress since last year on North Yorkshire County Council’s protocol on highway signing and works in the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, nor on the proposed Highway Design Guide. The Council now plans to produce a draft by the end of 2011 (**L8**).

Water quality in Dales’ rivers has dropped slightly. In 2010, 42% of the length of sampled rivers was rated as in ‘good’ ecological status under the Water Framework Directive (**L9**)<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2010 Annual Report erroneously reported the area of land in agreement as 80%. Due to the complex nature of some agreements it now seems likely that that figure under-estimated the extent of the overlap of some schemes. The actual figure for 2010 is now thought to have been around 76%.

<sup>2</sup> Water quality is now subject to more stringent tests under the Water Framework Directive, and figures reported for 2009 and 2010 are not comparable with figures from earlier years.

## COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

### Progress against Objectives

Not all of the objectives contain specific targets, so making judgements on progress is more subjective. Progress is generally good, with eight of the ten objectives either achieved or on course:

- The Dales Integrated Transport Alliance (DITA) has secured £1.1 million of funding, from the Department of Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund, to develop an innovative 'demand-led' approach to community and visitor transport. DITA includes over 50 individual organisations and is being set up as a charity and company limited by guarantee (**CC2**).
- Cumbria County Council's Rights of Way improvement Plan for Cumbria has identified a number of walking/cycling route improvements in the Sedbergh area. Various schemes have also been implemented through North Yorkshire County Council's Local Service Centre Strategies. These are: Settle Riverside project connecting Giggleswick; Sedbergh footpath improvements as part of Auction Mart development; Stainforth to Settle using Way of the Roses; and the opening up of Applegarth bridleway into Richmond (**CC3**).
- The two European Union LEADER programmes (for the Cumbria Fells and Dales and the Yorkshire Dales) and the North Yorkshire Rural Access to Opportunities Programme have supported schemes to improve access to services (**CC5**).
- Community-led 'green action' programmes are now firmly established in the Yorkshire Dales. In Raydale, a programme is being implemented to address climate change, including the establishment of a community run small-scale hydro-electricity scheme on the River Bain which went live in June 2011. The Clapham Community Co-operative is currently running a successful bio-diesel project and is developing a recycling scheme, community allotments, a community orchard and two community supported agricultural schemes. The LEADER-funded 'Green Communities' project is working with both these communities and 3 others in the National Park (Grassington & Threshfield; Horton in Ribblesdale and Stainforth and Malhamdale) to help them to produce Action Plans to reduce carbon emissions.
- The National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund supported 15 local economic, social and environmental projects, worth £941,772 (**CC10**).

### Issues

6 new affordable homes were completed in Reeth (taking the total in the last 4 years to 39). A new Yorkshire Dales National Park Housing Development Plan was published in March 2011. It proposes allocating 33 new sites for housing which would potentially yield 230 new homes. Half of these would be affordable in relation to the national definition in Planning Policy Statement No 3 (Housing). The Plan is expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in October, which should mean that the overall housing target is formalised by early 2012 (**CC1**).

## ACCESS AND RECREATION

### Progress against Objectives

Six of the 10 objectives have now been achieved. Really good progress continues to be made in improving the quality of the recreational infrastructure. In particular:

- 92% of the Rights of Way in the Park are now 'easy to use', although the figure is subject to the vagaries of a sampling system based on only 5% of routes. This is an improvement from 77% in 2007 (**AR1**);
- All of the 30 'green lanes' (unclassified, unsurfaced roads) considered to be sensitive to damage by motor vehicles now have active management plans in place (**AR2**);
- 20 km of rights of way were upgraded last year to make them accessible to users with limited mobility. The total length is now 127 km (6% of the network) (**AR7**).

### Issues

Scheduled weekend and bank holiday public transport services to bring in visitors from the surrounding urban areas remain very limited. Scheduled weekday bus services along the main transport corridors also remain at relatively low levels. In part, the declines reflect the increasing emphasis on community transport schemes - and the success of the 'Dales Integrated Transport Alliance' in securing funding for 2011 and beyond (see CC2 in 'Community and Culture' above) offers hope for improvement (**AR6**).

The objective on 'quiet lanes' (**AR9**) was abandoned in 2009.

99% of the Pennine Bridleway route through the Dales is now open for public use thanks to funding from Natural England. However, the final legal and logistical issues – notably the road crossing on the A65 at Long Preston — have still to be resolved (**AR10**).

## UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYMENT

### Progress against Objectives

Seven of the 10 objectives have now been achieved. Of the remainder, all but one is still on course to be achieved by the target date. Particular highlights in 2010/11 include:

- With support from Sport England, Active Craven and Active Richmondshire, the National Park Authority's 'Go Dales' project has provided opportunities for 222 young people to try out new recreational activities in the Park last year. In total, over 400 people have now taken part (**UE6**).
- Volunteers for the National Park Authority participated in 5,483 days worth of activity in the Park (**UE7**).
- 11% of the targeted tourism-related businesses are now formally accredited through a 'green tourism' scheme (**UE10**).

### Issues

Up until 2011/12, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has undertaken a themed programme of educational events each year. Unfortunately, the formal education had to be cut as a result of the Government's funding cuts. No new programmes will be developed, although the Authority will still provide practical support to local and visiting school groups through its Ranger Service (**UE5**).

Nationally, the number of people who could name the Yorkshire Dales as being a national park increased from 7% in 2001 to 9% in 2007. However, the original objective (to increase to 10%) has now been abandoned as a result of funding cuts to the National Park Authority (**UE8**).

A wide range of organisations continue to deliver events in the National Park. However, these are no longer being logged and coordinated by the Tourism Partnership. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's own programme of events has been substantially reduced in 2011 as a result of Government funding cuts (**UE9**).

## NATURE CONSERVATION

### Progress against Objectives

Five of the 10 objectives have now been achieved and good progress has been made in 2010/11 in delivering large elements of the other objectives:

- A formal assessment of the likely impacts of climate change on the National Park was carried out by the National Park Management Plan Steering Group, and has now been published and submitted to Defra (**NC1**).
- 24 ha of hay meadow were restored or enhanced by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's 'Hay Time' project, taking the total to 166 hectares since 2008 (**NC4a**).
- In its first full year of operation, the 'Yorkshire Peat Partnership' restored over 2,500 ha of upland heath and blanket bog, through projects near Grimwith Reservoir and at Coverhead. A programme is now in place, using Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, for at least a further 10,000 ha over the next 2 years (**NC4c**).
- Through the efforts of the Forestry Commission, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, National Park Authority, Natural England and private landowners, a further 64 ha of broadleaf woodland will be created. This will take the total planted during the lifetime of the Plan to 454 ha (**NC4d**).
- 3 more local community groups are now working to restore local wildlife sites, as part of the National Park Authority's 'Parish Wildlife Programme' (**NC8**).

### Issues

There have been further delays in producing a map of key areas that could provide connections between existing habitat fragments. It is now hoped that the map - part of a wider regional project being carried out by Forest Research – will be produced by the end of 2011 (**NC2**).

64% of the priority habitats identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan are now in 'favourable' or 'recovering' condition. This is an improvement from 57% in the previous year but still behind the objective of 70%. Given the significant investment in habitat restoration in recent years – notably by Natural England – the figure is likely to increase as new surveys are carried out each year by the National Park Authority (**NC3a**).

An audit of floodplain wetlands was carried out by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in 2010. However, in the light of the current financial situation, the creation of new wetlands is not considered to be a priority within the new local Biodiversity Action Plan (Nature in the Dales 2020 Vision) (**NC4b**).

81% of Local Biodiversity Action Plan species are now stable or increasing. The original target (100% by 2010) has now been superseded by the new Local Biodiversity Action Plan adopted this year. The new Plan contains over 100 new species – for many of which there is no current baseline information (**NC5**).

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

### Progress against Objectives

Four of the 10 objectives have now been achieved remain on course to be achieved. Progress has been especially good on the following in 2009:

- The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority produced a historic environment research strategy to target support for local programmes of survey and research (**HE1**)
- Over 1,000 new records were added to the Historic Environment Record by the National Park Authority (**HE2**).
- All data on the condition of designated buildings, monuments and features held by English Heritage and the National Park Authority is up to date (**HE3**).
- Twelve listed buildings were brought off the 'at risk' register in 2010, and the total number at risk is now down to 70 (3.9%) – on course to achieve the objective (**HE4**).
- Working with English Heritage and Natural England, the National Park Authority helped to bring 9 Scheduled Monuments off the 'at risk' register. The total number of monuments 'at risk' now stands at 47 (23%), down from 82 two years ago (**HE5**)
- The National Park Authority prepared updated character appraisals for 8 Conservation Areas (Dent, Hubberholme, Settle-Carlisle Railway, Farfield Mill, Long Preston, Langcliffe, Buckden, and Clapham). 27 Conservation Areas (63%) now have up-to-date appraisals (**HE9**).
- English Heritage completed and published the evidence base from its Scoping Study on the Socio-Economic Benefits of Heritage in the National Parks (**HE10**).

### Issues

The National Park Authority has continued to update the Historic Environment Record for the National Park. However, due to Government funding cuts, further work to make the archive of records more publicly accessible has now been abandoned (**HE1**).

A database on local building materials has been assembled by the National Park Authority but has still not been made widely available (**HE7**).

## ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

### Progress against Objectives

Some of the objectives do not contain specific targets, so making judgements on progress is more subjective. However, progress remains generally positive, with 3 objectives achieved and all but one still on course. Notable achievements last year included:

- The *Yorkshire Dales* LEADER programme provided over £200,000 to support regeneration activity in the Park, based around three broad themes: innovative community service provision; village regeneration; and cultural heritage (**EE2**).
- Through the *Cumbria Fells and Dales* LEADER programme, almost £100,000 was provided to 6 projects in and around the National Park. These include projects involving community services and farm diversification (**EE2**).
- In 2010, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust launched a 'Countryside Trainees' scheme. Under the scheme, young people are being employed and trained as apprentices in countryside management. The scheme involves public sector bodies (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Natural England), the National Trust, and a number of local businesses (**EE5**).
- A number of major projects are now in place to help to support sustainable farming and tourism. These include the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (see NC4d; Yorkshire Dales Hydropower Feasibility Fund (see L10); and an extension to the existing 'Hay Time' project (see NC4a) (**EE7**).
- Yorkshire County Council's Adult Learning Service has continued to widen the range of adult training and learning opportunities available. This has been achieved by delivering courses in village halls and other community venues (**EE10**).

### Issues

After a number of delays, the National Park Authority (NPA) and Nidderdale AONB are now taking forward the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism by setting up a new partnership - Dales Tourism. A business network has already been established, and work is underway on encouraging and assisting tourism businesses to adopt 'green' practices. During 2011, the NPA will be undertaking work to look at 'local distinctiveness' and help businesses make the most of what is special about the National Park (**EE1**).

The Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Tourism Partnership no longer exists. The National Park Authority is now working with a range of partners including Visit England, Welcome to Yorkshire and the District Councils to develop tourism initiatives. The regional visitor survey and data collected from the regional Destination Management System indicates which activities visitors would be interested in to complement and enhance their visit to the Yorkshire Dales. This data will be used to develop packages which match the special qualities of the area to the visitor interests (e.g. cycle tourism, outdoor adventure) (**EE3**).