

## Biodiversity Duty Statement

### About this document

The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened ‘biodiversity duty’ which requires all public authorities in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

They must:

1. Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity by 1 January 2024.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration as soon as possible after 1 January 2024.
3. Act to deliver the policies and achieve these objectives and report on them by 1 January 2026.

### Section 1: Our policies, objectives and actions

Work Area	Relevant policies/strategies already in place	Detail / Notes	Future plans / development comments
<b>The statutory duty</b>	<a href="#">Section 5 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as amended by Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995</a>	In accordance with this duty, all National Park Authorities must:  ‘conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park’	The recently enacted Levelling Up and Regeneration Act amends the current requirement on public bodies to ‘have regard’ to National Park purposes, to a strengthened General Duty in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, a relevant authority “must seek to further” the purposes of the National Park Purposes. This supports the strengthened Biodiversity Duty.

<p><u><a href="#">The Peak District National Park Management Plan (2023-28)</a></u></p>	<p>The Management Plan is a plan for the place and was prepared in partnership with over 70 organisations who contribute to its delivery. It highlights the key priorities for action over the next twenty years in order to address the challenges that the National Park will face.</p> <p>The vision for the place is: By 2043 the Peak District National Park is exemplary in its response to climate change and nature recovery. Its special qualities and resilience as a living landscape have been significantly enhanced. It is a welcoming place where all are inspired to care and communities thrive.</p> <p>The biodiversity aspects to be achieved by: <u><a href="#">Aim One: The Peak District National Park is more resilient and net-zero by 2040 through its exemplary response to climate change</a></u> <b>Objective 1:</b> To lower greenhouse gas emissions significantly, focussing on the largest emitters within our influence <b>Objective 2:</b> To sequester and store substantially more carbon while contributing to nature recovery <b>Objective 3:</b> To reverse damage to nature, biodiversity, cultural heritage and in particular built environments caused by a changing climate</p> <p><u><a href="#">Aim Two: The Peak District National Park is a resilient landscape in which nature, beauty, and cultural heritage are significantly enhanced.</a></u> <b>Objective 4:</b> To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity flourishes <b>Objective 5:</b> To understand, appreciate and enhance the cultural heritage and in particular built environments of the National Park as part of an ever-changing landscape <b>Objective 6:</b> To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park's contrasting and ever-evolving landscape.</p>	<p>Creation of the Management Plan was subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment Sustainability Appraisal which includes a scoping exercise to appraise relationship with other strategies and plans.</p> <p>Progress against all NPMP objectives is reported via the <u><a href="#">NPMP Progress Report</a></u> to the National Park Authority Committee annually, in May.</p>	<p>The Plan is be reviewed within five years of its adoption.</p> <p>The next plan will need to demonstrate how it supports the Environment Act (through its influence on Environmental Outcomes as set out in the 2021 Environment Act).</p>
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<p><a href="#"><u>The Peak District National Park Authority Plan 2023-28</u></a></p>	<p>Our Authority Plan sets out how we deliver to the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park and shared the same vision as the NPMP. The Authority Plan is structured around our enabling delivery aim which captures key elements of the National Park Authority's own essential business as we fulfil our roles as regulator, influencer and deliverer.</p>	<p>Progress against the Authority Plan is reported via <a href="#"><u>Authority Plan Progress Report</u></a> the to the National Park Authority Committee every six month (10 deciles) over the 5 year plan period.</p>	<p>The Plan is reviewed within five years of its adoption.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Peak District National Park Local Development Framework</u></a></p>	<p>The Local Plan sets out the planning policies for the Peak District National Park, to which all developments must comply. It is used to make decisions about hundreds of planning applications received each year. The Local Plan is under review, to check whether policies are still fit for purpose, given new pressures and challenges.</p> <p>The current Local Plan policies remain in place until the new Plan is adopted, likely in 2026. The review gives the opportunity to further integrate wildlife conservation and enhancement into planning policy, and ensure developments are contributing as much as possible to nature recovery.</p>	<p>The National Park Authority monitor the achievement of the development strategy through <a href="#"><u>Annual Monitoring Reports</u></a>.</p>	<p>The <a href="#"><u>Local Plan is currently under review</u></a>.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Development Management</u></a></p>	<p>Determination of planning applications is made in accordance with the local plan, other material planning considerations and current wildlife legislation and policy.</p>	<p>Planning conditions and informatives are routinely applied to permissions to control factors relevant to preserving and enhancing biodiversity.</p>	<p>Continual process. Decisions will be made in accordance with the next iteration of the Local Plan.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Local nature recovery strategies</u></a></p>	<p>6 relevant LNRS's cover the PDNP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Cheshire</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Derbyshire</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Greater Manchester</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>South Yorkshire</u></a></li> </ul>	<p>PDNPA is a Supporting Authority for the development of all strategies.</p>	<p>Continue to work closely with Responsible Authorities to finalise, deliver and subsequently review and update LNRS's.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Staffordshire &amp; Stoke-on-Trent</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">West Yorkshire</a></li> </ul> <p>The PDNPA has also created a <a href="#">Peak District Nature Recovery Plan</a> which specific to the National Park. This plan is not a statutory document but aims to provide input into the Local Nature Recovery Strategies and provide a consolidated vision for the Peak District.</p>	The PD Nature Recovery Plan sits as complementary to them and sets out a co-ordinated vision for nature recovery in the National Park.	The PD Nature Recovery Plan supplements and supports the LNRS's, providing additional detail and clarity for the National Park area.
<a href="#">Biodiversity net gain (BNG)</a>	Biodiversity Net Gain is now mandatory under <a href="#">Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021)</a> .	As a Local Planning Authority, BNG is required on all non-exempt planning applications in the National Park from the date of enactment of the new regulations.	Delivery, monitoring and enforcement will be undertaken in line with the regulations and other planning policies and regulations.
<a href="#">Authority land portfolio</a>	<p>Authority owned land is managed in line with our Statutory Purpose, Management Plan and Authority Plan.</p> <p>Morrige Hill is a Landscape Recovery Scheme which includes some of the Authority's land. Between 2024 and 2027 this scheme will work up options for improving the management of the land for biodiversity, natural capital and carbon sequestration interests.</p>	The Authority publishes a list of property and land interests on an annual basis - <a href="#">December 2025 Land and Property</a>	The list is reviewed annually, however, may be revised periodically based on changes occurring within the year.

## Section 2: Your future actions

As the First Purpose of the National Park, undertaking activity to enhance biodiversity and bio abundance is an intrinsic remit for the Authority.

### [Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28](#)

The Management Plan is monitored using the critical success factors that are set out in the delivery plan. Monitoring and reporting on the delivery plan takes place annually. The National Park Authority coordinate this with partners responsible for monitoring and reporting the areas they lead on. The current report can be viewed via our [National Park Progress Report](#).

### [Authority Plan 2023-28](#)

The Authority 5 year business plan is structured around our enabling delivery aim which captures key elements of the National Park Authority's own essential business as it fulfil our roles as regulator, influencer and deliverer. Progress against our enabling delivery aim objectives is reported every 6 months. The current report can be viewed via our Authority Plan Progress Report site [Authority Plan Progress Report](#).

### **Section 3: Biodiversity Net Gain information**

Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) in England (with some exemptions), have been required to deliver at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from 12 February 2024. BNG became mandatory for small sites from 2 April 2024. All off-site and significant on-site habitats must be secured for at least 30 years.

The Peak District National Park Authority has complied with all legislation and regulations since the roll out and implementation of BNG from 2024. The Authority has procured the specialist software system Mycelia in order to support the assessment and monitoring of BNG.

### **Optional information**

The optional information requirements will be reviewed, and further information will be added to the next Biodiversity Duty Report as part of the Management Plan 28-33 process, including:

- Section 4: Info about the Peak District National Park Authority
- Section 5: Your top achievements
- Section 6: How you have considered other strategies
- Section 7: How your policies, objectives and actions have helped the environment
- Section 8: How you've raised awareness and educated the community
- Section 9: Monitoring and evaluating your actions
- Section 10: Biodiversity highlights and challenges

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