

ENHANCING OUR NATIONAL TREASURES

Planning in England's National Parks

THE BROADS



DARTMOOR



EXMOOR



LAKE DISTRICT



NEW FOREST



NORTHUMBERLAND



NORTH YORK MOORS



PEAK DISTRICT



SOUTH DOWNS



YORKSHIRE DALES





Lake District
National Park



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park



Northumberland
National Park



PEAK
DISTRICT
NATIONAL
PARK



South Downs
National Park Authority

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FOREWORD

BY MARGARET PAREN, CHAIR, NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND



It is easy to think of National Parks as ‘pretty’ places with picture-perfect views that endure forever. But National Parks are living breathing landscapes shaped by people.

To ensure the best possible future for our most nationally valued and protected landscapes, we must think holistically. If we focus too much on individual parts of the problem, no matter how important in their own right, for example, an endangered species, a housing proposal, a road project, we lose sight of the big picture. National Park Authorities have the ability to be able to see this big picture while understanding and working on the individual issues. We see and understand national and local context – working together as a collective of ten National Parks across England but each also understanding the dynamics and issues facing our own truly unique landscapes. Our planning function is a powerful piece in our toolkit to conserve, enhance and share these landscapes as a nation.

“*If the National Parks are to carry out their task to public and Parliamentary satisfaction, they must have a direct and first-instance concern in the whole range of planning operations, including not least the case-by-case administration of planning control.*”

John Dower, the Dower Report, 1945

Planning is often oversimplified to: How many houses? Where? In looking at specific issues in isolation, however, we can forget that planning is all about connecting people to place. It guides not just ‘where’ but ‘how’ we live and relate to our National Parks by conserving and enhancing landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage, and by helping local people to have access to affordable homes..

But it is crucial that it is recognised that National Parks are not seen simply as local places for local people. Planning provides a clear and practical means by which we can connect not only the people and communities within National Parks, but those living in urban areas. It does this through, for example, supporting visitor accommodation and amenities. This paper sets out the exciting contribution that planning makes to our living, working, treasured landscapes.



“The creation of national parks almost 70 years ago changed the way we view our precious landscapes – helping us all access and enjoy our natural world. We want to make sure they are not only conserved, but enhanced for the next generation.”

**Michael Gove MP,
Secretary of State, Defra**



Planning stats



APPLICATIONS APPROVED

90%



APPLICATIONS DETERMINED (2017/18)

8,037



% APPEALS RATE DISMISSED

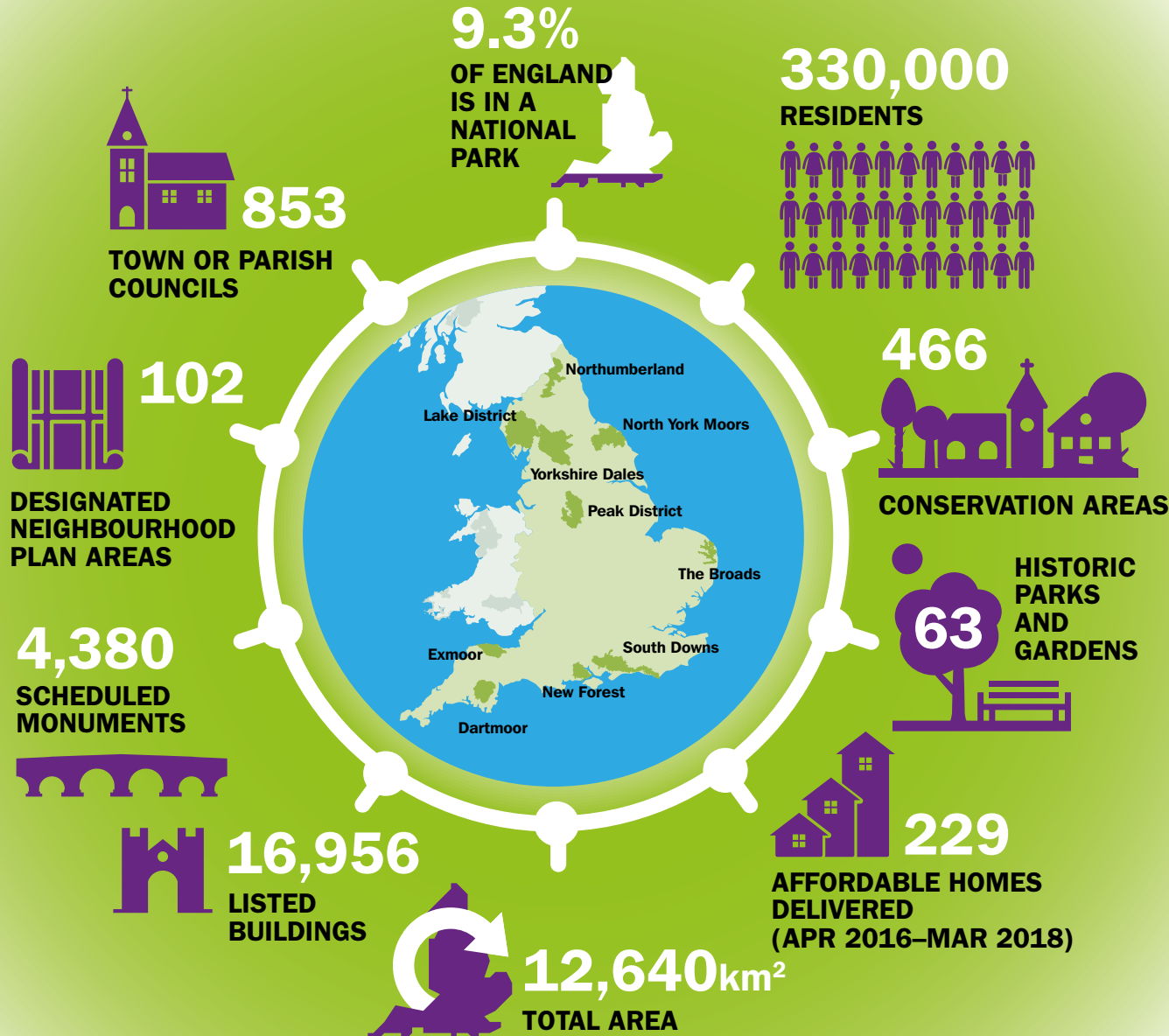
73%



% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

82%

Within Englands National Parks...



Sites of Special Scientific Interest

TOTAL AREA IN PARKS

2,971km²



AVERAGE % OF PARKS

24%



AVERAGE % IN FAVOURABLE CONDITION

26% or 761km²



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INTRODUCTION: BIG PICTURE, SMALL DETAILS

WHY WE CANNOT DELIVER ON OUR PURPOSES AND DUTY WITHOUT PLANNING



Designated for the entire Nation, National Parks are both our most valued and sensitive landscapes. Our very role as National Park Authorities, as set out in our statutory purposes and duty, is to support, enhance and conserve living, thriving landscapes and cultural heritage, as well as encouraging and enabling access to these iconic places.

This need to deliver multiple benefits for both National Parks and the people for who live, work and visit in them requires a holistic and balanced approach.

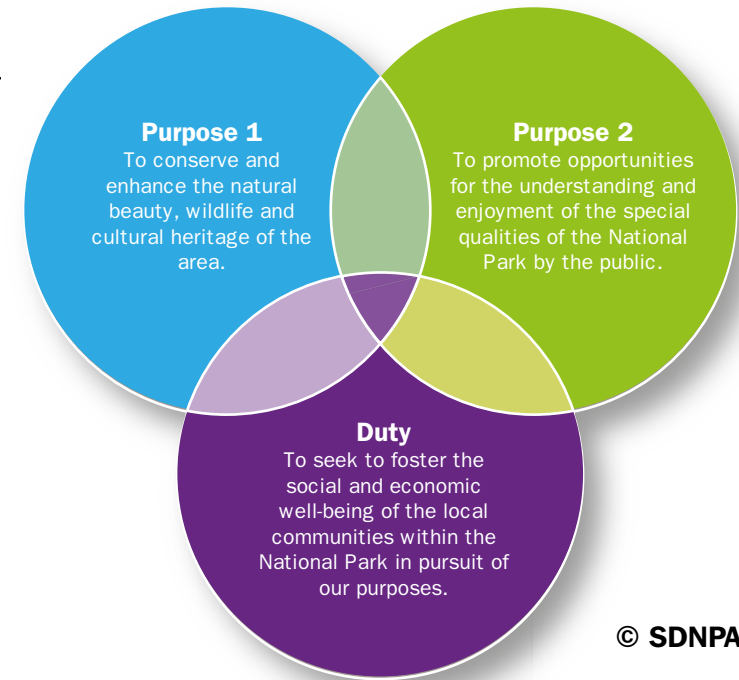
National Park Authorities are ideally positioned to provide a planning service that looks at the big national picture while delivering planning that also enables our rural communities to thrive. As the sole planning authority for the National Park areas, we are in a unique position to ensure that planning comprehensively delivers against the purposes and duty of our National Parks.

Rather than an 'additional' function, planning is one of our essential tools in delivering our Partnership Management Plans by helping us to determine a shared vision for the National Parks and deliver our unique sense of place.

National Parks think more about the long-term; often work better with people and communities

and each other; look to prevent problems; and to take a big picture, small detail approach. This paper sets out eight key areas in which planning directly delivers on our Purposes and Duty and enables us to deliver on our Partnership Management Plans.

- Planning policies with the purposes and duty at our core.
- Decision making that delivers against our purposes and duty.
- Working with our communities.
- Ensuring high-quality design.
- Supporting rural economies.
- Conserving and enhancing environmental services.
- Delivering affordable housing.
- Supporting sustainable tourism.



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PLANNING POLICIES WITH THE PURPOSES AND DUTY AT THEIR CORE



Our national parks are where people and place come together. The thriving communities that live and work in England's National Parks are integral to their character and vital to their conservation as living landscapes.

Over 300,000 people live in them, and they are home to 22,500 businesses. Embracing their different needs in a way that respects the unique special qualities of each National Park and achieves their statutory purposes and duty requires carefully balanced and bespoke, landscape-led planning policies.

National Park Authorities work with their communities to develop planning policies that positively shape the future development of National Parks, in line with both their overarching statutory duty and their Management Plans.

We are also mindful that National Parks have been designated for the nation and in addition to the 300,000 people who live in them, many millions live around them and could greatly benefit from better access to them.

“...better built environments and stronger place-based initiatives can support and promote employment, educational achievement, better health and improved social mobility”. *RTPI Policy Paper, Poverty, Place and Inequality.*

LOCAL PLANS

A National Park Local Plan is the way in which a National Park Authority produces a single, coherent, strategic planning framework for the entire area of the National Park with National Park purposes and duty at its core. Good policy making for the Local Plan can deliver certainty to the development industry and local community whilst delivering Management Plan objectives. The Local Plan also establishes the strategic policy framework for those communities within the National Park that are preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans. Set up

to work in partnership with our communities we are ideally placed to work alongside them. The ten English National Park Authorities also have or are working with our communities on 52 neighbourhood plans.

In pursuing our statutory purposes, we also help deliver the principles of sustainable development. We are places that can pilot innovative policy approaches to delivering the scale and nature of development that is right for these special places. National Parks provide important models for sustainable development, because through our planning system and its processes, working alongside our communities, land managers and businesses, we promote and encourage sustainable development in practice.

Case Study: Local Plan Dark Night Skies Policy: South Downs National Park

In May 2016 the South Downs National Park became the world's newest International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR). In England, our only internationally recognised Dark Night Skies Reserves and Parks, other than one at Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, are all in National Parks.

We think our star-studded skies overhead are as valuable as our beautiful rolling landscapes. As the closest dark night skies to 17 million people, and with properly dark skies in the South East of England under threat, we think that the skies of the South Downs are worth protecting.

The Dark Night Skies Policy in our Draft South Downs National Park Local Plan seeks to ensure that development does not harm the quality of dark night skies. Development proposals will be permitted where they conserve and enhance the intrinsic quality of dark night skies and must demonstrate that all opportunities to reduce light pollution have been taken.

The Policy also encourages enhancement of the dark night skies of the National Park, for the benefit of both people and wildlife. This enhancement of the dark night skies then provides a hook for our businesses and

communities to benefit from dark skies tourism which not only brings additional income during off-peak times, but enables the distribution of the benefits of tourism and visitor pressure away from hotspots to quieter, less visited locations. Practical advice on benefitting from our dark night skies is provided through our *Communicating the South Downs* online toolkit.

In protecting our dark night skies, our Dark Skies Policy delivers on both the purposes and duty of National Parks: it ensures that wildlife dependent

on these dark skies can thrive, 17 million people still have access to dark night skies and rural businesses benefit from the out-of-season visitors they attract. Since 2016 our Dark Night Skies have inspired a whole new generation with the beauty of their National Park.



Case Study: Delivery of Stanton Moor Principles: Peak District National Park



Stanton Moor is one of the jewels of the Peak District. It is rich in archaeological remains, has a diverse ecology, is an important landscape with views out over gritstone moors, river valleys and limestone fields, provides leisure opportunities for many people and is also an agricultural landscape with productive quarries around its periphery.

The Stanton Moor Principles area is a long-term project that aims to move quarrying away from the Scheduled Monument. Revocation Orders have now been confirmed in relation to old mineral permissions which posed a direct risk to the Monument and Stanton Moor has significantly reduced risks from the impacts of quarrying. Through the Stanton Moor Principles, this important area of the Peak District National Park has been conserved and enhanced for future generations locally and nationally in accordance with national park purposes and broad principles of sustainability.

The Stanton Moor Principles won 'The Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture' award, Royal Town Planning Institute, May 2018



” *“The planners at the local authority have ensured the principles map out a long-term strategic vision for the moor, helping to secure its long-term future. These principles could be used as a model for other areas as it provides a good outcome for all parties.”*

RTPI Planning Excellence Awards judges

Case Study: Sustainable Self-Catering Visitor Accommodation: Yorkshire Dales National Park



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

In 2014 the world famous Tour de France wound its way through the stunning Yorkshire Dales landscape and was watched by thousands of spectators. Many fans camped overnight in temporary camp sites organised by the NPA and landowners. The race caused a surge in interest in the Yorkshire Dales as a cycling destination and a real means to add value to the local rural economy.

To capitalise on this enthusiasm and to ensure that it translated positive growth in the rural economy in ways that did not damage the National Park, the National Park Authority changed its planning policies to allow landowners to create new sites for tents, camping pods and Yurts: Policy T3 Sustainable self catering visitor accommodation.

Within two years of this more flexible approach coming into effect 30 more sites have been created allowing thousands more visitors to enjoy the Park as well as benefiting the local economy.



DECISION MAKING THAT DELIVERS AGAINST OUR PURPOSES AND DUTY

National Parks are unique in that planning decisions within them must accord with their statutory purposes and duty and Partnership Management Plan (where relevant) as well as with the provisions of the development plan.

We work in partnership with the communities, land managers, businesses and organisations across our National Parks to ensure that all decisions seek to conserve and enhance as well as to deliver multiple-benefits.

Each decision is made within a landscape-led approach. This leads to a clear understanding of potential impacts on these nationally important landscapes, the special qualities that make each National Park unique, and the potential for multiple benefits that each planning decision can bring.

Our ability to deliver such multiple benefits through our decision making is strengthened by our professional core of planning officers specialising in

planning in protected landscapes together with our experts on landscape, design, cultural heritage and more and our Member-level decision making. With our Members being a unique mix of locally elected councillors, such as parish, district and county councils, and national appointees by the Secretary of State, this provides the big view and the local focus, a mix of grassroots knowledge and wider professional expertise, reflecting local experience and representing the national interest in the Parks. Together, it ensures a high level of knowledge and added value in decision making, ensuring that planning is a key tool for directly delivering on our purposes and duty.



Case Study: The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre: Northumberland National Park



Northumberland
National Park

The Sill is a National Landscape Discovery Centre and Youth Hostel Association at Once Brewed within the Northumberland National Park.

The facility features an exhibition space, learning and event spaces, a local produce café, rural business hub, 86 bed Youth Hostel, a shop specialising in local crafts and produce and a fully accessible green roof.

Situated in the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, the scheme has been heavily influenced by the historic and archaeological significance of its surroundings. Particular care was taken to ensure that the design of the building followed the lines of the surrounding landscape and would "seamlessly rise from the landscape" in this very rural location. The final scheme respects the sensitivity of its surroundings in a contemporary way. The project has won a number of planning awards:

- Planning Permission of the Year 2015 (Winner of the Planning Awards)
- RTPI Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture 2018 (Shortlisted)
- RIBA North East award 2018 (Winner).

The Planning Permission of the Year 2015 award "judged projects based on the most significant positive impact on the physical or

environmental quality of a place, as well as the economic or social well-being of a community or communities. The Sill scooped the award based on areas such as its originality, potential for long-lasting impact, and its involvement and benefit to the local community." (Construction Industry News Magazine 19 November 2015)



Case Study: North Street Quarter: South Downs National Park



North Street Quarter was a large brownfield site within the town of Lewes. The adopted Planning Policies for the area allocated the site for mixed development and the creation of a new community.

The proposed redevelopment was for a mixture of 6475sqm commercial units and facilities including a health hub, nursery and pharmacy. New units would be providing offices, light industry, shops, restaurants, heritage space, and entertainment and performance areas, as well as 416 dwellings including 165 affordable homes (40%).

New public spaces were proposed as part of the scheme with traffic calming design, sensitive landscaping, a new public square, flood defences and new riverside walls and banks.

Of particular importance was the wider landscaping impact of the proposals against the backdrop of the historic part of the town, together with the relationship with the adjacent River Ouse and links to the wider National Park and chalk downlands providing an important backdrop.

The case officer and various specialists held regular meetings with the Authority's Design Review Panel and held workshops with Members. The National Park Authority chaired a bi-monthly



meeting with the head of the local authority, the developer and others, to drive the project forward to get external funding and support the schemes' delivery. The decision was made to hold the relevant Committee Meeting in Lewes to enable more of the local community to attend and the meeting was live streamed for those who could not attend, because of strong public interest.

Members approved the scheme subject to securing a number of contributions towards infrastructure given the flooding issues prevalent in Lewes and the agreed affordable housing.

Case Study: Dales Bike Centre & Swale Trail, Fremington, Swaledale: Yorkshire Dales National Park

In 2007 the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority granted planning permission for the creation of the Bike Centre at Fremington in Swaledale. The Bike Centre business has thrived with the growth of cycling tourism in the Dales.

Planners have worked closely with the Owners on plans for a major expansion of the Bike Centre to create new accommodation and an enlarged café. The Centre uses a ground source heating system and bike washing facility supplied by a water recycling system.

The plans were given permission in 2018 to coincide with the opening of the Swale Trail, a family friendly bike trail developed by YDNPA that starts from the Bike Centre and explores beautiful Swaledale.

The NPA has supported local businesses and created a visitor attraction through positive planning and collaborative working..



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park



Case Study: Water, Mills and Marshes: Broads National Park

The Broads Authority planning team works closely with colleagues managing the Heritage Lottery funded 'Water, Mills and Marshes' project programme...

which aims to further conserve and enhance the built and natural heritage of the area between Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Acle and Loddon (following the course of the rivers Yare, Bure and Waveney).

Among the 38 projects are opportunities to document, repair and preserve several iconic drainage mills on the Halvergate marshes conservation area which boasts one of the greatest concentration of such mills in Europe, 28 Listed Buildings and a scheduled ancient monument. The initiative has also used cutting edge laser scanning technology to survey the mills and the repair work is undertaken with local college students and tutors, providing much needed heritage construction skills training.

Planning is key to the success of the programme to ensure the schemes comply with policies, decisions are made in a timely manner and the projects conserve the breath-taking landscape of the Broads for people to enjoy in the future.



WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Our most special national places, our National Parks, need and have been given the highest level of planning protection. Understanding the importance of our National Parks as national assets and the unique special qualities and sense of place of each is crucial to ensuring that planning and planners support delivery of our statutory purposes and duty.

We cannot do this alone, however. Our communities including our land owners, businesses and other organisations work in partnership with us as custodians of these landscapes that are both national and local.

Working closely with them ensures that our planning decisions are influenced and understood from the ‘grass roots’ up and can deliver local, landscape-scale and national benefits.

National Parks can lift the positive impact of planning to new levels by looking at the planning detail with an eye to the big picture. One such vehicle to do this is Whole Estate Plans (WEPs). Whole Estate Plans are a non-statutory plan that demonstrate the overall position and aspirations of an organisation. A WEP, led by the relevant land manager and endorsed by a National Park Authority is a material consideration for planning applications. The intention is to provide clear baseline information which can then be used to identify opportunities and aid decision making for

both land owners and the National Park Authority – the big picture and the small detail.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The Localism Act 2011 sets out the Government’s ambition to devolve power to communities in the form of Neighbourhood Planning. This gives local people a powerful set of tools to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community in the right place, including affordable housing to meet local needs. National Park Authorities recognise that local communities, land managers, parishes and businesses are key to what makes a National Park a special and unique place. Our partnership working model puts National Parks in an ideal position to work with communities on Neighbourhood and other community led plans. We understand the concerns and aspirations of our local communities, know how to harness their local knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm while supporting them with expert technical advice about the special qualities of the National Park.



Case Study: The Lyn Plan 2013–2028: Exmoor National Park

Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) was actively involved in the development of the Lynton and Lynmouth Neighbourhood Plan, which was one of the pilot areas for the new approach to neighbourhood planning.

ENPA worked closely with the Town Council and other stakeholders in securing a £20,000 grant to help fund the development of the plan. Officers provided a wide range of support including setting up the project team and steering group, assisting with neighbourhood consultations, providing consultation materials in addition to other financial resources and enablement. The Plan was made in December 2013.



Case Study: Wiston Estate: South Downs National Park

Wiston Estate was an early adopter of the WEP process. Officers across the South Downs National Park Authority worked closely with the Estate and Officers to produce a clear and coherent plan setting out the aspirations of the Estate in the context of the SDNP Partnership Management Plan's Outcomes.

Plans to create 'tranquillity' zones; regenerate a quarry into a sustainable base for tourism; do more to raise people's awareness of their impact on each other and wildlife; create a monastic retreat and travellers' rest; and provide services and space for local businesses are just some of the ambitions set out by the Wiston Estate in their new Estate Plan. The Wiston WEP was the first Whole Estate Plan to be endorsed by the SDNPA in the summer of 2017. A further 3 WEPs have since been endorsed and the SDNPA are working with several other landowners to deliver more.



HIGH-QUALITY DESIGN

Ensuring that National Parks deliver for both place and people is about the right type of development happening at the right time in the right place.

A key element of our ability to think both big and small is in our promotion of high-quality design. Quality design in rural areas is vital to encouraging growth and ensuring acceptability in the public's eyes. In National Parks every development is so critical to both the look and feel of the area for local and visitors alike.

We embed our purposes and duties in every planning decision within National Parks through the promotion of landscape-led design, green infrastructure and appropriate building design and construction. The planning process within the National Parks planning policy framework supports the growth of modern, thriving communities to meet the needs of residents and visitors alike. National Parks can and should achieve both architectural and environmental excellence in all new development.

We believe our urban design and landscape design skills and shared knowledge across the organisation are a significant advantage in protecting and enhancing our most precious environments. Officers manage their time to effectively consider landscape design and place-making, where they are able to

provide both the technical depth and consistency to make justified changes to a proposal. National Parks provide technical advice at inception and feasibility stages to ensure that design is integral to the planning process.

High-quality design in the planning process ensures the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We promote high-quality design through a number of different means including design guides, Design Review Panels, design awards, expert pre-application design advice and supporting communities in thinking about how they can ensure high-quality, well-thought out design in their communities through tools such as Village Design Statements.



Case Study: Windermere Steamboat Museum: Lake District National Park



Lake District
National Park

The Windermere Steamboat Museum site is owned by Lakeland Arts Trust and is located on the shore of the iconic Lake Windermere.

Following a Royal Institute of British Architects design competition held in 2011, Carmody Groarke Architects were appointed to develop proposals for the comprehensive redevelopment of the museum site

The Lake District National Park Authority planning team worked with the applicants and architects under a Planning Performance Agreement to bring forward the redevelopment of the site as part of the Windermere Waterfront Programme – a strategic programme with wider aspirations to provide a World Class visitor experience around Windermere, the lake. The resulting development is taking shape and will result in a revitalised museum to be known as Windermere Jetty, housed in an exceptional new building.



Case Study: Building Award Design Scheme: New Forest National Park



The New Forest is well known for its free roaming animals, wide open heathland and ancient commoning traditions. But the area's distinctive and attractive buildings also make an important contribution to its unique character.

To celebrate this, the National Park hosts an annual building design award scheme that recognises the best new developments from the previous three years.

Now in its fourth year, the awards have previously recognised a range of developments in the National Park, including a new-build housing scheme in the centre of Lyndhurst, a traditional thatched cottage in Woodgreen and a farmhouse extension in Stuckton.

The awards scheme is a great way to highlight the importance of good design in the National Park.

The awards support our work as the planning authority for the New Forest, where we place a strong emphasis on maintaining and improving the local character of the area through our policies. We work with communities to define what makes their area special so we can protect it and provide detailed guidance to people before submitting planning applications.



SUPPORTING RURAL ECONOMIES

Our communities and the rural economy sit at the heart of our National Parks, shaping the landscape and themselves being shaped by the landscape. National Park Authorities play an important role in supporting local economies by championing those industries that benefit from a rural location or who may deliver multiple benefits to National Parks, their local communities and their visitors.

National Park designation should and do add real value to the local economies and communities of our National Parks. Correctly used, planning policy can utilise this designation positively and create the right conditions for appropriate growth

and investment that delivers benefits for local communities, visitors and the National Park.

There are over 140,000 jobs located within England's National Parks with a GVA of approximately £5 billion.

National Parks England



Case Study: Lynton & Barnstaple Railway: Exmoor National Park

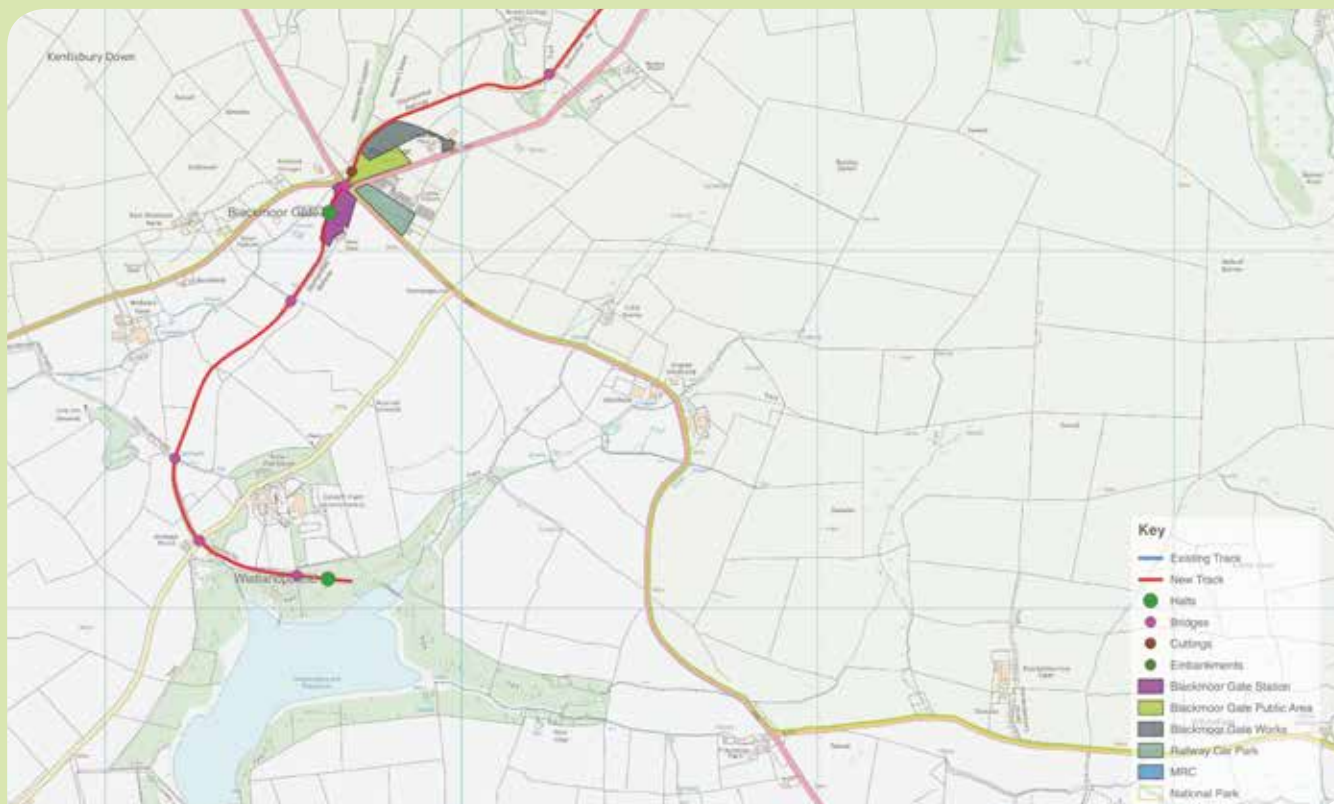
Construction of the original 19 miles long Lynton to Barnstaple railway began in 1895 and was opened in 1898.

However, in the face of increasing competition from road transport the line closed in 1935. Annual passenger numbers before closure were 32,000 (1934) down from 72,000 in 1925 and a peak of around 100,000 during the period 1906-1913. The railway served the communities of Barnstaple, Chelfham, Goodleigh, Bratton Fleming, Blackmoor Gate, Parracombe and Lynton providing a transport link for goods and passengers. Many of the buildings and some of the bridges survived, although some of these are now in a dilapidated state.

The current railway operates from Woody Bay Station and this opened to the public in 2004. The papers submitted advise that the one-mile railway at Wood Bay Station has carried over 350,000 passengers (although it is understood that in October 2017 the railway carried its 500,000th passenger) since it opened and that recent annual visitor totals exceed 45,000 a year, with 52,000 visitors for 2016.

This proposal consisted of 8 planning applications across the National Park and neighbouring Planning Authority and sought the proposed reinstatement of approximately 3.4 miles of the

historic Lynton and Barnstaple narrow gauge railway in the National Park. Planning Officers worked closely with the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway Trust and other key stakeholders to bring forward the development. It is anticipated that, when completed, the proposal would contribute significantly to the local economy through the creation of jobs and also by attracting further visitors to the National Park.



Case Study: Cutcombe Livestock Market: Exmoor National Park

The livestock market is important to the village and wider Exmoor area and farming community.

Unfortunately it had become run-down and under utilised, offering little to the surrounding community or landscape.

Through close working with the owners of the site and the local community an application was submitted to re-develop and provide 12 local need affordable dwellings (10 rented units of accommodation and 2 serviced plots) and 12 open market dwellings, with the open market dwellings having been demonstrated to be essential, together with some business buildings, to pay for the delivery of a new replacement Livestock Market on the edge of the village.

This successful proposal was complex, seeking a method of providing a new livestock market for Exmoor, as well as business space and affordable housing.

The development brought benefits in terms of landscape, through supporting the agricultural economy with a new fit for purpose livestock market, the economy, with business development, and the local community in delivering affordable housing and supporting the rural community through a renewed livestock market facility.



CONSERVING AND ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Planning has a vital role in the protection and enhancement of environmental services provided by the landscape.

Well looked after, our National Parks will continue to provide us with the essentials of life such as clean air and water, food, raw materials etc, as well as helping us to regulate our climate, store flood water, filter pollution, provide opportunities for us to

improve our health and well-being and much more. Planning is a key means by which we 'look after' our National Parks, ensuring that the needs of today do not compromise our ability to meet the needs of the future.



PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK



Case Study: Bassenthwaite: Lake District

The Bassenthwaite Ecosystem Services Pilot Project was one of three upland ecosystem services pilot projects initiated by Natural England.

The November 2009 flooding resulted in c. £200 million of damage. Cumbria Tourism estimated that £2.5 million of bookings were lost in the aftermath of the floods.

The project set out to demonstrate through integrated partnership working how multiple public benefits can be delivered within the Bassenthwaite catchment area (Lake District, Cumbria). One of these multiple benefits is flood alleviation and management which could have the greatest long term economic benefits for the area. The reinstatement of upland forests to slow the flow at headwaters resulting in a natural slowing of water flow and reduction of pressure from water build up further down the system are key projects. The project involved both those benefiting from ecosystem services, as well as those who influence their provision, through a series of workshops as well as a public conference. A plan was developed, consisting of seven key actions to enhance multiple public benefits, possible funding mechanisms and how this could fit with farm businesses. More and better-quality natural capital should lead to more and better benefits

for people and society - in other words, enhanced ecosystem services.

The concept of ecosystem services allows the environment to be seen as a valuable asset to society. People are able to enjoy a huge variety of benefits from the natural assets that National Parks provide to them. These range from the food they eat and water they consume, to outdoor experiences and improved health.



Lake District
National Park



Case Study: Green Halo: New Forest National Park

The last two years have seen businesses, universities, charities and communities come together to establish the Green Halo Partnership.

The Partnership aims to ensure our world class environment in and around the New Forest National Park flourishes as an integral part of our wider area's thriving economy and society.

The vision is to be a global exemplar of how our most precious landscapes can work in harmony with a thriving, economically successful community.

The Partnership wants to ensure that the natural environment is seen as an integral part of how we work and live, including by developers and as part of the planning system.

This ambition is not constrained by administrative boundaries, opportunities can come from all areas and all sectors in and around the National Park – hence the Green Halo.

The Green Halo brings together organisations from across the public, private and third sectors to:

- Inspire by promoting best practice in protecting and enhancing natural capital and ecosystem services

- Encourage by developing and delivering new projects
- Support by helping to identify resources for projects and offering expert advice to assist in their delivery
- Inform by continuing to promote and publish research on natural capital, and by communicating its activities to local communities.

Architects, wildlife charities, councils, utility businesses, health bodies, universities and civil engineering firms are among 70 organisations signed up to the partnership.



The partners have identified a range of actions and projects which will help maintain and enhance our natural resources and so protect the unique character and identity of the New Forest and surrounding area.



Case Study: Biodiversity Enhancements Guide: Broads National Park

The Broads National Park is one of Europe's most important wetland habitats for biodiversity and nature conservation.

It is extremely rich in wildlife, home to over a quarter of the UK's rarest plants and animals with over 11,000 species recorded, including the swallowtail butterfly and Norfolk hawker dragonfly, very rarely found outside the Broads.

The Broads Authority has produced a guide for developers to ensure that impacts on biodiversity from new developments (of any size) are minimised, wildlife is protected and habitats enhanced. It suggests small scale changes that developers can incorporate to make big impacts. Schemes can include measures such as wildlife ponds, mini wildflower meadows, pollen rich planting, bird and bat boxes and hedgerows. It also offers advice regarding issues such as artificial lighting. The Broads Authority planning team works closely with their in house ecologists, to negotiate and apply conditions for appropriate biodiversity enhancements for the vast majority of developments.

The Biodiversity Enhancements Guide can be found here <https://bit.ly/2GbyC0m>



Case Study: Landscape Scale Woodland planting as Mitigation following consent for new Potash Mine

As part of the comprehensive mitigation and compensation agreement associated with the planning consent for construction of a new potash mine...



...one element of the S106 agreement provides for the planting of a significant area of mixed deciduous woodland under a local plan carbon offsetting policy. This covers the whole period of the operation of the mine to help offset its carbon emissions and equates to the planting of over 7000ha of new mixed deciduous woodland in the National Park.

This represents the greatest landscape scale enhancement undertaken in the National Park and will also achieve benefits for wildlife connectivity, flood mitigation and water quality. It will be achieved through Woodland Creation Agreements involving long term land management plans and will fund up to 100% capital costs. In allowing a major development which demonstrated economic benefits at a national scale, the Authority through its innovative and ambitious planning approach will be able to deliver very long term net environmental gain across the whole Park.



Case Study: South Downs Local Plan: South Downs

The South Downs National Park Authority has an environmentally led approach to planning, linked to a broad Green Infrastructure Framework and has embedded the ecosystems services approach in its Local Plan.

A core policy on ecosystems services (SD2) that sets out 11 sets of opportunities to impact positively on the natural environment such as conserving and enhancing soils and reducing levels of pollution, having regard to the wider Green Infrastructure Framework. The core policy is applicable to all planning applications in a proportionate manner. Two clear and simple Guidance Notes have been published to explain to people making householder and nonhouseholder planning applications how to meet Policy SD2.



EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

National Parks are thriving, living landscapes and their future depends on the future of their communities.

While communities often have a vibrancy to be admired, the lack of affordable homes can affect the balance of these places and restrict opportunities. With house prices above the national average and relatively low numbers of smaller homes, affording homes for those on lower or middle incomes can be impossible. The planning function is well placed to address this by effectively using planning policies and innovative approaches

to create more affordable homes. As the DEFRA Circular 2010 English National Parks and the Broads makes clear, *“the expectation is that new housing will be focused on meeting affordable housing requirements, supporting local employment opportunities and key services.”*



Case Study: Affordable Housing Practice: New Forest National Park

Winner of the RTPI (South East) Award for Planning Excellence 2017.

In July 2016, the New Forest National Park Authority completed the construction of two new affordable homes in the village of Bransgore. This innovative scheme is the first time a National Park Authority has built and managed housing for local people. Although small scale, the development has attracted a lot of local publicity such that other landowners are now coming forward with similar offers to provide land for affordable housing within the National Park.

“As well as being an exemplar development in terms of quality, the project serves as a model for such developments elsewhere in the New Forest and other National Parks.”

RTPI (SE) Award Winner for Planning Excellence in 2017



Case Study: Christow Affordable Passivhaus Development: Dartmoor National Park

This development of 18 energy efficient ‘Passivhaus’ dwellings is the first of its kind in a UK National Park.

Fourteen dwellings provide affordable rented housing for local people. The remaining four dwellings are being sold to local people at a reduced market value. The development involved the Christow Community Land Trust, the Parish Council and Teign Housing.

The scheme was awarded the Royal Town Planning Institute (SW) Award for Planning Excellence 2017

“The Panel considers this to be an excellent project. Its principal feature is that it succeeds in delivering urgently needed affordable housing for the local residents in a mix of tenures... These housing units have high sustainability and energy ‘Passivhaus’ credentials’
‘Clearly the collaborative and partnership working throughout the planning and implementation of this scheme has been key.
‘There are clearly a number of features in this submission, ... that indicate lessons for the provision of affordable housing in rural areas not only in the South West but throughout the country’

RTPI Judging Panel



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



“...the Government is committed to spreading the benefits of tourism across the country.

The unique attractions of National Parks have a vital role to play in making this happen. National Parks are a draw for overseas visitors... our long-term ambition is to reach 100 million visitors to National Parks per year. Increasing the number of annual visitors in this way could generate £440m extra tourism revenue for National Parks and the surrounding areas. We will work with National Park Authorities to continue to promote sustainable tourism which is good for the rural economy and safeguards the environment”

Defra, 8 Point Plan for England’s National Parks (2016).

National Parks were created for the nation. Purpose two of National Parks ‘to promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment’ provide opportunities to engage people with the Nation’s most cherished landscapes and to get close to nature and all of the health and well-being benefits that brings.

As highlighted in the 8 Point Plan for National Parks, our National Parks offer the most outstanding visitor experiences in our most outstanding landscapes, providing a significant draw not only for visitors from within the UK, but for international visitors.

But this growth must be properly managed. Properly managed tourism can bring a range of benefits and help sustain communities, environments and ways of life, while inappropriate tourism development or poorly managed visitor pressure can damage the very places that people want to experience, as has been experienced in many national parks around the world. National Park Authorities help to deliver sustainable tourism through planning by again, providing that big picture overview and small detail focus, working closely with communities, land managers and tourism businesses to ensure the right type of visitor development happens in the right place. This can encourage use of sustainable transport and local produce and services, spreading out the economic benefit of sustainable tourism across National Park communities.



Case Study: The Yorkshire Cycling Hub, Fryup Dale, North York Moors



The Yorkshire Cycling hub is situated at Great Fryup Dale in the heart of the moorland some 10 miles west of Whitby.

It represents an innovative enterprise set up by a young local couple from a farming background and represents a form of development benefitting from the special qualities of the National Park and one of its most popular recreational activities.

Planning permission was granted to demolish existing agricultural buildings at the small Fryup Gill Farm to build a cycle centre comprising bed and breakfast accommodation, café, bike shop and multi-use training facility as well as six camping pods. Although the centre is in a remote and wild setting, an innovative planning approach was adopted and the benefits of the scheme to supporting the marginal hill farming sector, opportunities to diversify and the sustainable tourism benefits based on active recreation linked to the second National Park purpose were given great weight in the planning decision.

Legal agreements relate to the number of organised events that can take place as well as requiring an element of funding to maintain the additional use and wear of the public bridleway network in the area.

Now in its second year, the Hub has become a successful and established venue for both road and mountain bike enthusiasts who can access the Hub by a rail link in the Esk Valley just three miles away. This development not only capitalises on the growing cycling economy of the North York Moors and the wider Yorkshire region following the success of the Tour de France in 2014 but has also provided a popular social meeting venue for the remote farming communities of the dale.



Case Study: Lingholm: Lake District National Park



Lake District
National Park

Lingholm is a large estate which lies on the western shore of Derwentwater.

Permission was sought and granted for the reinstatement of the historical walled garden, creation of a new cafe building in the position of the old tearoom, creation of outbuildings in connection with the maintenance of the garden and estate grounds, and the creation of a new public path through the estate.

This project delivered a range of tourism benefits. As well as a well designed and built cafe using traditional materials in a contemporary design which complements the setting of the listed building and a reinstated walled garden, the new public path links to the Cumbria Way which has opened up the wider estate to members of the public and improved the Rights of Way network within the National Park.



CONCLUSION

Our National Parks conserve and enhance our most beloved national landscapes and wildlife. They also play a vital role in the health and well-being of all those who live in and around them and visit them. Yet they are changing landscapes, full of life. Planning is a vital tool to ensuring that they can continue to be enjoyed by all in a way that does not deprive future generations of the very special qualities for which they were designated as national treasures.

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK – FULKING ESCARPEMENT





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