



North York Moors  
National Park

# North York Moors 2040

## A Management Plan for the North York Moors National Park

### Sustainability Appraisal – The Scoping Report

This document is the first stage in carrying out a ‘Sustainability Appraisal’ of the next Management Plan. It includes analysis of what we know about the North York Moors National Park now, and what some of the influences on it that may require a response in the Management Plan. Sustainability Appraisal aims to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation of plans.

Appendices are available in a separate document.

October 2021

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# 1. A Short Non-Technical Summary

## Why have we prepared this document?

- 1.1 When this Authority creates and adopts any 'plan or programme' it is required by law<sup>1</sup> to undertake a 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' (SEA). This assesses a plan or programme's objectives at each stage of its preparation to make sure environmental outcomes are protected and enhanced by that plan or programme.
- 1.2 This document is the start of that process for the Authority's forthcoming Management Plan. As well as looking at the environmental effects of that plan, it also looks at social and economic factors that could be influenced by its preparation as part of a wider 'sustainability appraisal.' The purpose of this appraisal is to make sure, that as well as considering environmental impacts, the plan delivers the most 'sustainable' forms of land use change, so that land is protected, enhanced and of most benefit to future generations.

## What is the Management Plan?

- 1.3 The new Management Plan **will be the single most important document for the National Park**. It is a 'strategic' document, which using the best available evidence will set out a vision for how the National Park may change in the future, together with a set of objectives to help deliver that change. It will not only inform the work of this Authority, but also by employers, government agencies, landowners, residents, visitors and so on.
- 1.4 This Scoping Report:
- Reviews other relevant policies, plans, programmes to establish whether their contents will need to inform the North York Moors National Park Management Plan;
  - Looks at what we know about the North York Moors National Park at the moment to see what issues need to be addressed. In sustainability appraisal terms this is known as 'baseline information'.
  - Identifies any particular issues and problems, using the information we have collected, as well as any difficulties encountered, including lack of information;
  - Sets out the objectives we will be using to carry out the sustainability appraisal and how the appraisal will be carried out;
  - Sets out how we will start to monitor our eventual plan to see if it is working.

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (The SEA Regulations).

## What are the main conclusions of this report?

[Forthcoming once the appraisal framework is applied]

### What are the main influences on our Plan?

1.5 The first step was to review what other policies, plans or programmes may have a possible bearing on the contents of our plan. These can operate at international, national, regional and local levels. Appendix B of this report provides a comprehensive listing of the objectives of the relevant plans and programmes so far identified. In summary we think the main plans and programmes which will have the greatest influence on our forthcoming plan are:

- The Climate Change Act 2008
- The Environment Bill (due to be enacted 2022)
- The UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan,
- English National Parks and the Broads – UK Government Vision and Circular (DEFRA, 2010). The Circular is the main government policy document specifically relating to National Parks;
- National Park England's Delivery Plans - Wildlife and Nature Recovery, Climate Leadership, Sustainable Farming and Land Management, Landscapes for Everyone

### Where are we? The baseline position

1.6 We then looked at current issues within the North York Moors National Park. This is known as the 'baseline' position. A full report on the baseline position, include a brief commentary on what it may mean for our plan along with any difficulties we've had collecting any data is at Appendix C. A summary is included in Section 5 of this document.

### Where are we going?

1.7 The last step in this scoping stage is to assemble what is known as our appraisal framework. We start by establishing a set of objectives based around environmental, social and economic criteria, against which we will normally assess all options for what may be in the forthcoming plan. The contents of the draft plan are then assessed against whether they will have positive, negative, uncertain or no effect on that objective once implemented.

### How will we know if the Plan is working?

1.8 Through this Scoping Report we also start to establish a monitoring framework which is a set of indicators of change based on published information. This framework is set out at **Appendix D** of this Report.

### **What happens next?**

- 1.9 In accordance with the statutory requirements the three Strategic Environmental Assessment bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) are being asked for their views. Any comments received by them will be incorporated in the next version of this document. Any other views will also be considered and incorporated as necessary.
- 1.10 All comments should be received by **5 p.m. on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

## 2. About This Document

2.1 This document has been prepared to support work on the new North York Moors Management Plan. This plan will guide land management activity across the National Park over the next twenty or so years, by setting out an agreed long term vision and set of actions to manage the National Park in the future. Its ‘guiding light’ will be that it must deliver nationally agreed National Park purposes:

- ‘To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks’ and
- ‘To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks by the public.’

2.2 In addition there is a further duty in pursuing these two purposes - *‘to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities.’*

2.3 The Authority is required, under the terms of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>2</sup>, to undertake an assessment of the environmental effects of a plan where its effects are deemed potentially ‘significant’. Whilst not a spatial development plan, the North York Moors Management Plan is likely to have significant effects on environmental topics, such that it would require SEA.

2.4 This document meets this requirement, however it also assesses the plan’s potential impacts against social and economic objectives, and therefore forms a wider ‘Sustainability Appraisal’ This tests different approaches to how the Management Plan performs against a set of criteria, to establish how it can deliver the most sustainable outcomes.

2.5 Sustainability Appraisal is what is known as an ‘iterative’ process, in other words it is reapplied at each stage of plan-making to make sure that our plans are heading in the right direction. This first stage is what’s known as the ‘scoping’ stage and we will produce a the first full version of the appraisal when publishing consultation on a possible version of the plan, and then when we finally adopt the plan we will also produce a sustainability statement setting out how we have used the appraisal to inform it.

2.6 Specifically, this document (and the full sustainability appraisal once completed):

- Reviews other relevant policies, plans, programmes with a view to establishing whether their contents will need to inform the contents North York Moors National Park Management Plan (Task A1 in Figure 1 below), and detailed in Appendix B;
- Looks at what we know about the North York Moors National Park at the moment so we can know which issues need to be addressed. In

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<sup>2</sup> European Union, Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, 2001.

sustainability appraisal terms. This is known as ‘baseline information’ (Task A2), and is set out at Appendix C;

- Identifies any particular issues and problems, using the information we have collected (Task A3). Issues are identified within commentary on Task A2 at Appendix C;
- Sets out the objectives we will be using to carry out the sustainability appraisal and how the appraisal will be carried out (Task A4);
- Sets out how we will start to monitor the plan to see if it is working (Task A5), Appendix D.

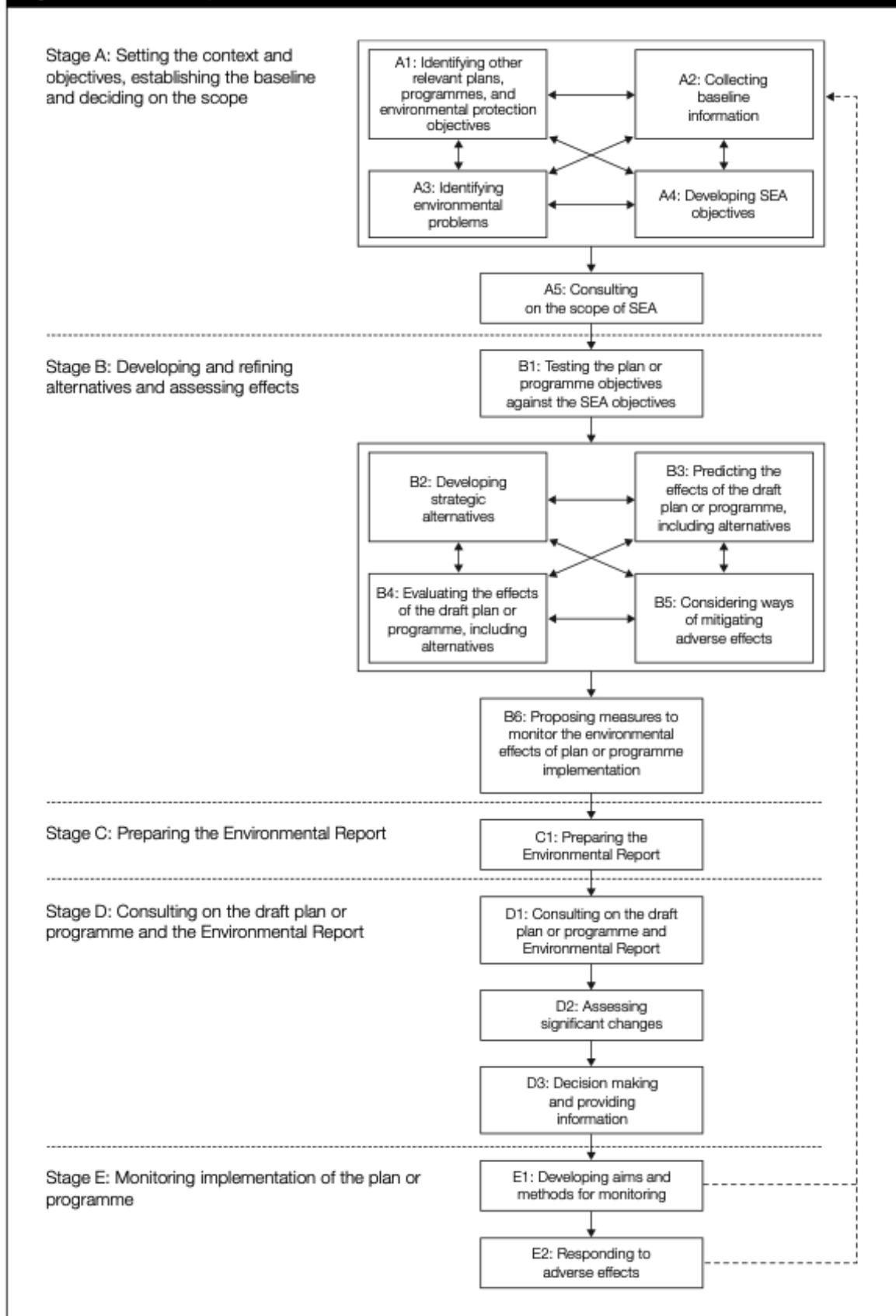
2.7 Appendix A also sets out how this initial scoping report meets the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

### Guidance

2.8 There is no specific guidance available on how to prepare a sustainability appraisal of a National Park Management Plan, and most examples relate to Local Plans which are subject to other statutory procedures concerning preparation. This report has been drafted in accordance with guidance contained in “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (ODPM, 2005), whilst primarily written for development plan does contain sufficient guidance to carry out appraisal of the management plan.

2.9 The following diagram shows how sustainability appraisal and plan-making should ideally fit together. This document represents ‘Stage A’ of sustainability appraisal within this diagram:

**Figure 6 – Relationship between the SEA Tasks**



**Figure 1 – The Sustainability Appraisal Process**

North York Moors Management Plan – Sustainability Appraisal, Draft Scoping Report

## Consultation

- 2.10 Consultation will be undertaken on this Scoping Report for five weeks during October and November 2021 with the three ‘Statutory Consultees’ (Heritage England, the Environment Agency and Natural England).

## 3. Portrait of the North York Moors National Park

### The geography of the North York Moors

- 3.1 This section of the report is included to help the reader better understand the geographical context of the North York Moors National Park, and hence are area over which the Management Plan will be of relevance.
- 3.2 The North York Moors National Park is situated largely within the County of North Yorkshire with a small part to the north lying within the unitary authority of Redcar and Cleveland. It covers parts of Scarborough, Ryedale and Hambleton Districts and a very small part of Redcar and Cleveland. It has a total area of 1,436 square kilometres or 143,608 hectares, 17% of the land area of North Yorkshire. It is home to around 23,000 residents who continue to contribute to the culture, communities, upkeep and evolution of the National Park.
- 3.3 It is perhaps best known for large tracts of unbroken open moorland which cover 35% of the National Park area. Around 70 percent of the world's heather moorland is in the UK and the largest continuous expanse of moorland in England and Wales is here in the North York Moors. The upland moor plateau is separated by deep narrow dales which form the heartland of the area. To the north is the edge of the Cleveland Hills which drop down to Tees lowlands. To the east, dramatic scenery including the tall sea cliffs in at Boulby dominate, with tight-knit historic fishing villages nestled into the coastline. To the south the Tabular Hills punctuate the landscape and offer views over the Vale of Pickering. To the west, steep scarp slopes some 300 metres high afford a vantage point to enjoy spectacular and expansive views over the Hambleton Hills and Vale of Mowbray.
- 3.4 Its single town is Helmsley (around half of which lies outside the National Park boundary in the district of Ryedale) which lies at the south west edge and is home to around 1,515 people. Many of the bigger villages such as Sleights, Swainby, Osmotherley, Thornton le Dale, West and East Ayton and Ampleforth are located on its edges. There are only three main ‘A’ roads, two of which run along edges - the A170 runs along the southern boundary linking Helmsley and the villages at the foot of the Tabular Hills and the coast at Scarborough. The A171 is the main coastal route through the east side of the Park linking Scarborough, Whitby and Guisborough. The A169 then links Whitby and Pickering through the east of the Park. There are only two other through roads used to travel across the North York Moors - the B1257 links Helmsley and Stokesley over Bilsdale and Chop Gate and the Blakey Ridge road runs north to south through the heart of the Park from Castleton to Hutton-le-Hole. It is however, highly accessible from elsewhere - the A19 Trunk Road skirts the western boundary of the Park providing easy access to the western part of the Park, with the main A1(M) motorway lying only a little further to the west. A

Middlesbrough to Whitby train also links villages through the Esk Valley including Castleton, Grosmont and Sleights, and links up with the North Yorkshire Moors steam railway which runs through the Park from Pickering to Whitby.

3.5 The map below shows the layout of the National Park.

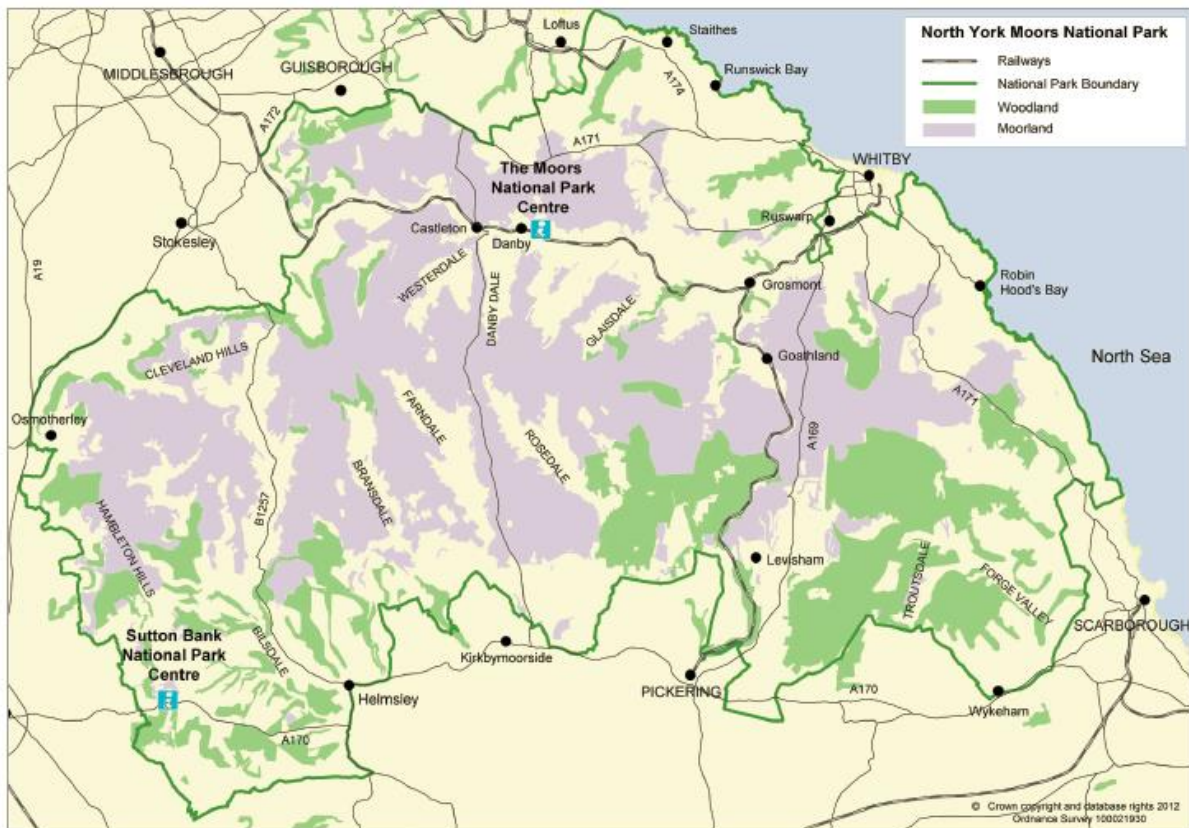


Figure 2 – The North York Moors

## 4. Where are we now? Influences on our plan

### Task A1 - Other Plans and Programmes

4.1 Our first task is to identify the relationship of the new National Park Management Plan to other relevant plans and programmes at international, European, national, regional and local levels. A full list of plans and programmes that may influence the contents of the next Management Plan are set out in at **Appendix B**. In summary, in our view, the main policies, plans and programmes which will have the greatest influence on our forthcoming plan are:

#### National:

- English National Parks and the Broads – UK Government Vision and Circular (DEFRA, 2010)
- The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, 2018

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Environment Act (once enacted)
- The Agriculture Act, 2020
- National Park England's Delivery Plans - Wildlife and Nature Recovery, Climate Leadership, Sustainable Farming and Land Management, Landscapes for Everyone
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021

#### **Sub-Regional:**

- Carbon Abatement Pathways, Local Economic Partnership, 2021
- Natural Capital Study, Local Economic Partnership

#### **Local:**

- North York Moors Local Plan 2016-35
- Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan
- North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment (2013, new version currently in production).

## **5. Where are we now? The baseline.**

### **Tasks A2 and A3 – Collection of baseline information and identifying sustainability issues and problems**

- 6.1 The next stage is to look at the 'baseline' information we have that can tell us about the issues currently facing the National Park.
- 6.2 Appendix C sets out a full set of baseline information. It is split into the various SEA topics that legislation requires must be considered in any SEA. A summary of the main messages we can draw from our analysis of the baseline information is as follows:
- 6.3 **Biodiversity, flora and fauna**
- The National Park is a 'nature hotspot' and contains a wealth of both designated and non-designated habitats and many protected and non-protected species, much of the area is a Special Protection Area or Special Area for Conservation. There has been no reduction in the area of these designations since 2004.
  - There has been a very slight increase in the area designated as a Sites of Special Scientific Interest since 2004 (0.25%). The condition of our Sites

of Special Scientific Interest has been improving over the past few years with 99% now 'favourable or 'unfavourable recovering' status. There has also been a large increase in the amount of land managed in line with conservation objectives since 1992.

- Woodland and forests cover about 23% of the National Park and it has one of the largest concentrations of ancient and veteran trees in northern England.
- There has been a slight increase in the number of moorland wader birds (Golden Plover, Curlew and Snipe), however populations fluctuate. There has been a decrease in the numbers of lapwings. This data is taken from a snap shot survey undertaken every 4-5 years, particular circumstances in any one year, such as unusual weather conditions, can mask any underlying trend whilst some level of natural fluctuation is expected.

### Population and human health

- The population of the National Park is declining (in contrast to most other National Parks). The population has declined around 3.6% between 2001 and 2020, and within this trend the decline is particularly marked for the years since 2008;
- The population in the NYMNP area is 'older' than other areas - the latest set of mid-year population estimates (2020) show that in 2020 41% of the National Park's population was aged 60 or more, compared to 32% for North Yorkshire and 24% for the England and Wales;
- The largest proportional population gains were from people aged 60 or more, conversely populations under 44 show a marked decline;
- There was around a 7% increase in housing stock between 2001 and 2011, over this time there also around a 17% increase in second home ownership;
- House prices remain high - in 2020 the average house price in the Park was £297,753 compared to a UK average of £267,007
- Based on Yorkshire Building Society estimates the average house price to earnings ratio for the UK is 8.35 in 2019. For the National Park in 2019 this figure was 7.9 rising slightly to 8.0 in 2021.
- There has been a loss of community facilities in villages over many years and a particular decline in the number of villages with a post office;
- The National Park contains 1,481km of public footpaths, 827km of public bridleways and 16km of byways open to all traffic. 78% of Public Rights of

Way are identified as easy to use by the public,<sup>3</sup> having increased from 56% in 2002.

- The best estimate we have is that there were around 9,082 employees employed in the North York Moors National Park at 2019.
- The most prevalent types of jobs are in retail and accommodation (supporting tourism) and agriculture, which supported 2,182 jobs on commercial holdings in 2018.
- Tourism is incredibly important to the economy of the North York Moors. In 2019 13.28 million visitor (days) brought £730 million of spending into the National Park, a figure that is rising over time. They also helped support around 11,290 full time equivalent jobs. This has been a positive upward trend since 2016.

### Soil

- Information on soil quality is limited. No grade 1 or 2 land (high quality for food/plant production) lies within the North York Moors and due to its upland nature the vast majority of the National Park is Grades 3 to 4. There are therefore no major sustainability issues in terms of its quality as a food production resource within the National Park itself. However, it remains a highly important resource as a carbon sink, meaning peat restoration projects and agri-environment schemes aimed at soil retention will help to benefit a wider population.

### Water

- The North York Moors are drained by three main river catchments, the Esk, Leven and Derwent. Most of the water in the north of the Park flows into the River Esk which has its source high up on the moors above Westerdale and flows east to join the sea at Whitby.
- There have been some improvements in terms of the number of water bodies moving up from the poor to moderate quality categories; however the number in the high/good categories is declining. Water quality needs to be improved.
- The Yorkshire Water Resource Management Plan (2014) forecasts there will be a deficit in the overall Yorkshire Water area by 2035 as the result to climate change, although the small part of the Yorkshire Water infrastructure area known as the Eastern Supply Zone (Covering the River Esk catchment including Whitby and parts of the North York Moors National Park) there is no forecast deficit in water supply over the period to 2035.

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<sup>3</sup> North York Moors National Park Authority, Annual Performance Plan and Report 2014/15  
North York Moors Management Plan – Sustainability Appraisal, Draft Scoping Report

## Air

- Air quality in the Park is relatively good but is generally influenced by activities occurring outside of the National Park. There are no Air Quality Management Areas in the North York Moors National Park.
- The effects of nitrogen and acidity in the air upon Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are also monitored by the national Air Pollution Information System. This shows that critical loads are being exceeded in some instances, particularly in relation to nitrogen on the moorland and in wooded areas, with acidity levels also having an effect on blanket bogs and woodlands. Nitrogen emissions affecting the National Park are mostly attributable to livestock production and emissions from abroad, although shipping and road transport account for a small proportion of the emissions.
- Ozone levels have been measured continuously since 1987 at the air quality monitoring station at High Muffles, just inside the National Park near to Cropton Forest. There was a 29% increase in the number of days when the ozone pollution was moderate to high between 2012 and 2014. However, it is clear that there is a great deal of year-on-year variability (with a 33% reduction between 2013 and 2014) and therefore no clear long-term trend can be forecasted.

## Climatic Factors

- Climate change may bring particular challenges, including flooding of infrastructure (buildings, roads, footpaths) and habitats, drought, affecting flora and fauna and also productivity, changes to the coastline as a result of a combination of sea level rise, increased rainfall and increased storminess, increased risk of fire on the moorland, changes to conditions for biodiversity which may result in loss of some species and an increase or the introduction of other, potentially threatening, species; changes to native woodland, including tree species and ground flora (and economic implications in relation to timber production).
- The National Park is an important carbon sink. Carbon is stored within the National Park's trees and woodlands and also within peat on the moorlands. It was estimated in 2011 that 7.5 million tonnes of carbon is stored within the Forestry Commission owned woodlands alone in the National Park and it is thought that over 6 million tonnes of carbon is stored within peat<sup>4</sup>.
- In 2006, 396.7 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were attributed to activities within the National Park. 20% of these emissions can be attributed to the domestic sector, 36% to the industrial and commercial sector and over 40% result from transport. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are widely accepted as

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<sup>4</sup> Natural England, Draft Estimated Peatland Carbon Storage and Greenhouse Gas Flux in English National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (2011)  
North York Moors Management Plan – Sustainability Appraisal, Draft Scoping Report

contributing towards climate change. This was the first and last time that this data has been produced at National Park level. Work is now underway to establish the carbon footprint at 2019.

## Material Assets

- As a sparsely populated and protected landscape the National Park contains relatively little built infrastructure. It does not contain any roads classed as part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and contains: A roads - 93km (58 miles), B roads - 41km (25 miles), C roads - 397km (247 miles), U roads - 527km (327 miles). There are also over 1,400 miles of public rights of way within the National Park. There are no secondary schools in the National Park, and there are 22 primary schools. There are six GP surgeries within the National Park, at Danby, Egton, Helmsley, Robin Hood's Bay, Staithes and West Ayton, there are however numerous practices outside the National Park and close to the boundary.
- There is a reliance on areas outside of the National Park for any aggregates used in the Park, reflecting the importance of National Park designation;
- The National Park contains one major source of mineral extraction – Boulby Mine near Staithes which mines Polyhalite. Another mine (Anglo American Woodsmith Mine) is currently under construction near Sneaton, Whitby.
- An estimated 11,325 tons of waste was collected from households and recycling facilities across the National Park in 2013 (and decline of 9% since 2008/9), of which 42% is recycled.<sup>5</sup> Most waste is dealt with within North Yorkshire. A further 6,915 tons of commercial and industrial waste was generated<sup>6</sup> (figures relate to 2008). There are no landfill sites within the National Park boundary.
- The amount of traffic can either indicate that more people are coming in or passing through the North York Moors to enjoy its special qualities, alternatively it can indicate increased pressure on infrastructure and increases in pollutants. Whilst traffic levels had been generally increasing over the previous ten years (although fluctuating slightly) this is a fairly significant drop of 13% from 2009 levels. This has bucked the previous trend as we know there was a steady increase in traffic throughout the 1990's and indications are that traffic levels were 29.5% higher in 2009 than they were 1994.

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<sup>5</sup> Defra, WasteDataFlow (Estimates provided in 'Urban Vision and 4Resources, North Yorkshire Sub-region: Waste Arisings and Capacity Requirements Final Report (2013) and Addendum Report (May 2015)

<sup>6</sup> Urban Vision and 4Resources, North Yorkshire Sub-region: Waste Arisings and Capacity Requirements Interim Report (2013)

- Access to services remains an issue. Given the sparse and scattered nature of the National Park 11% of households in the Park have no car<sup>7</sup>, compared to 17.8% for North Yorkshire and 25.6% for England and Wales.

### **Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage**

- There are 844 Scheduled Monuments within the North York Moors and around 3,000 listed buildings. Almost a third of the Scheduled Monuments for the Yorkshire & Humber region can be found in the National Park. 46 are currently at risk.<sup>8</sup>
- There are around 1,500 boundary stones and crosses in the North York Moors including Lilla Cross, one of the oldest Christian monuments in England dating from 626 AD, which stands on Lilla Howe, a round barrow. Within the Park there are currently 42 Conservation Areas designated for their special architectural and historic character and appearance.
- In total there are over 3,000 listed buildings across the National Park when including curtilage listed buildings and structures. For reporting however, the actual number of list entries is used which amounts to 1,771 buildings (as at September 2021). 36 of these 1,771 buildings are classed as being 'at risk' (2%) which means they are suffering from neglect and decay or are particularly vulnerable to becoming so.
- The National Park also contains four historic parks and gardens – Arncliffe Hall, Duncombe Park, Mulgrave Castle and Rievaulx Terrace and Temples.

### **Landscape**

- The landscape of the North York Moors was the primary reason for its designation as a National Park. The uplands are characterised by the largest tract of open heather moorland in England and Wales, although other important landscapes and habitat types including river valleys, wetlands, coastal cliffs and rocky shores, forest and woodland, hedgerows and traditionally managed farmland are also features that contribute to the special qualities of the National Park. It is a varied yet unique collection of landscape types.
- The North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment (2011)<sup>9</sup> identifies 9 landscape character types and, within these, 31 landscape character areas. This Assessment is currently being reviewed.

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<sup>7</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census (2011)

<sup>8</sup> North York Moors National Park Authority, North York Moors National Park Annual Performance Plan and Report 2015/16 (2016)

<sup>9</sup> Chris Blandford Associates, North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project (2011).

North York Moors Management Plan – Sustainability Appraisal, Draft Scoping Report

## 6. Where are we going? Appraising our plan.

### Task A4 – Developing our sustainability appraisal framework

- 6.1 Next, we devise our appraisal framework. This provides the template for describing, analysing and comparing sustainability implications of the Management Plan, and testing policy and site alternatives. Guidance suggests that the framework should consist of objectives, the achievement of which should be measurable using identified indicators. The framework should be informed by the review of plans and programmes and the identification of sustainability issues and problems which was undertaken under Tasks A1, A2 and A3.
- 6.2 Proposed objectives have been developed as a result of the review of the relevant ‘plans and programmes’ and baseline information. Objectives were initially established as part of the scoping process for the Local Plan Development Plan Document and the same set are considered suitable for the appraisal of the Management Plan. However a single objective has been removed:
- E6: To re-use brownfield land and empty buildings bearing in mind their potential nature conservation and heritage value.
- 6.3 This is because this objective was felt to be more relevant to the appraisal of a development plan which is directly attempting to secure this objective, and not so relevant for a high level ‘strategic’ plan such as the Management Plan. In practice it was felt that assessing Management Plan objectives against this SA objective would yield little in the way of useful results.
- 6.4 The sustainability objectives for the Management Plan SA are set out below:

<b>Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>E1</b>	<p>To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape and cultural heritage of the North York Moors, including the special qualities of remoteness and tranquillity.</p> <p><i>Prompt Questions:</i>  Will the National Park landscape and special qualities be protected and enhanced?  Will landscape character improve?  Will tranquillity improve or deteriorate?</p>
	<b>E2</b>	<p>To protect water, soil and air quality, and reduce pollution, and improve efficiency of water use.</p> <p><i>Prompt Questions:</i>  Will the policy/ option have an adverse impact on Groundwater Source Protection Zones or cause discharge into a river?  Will best and most versatile Agricultural Land be protected?  Would the policy option result in the re-use and clean-up of contaminated land?  Would the option lead to the worsening of air quality?</p>
	<b>E3</b>	<p>To reduce the causes of climate change and ensure future development is resilient to climate change, including reducing the impact of flooding and avoiding flood risk.</p> <p><i>Prompt Questions:</i>  Will the option/policy increase the resilience of habitats to climate change?  Will the policy option/policy increase resilience to climate change risks such as lower water availability, increased subsidence or heatwaves?  Will the option/policy increase surface or fluvial flooding or will development be vulnerable to flooding?  Will greenhouse gasses be reduced?</p>
	<b>E4</b>	<p>To maintain and enhance conditions for biodiversity and geodiversity and avoid irreversible losses or damage to designated nature conservation sites, protected species and geological assets.</p>

		<p><i>Prompt Questions:</i></p> <p>Will the option/policy protect and enhance internationally and locally designated biodiversity/geodiversity sites? (including SPAs, SACs, Ramsar Sites, SSSIs, SINCs, LNRs and RIGs)</p> <p>Will important habitats and species outside of protected sites be affected?</p> <p>Will the option/policy protect and enhance established tree cover or hedgerows which would be impossible to replace in the short to medium term?</p>
	E5	<p>To preserve and enhance all aspects of the historic environment and to provide opportunities for all residents to access and understand local cultural heritage.</p> <p><i>Prompt Questions:</i></p> <p>Will historic features of interest (Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, SAM, Areas of Archaeological importance) be protected?</p> <p>Will non-designated heritage assets be protected?</p> <p>Will historic character be enhanced?</p> <p>Will the option/policy lead to a greater understanding of the historic environment?</p>
<b>Social Objectives</b>	S1	<p>To foster and maintain vibrant local communities and encourage a sense of community and belonging.</p> <p><i>Prompt Question:</i></p> <p>Will the option/policy protect and enhance facilities that are important to local communities?</p>
	S2	<p>To provide decent housing in accessible locations to meet the needs of local people, including the young, and to maximise opportunities for provision of affordable housing.</p> <p><i>Prompt Questions:</i></p> <p>Will affordable housing be supported by the option/policy?</p> <p>Will affordable housing increase in line with demand in accessible locations?</p>

	S3	<p>To protect and enhance access to community facilities, leisure and recreation opportunities and access to the countryside.</p> <p><i>Prompt Questions:</i>  Will the option/policy increase or decrease access to health/wellbeing and community/recreational facilities?  Will the option/policy increase opportunities for access to the countryside?</p>
	S4	<p>To make sure new development is easily accessible to essential services, to help reduce the need to travel and minimise the environmental impact of transport.</p> <p><i>Prompt Questions:</i>  Will the option/policy result in shorter journeys to local services?  Will the option/policy encourage development in locations where public transport is available?  Will the policy encourage active travel such as walking/cycling on nearby PROW?  Could the policy improve air quality by minimising the need to travel?</p>
<b>Economic Objectives</b>	EC1	<p>To strengthen and diversify the local economy by supporting a range of opportunities for employment and training particularly in sustainable locations.</p> <p><i>Prompt Question:</i>  Will the option/policy support local services and businesses?  Will the option/policy create new jobs?  Will the option/policy increase access to jobs?</p>
	EC2	<p>To support tourism and recreation industry by ensuring that development contributes to the local economy and provides opportunities for enjoying the Park's Special Qualities.</p> <p><i>Prompt Question:</i>  Will new tourism proposals be supported by the option/policy?  Will the option/policy support the retention of existing tourism related businesses?</p>

		Will the option/policy support tourism businesses that provide a greater understanding of the Special Qualities of the National Park?
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- 6.5 These objectives have been generated specifically to allow us to appraise the plan. The new management plan will include a separate and distinct set of objectives which will be framed specifically around what that plan is aiming to achieve, and in doing so they are likely to be more ‘area specific’ than those generated for plan testing purposes.
- 6.6 Appendix A sets how appraisal against these objectives will comply with the range of topics we are expected to appraise against under the SEA Directive and Regulations.
- 6.7 The assessments will be undertaken in terms of the criteria below:

	Category	Effect of Objective
	Positive impact	Consistent with meeting the objective, either by having no negative impact or by positively influencing change in accordance with the objective.
	X No direct link	There is no direct link with the objective.
	Neutral link	Will have a neither a positive nor a negative impact upon this objective
	Uncertain impacts	May hinder achievement of this objective, but may have no negative impact, or may have a positive impact. This will depend upon implementation.
	Negative impacts	Will hinder achievement of this objective.

6.9 In addition, the nature of the effects will be considered in terms of:

- Direct or indirect;
- Long term, short term, temporary or permanent;
- Local or wider in geographical extent.

6.10 Sustainability Appraisal should identify the cumulative and significant effects upon sustainability objectives. The assessment of cumulative effects will involve looking at the effects upon each sustainability objective in turn. This assessment will then assist in determining whether there are likely to be any significant effects. Consideration will then be given to whether any mitigation of effects can be woven into plan policy.

6.11 Appendix E shows an assessment of each objective compared to others using the framework above.

#### **A note of the testing of 'realistic alternatives'**

6.12 The SEA process requires that different options are tested of what may be in the plan to see which options performs the best against this framework. For more conventional plan and programmes with a spatial element (for example those that set the criteria that determine the granting of permissions for particular areas, or the assessment of the effects of a development of a particular proposed developments) this is possible and valuable in influencing the early stages of emerging policy options. However this Management Plan is not a conventional plan – its purpose is to set out a strategic vision for the future of the National Park and express consensus and then steer the work of many agencies, individuals, businesses, organisations and communities to carry out their various activities to drive a more sustainable future for the National Park. By its very nature it is a plan purposed to deliver the principles of sustainable development, including through the adherence to the principles set out in statute by the National Park's purposes and duty, as well as the broad spectrum of environmental, social and rural development policy and legislation. The Plan is also evolving through the participation of working groups and extensive public engagement and consultation, allowing for continuous iterative consensus building in reaching policy directions, rather than at a single or multiple pre-determined stage(s).

6.13 Thus, because the overarching aims of the Management Plan will reflect the objectives of the sustainability assessment framework, and because the Plan is evolving through continual engagement with others, it is considered that there is little point in generating strategic alternatives to be considered formally in this assessment. In practice, given the context within which a Management Plan operates, it has 'little choice' but to present a framework that will improve the sustainability of the area in which it operates.

## **7. How will we know if the Plan is working?**

### **Task A5 - Monitoring**

- 7.1 As part of the production of the new Management Plan the Authority will also be reviewing the indicators that are monitored to check that they are still relevant and whether new ones need to be included. All new policies in the Plan should be capable of being monitored over time to make sure the Management Plan is working as originally intended. As a starting point Appendix D includes an initial set of monitoring indicators for the objectives we have set out. These will be used as a source of information to help us understand the sustainability effects of the options we consider as we carry out testing on the Management Plan.
- 7.2 Monitoring of the Management Plan will be reported in the State of the National Park report.

## **8. Next Steps**

- 8.1 Consultation will be undertaken on this Scoping Report for five weeks during October/November 2016 with the three Statutory Consultees (Heritage England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) and other relevant organisations. It is not considered appropriate to undertake a wider consultation due to the technical nature of the Scoping Report. Any comments received will be taken into account in finalising the Scoping Report.
- 8.2 As the Management Plan is drafted, the framework established by this Scoping Report will be used to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal. Initially an assessment will be undertaken of the strategic options which will help to inform the selection of the overall strategy. Following this, an assessment will be carried out on the objectives and policies of the Plan as they are drafted, as per Figure 1 on page 10. The Sustainability Report will be published alongside the draft Management Plan as part of the public consultation.

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October 2021.