

Agenda

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Venue: **The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YO62 5BP**

Date: **Monday 15 December 2025, 9.30am**

Business

1. Livestreaming and recording – The Chair to inform members of the public that the meeting is livestreamed and recorded.
2. Emergency evacuation procedure – The chair to inform members of the public of the emergency evacuation procedure.
3. Apologies for absence
4. Public minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2025 (pg 1)
5. Public question time (an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.)(pg 5)
6. Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to declare the nature of any personal, prejudicial and/or disclosable interests relating to any agenda item immediately prior to its consideration and are encouraged to complete a written declaration using the form provided.
7. Forvis Mazars LLP Audit Completion and Annual Reports 24/25 including Value for Money conclusions. (pg 6)
8. Statement of Financial Accounts 24/25 including Annual Governance Statement and Letter of Representation. (pg 84)

Appendix A to item 8, Statement of Final Accounts, will appear as a separate document
9. Business Plan six monthly progress report (pg 92)
10. Priorities for 26/27 (pg 131)
11. National Park Management Plan annual monitoring statement (pg 134)
12. Medium-Term Financial strategy (pg 177)

Reports for information

13. North York Moors Trust – presentation and update from Rebecca Buckley & James Metcalfe (pg 190)
14. Feedback from lead Members on Committees and Forums (pg 191)
15. Reports from Members on outside bodies (pg 192)
16. Chief Executive's report (pg 194)
17. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.
18. Exclusion of the public from the meeting during consideration of item 19 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Private business - Minutes/reports circulated to Members only

19. Private minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2025

Tom Hind
Chief Executive

Press Contact: Nina Beadle, Media and Communications Officer, 01439 772700

Notes:

- To ensure this Meeting is conducted in an open and transparent manner it will be live streamed to the public and recorded. A link will be published under the relevant Meeting heading of the Authority's website. The recording will be held in accordance with the Authority's retention policy.
- The Authority allows the videoing of public meetings but asks that any party wishing to do so informs the Authority in advance of the meeting. Videoing that disrupts the meeting is not allowed. Persons expressly refusing consent, children and vulnerable adults cannot be filmed or photographed. The existing rules relating to confidential and exempt information, defamation, Data Protection and Public Order apply. The Authority accepts no liability whatsoever for videoing carried out by other parties.
- Members are reminded to turn all electronic equipment to silent mode, including mobile phones, laptop computers and tablets. Please note that only information that is available to Members during the Committee meeting should be accessed from a computer in the interests of sound decision making.
- Tea and coffee will be available a quarter of an hour before the meeting.
- Lunch will be available at approximately 12.30 pm. Members taking lunch will have the appropriate amount deducted from any subsistence claim they may make.
- Judith Seaton should be notified of any apologies.
- Please ensure when parking in the car park that you have not caused an obstruction which could prevent emergency vehicles accessing the building.
- This agenda is available on the website www.northyorkmoors.org.uk
- This agenda is available in large print on request.

North York Moors National Park Authority

Item 4, Public Minutes of the National Park Authority Committee meeting held on 22 September 2025

Present:

Malcolm Bowes, Michelle Donohue-Moncrieff, Jane Harper, George Jabbour, Heather Moorhouse, Clive Pearson, John Ritchie, Janet Waggott, Colin Williamson, Keith Wilkinson (Independent Person)

Apologies: Joy Andrews, Jim Bailey, David Hugill, David Jeffels, John McCue, Christine Robertson.

Officers in attendance:

Tom Hind (Chief Executive), Chris France (Director of Planning), Joel Brookfield (Director of Recreation and Wellbeing), Lucas St John (Commercial Manager), Miles Johnson (Head of Historic Environment), Tom Stephenson (Head of Climate Change and Carbon Reduction), Judith Seaton (Executive Support Team Leader)

Copies of all documents considered are in the minute book

37/25 Minutes

That the public minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 June 2025, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

38/25 Members Interests

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interests relating to any agenda item prior to its consideration.

39/25 Exclusion of the public

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Items 17 & 18, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

40/25 Langdale Moor wildfire

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive

Members commented on a thorough and well-presented report:

- 2 miles of the Coast to Coast have been affected and re-routed with signage for closure and diversions, details are also on our website. Reports have been received of path users ignoring the signs and additional reminders are publicised.
- Members reiterated the importance of community involvement in the recovery process. There is full and proper representation on the Recovery Co-ordination Group led by NYC.

- Restoration and recovery will be science based and complex.
- Funding is being investigated and FiPL may be available to landowners.
- Thanks were expressed to all involved in the fire fighting and recovery processes.

Action: Members requested a copy of the slides.

Resolved: That Members note the contents of the report.

41/25 ANPR Enforcement in NPA Car Parks

Considered:

The report of the Commercial Manager

It was confirmed that Recreation and Wellbeing Forum will assess the pilot after 12 months.

Resolved: That Members,

- Agree to the piloting of an ANPR system at Newton under Roseberry for a 12 month period on the terms outlined in **appendix 1**.
- Subject to the satisfactory roll out of the pilot, approve a general policy of the use of ANPR where appropriate for the enforcement of car parking charges at Authority car parks.
- Agree that progress on the implementation of the pilot at Newton under Roseberry will be reported to the Recreation and Wellbeing Forum to ensure Member scrutiny and oversight.
- Delegate to the Chief Executive any further decision as to the extension of the ANPR at Newton under Roseberry and the implementation of ANPR at any other Authority car park, taking into account any observations expressed by the Recreation and Wellbeing Forum in respect of the pilot.

42/25 Review of Parish Forum – recommendations

Considered:

The report of the Executive Support Team Leader/Chief Executive

Resolved: That Members approve the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of this report.

43/25 North York Moors Trust – nomination of new NPA Trustee

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive

Members agreed that Janet Waggott be appointed to the North York Moors Trust and Christine Robertson was thanked for her contribution during her term as trustee.

Resolved: That Members nominate a Trustee to serve on the Board of the North York Moors Trust.

44/25 Feedback from lead Members on Committees and Forums

Considered:

The report of the Executive Support Team Leader

Joel Brookfield reported on the EDI Group meeting that was held at Sutton Bank National Park Centre looking at accessibility needs, the looped pathway around the gliding club and the range of vehicles that could use the pathways as well as the trampers.

Resolved: That Members note the contents of the report.

45/25 Reports from Members on outside bodies

Considered:

The report of the Executive Support Team Leader

Colin Williamson gave a verbal report from the National Park Trust meeting.

Tom Hind reported on a meeting with Rose O'Neil from CNP.

Action: Chris France to check with the Combined Authority as to when the Strategic Place Partnership will be set up.

Resolved: That the report be noted by Members.

46/25 Chief Executive's report

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive

The Management Plan Stakeholder meeting had successfully taken place to discuss affordable housing. A review of the Management Plan will take place in the next 2-3 years and the impact of the Langdale Moor wildfire will be a significant feature.

Resolved: That Members note the content of the report.

47/25 On the record

Considered:

The report of the Executive Support Team Leader

Resolved: That Members note the content of the report.

48/25 Other business

There was no other business discussed.

.....(Chair)
15 December 2025

Public Summary of items considered "in private" at the meeting of the National Park Authority on 22 September 2025

Private minutes

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2025, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Appendix to item 7, Use of ANPR in NPA Car Parks

North York Moors National Park Authority

Item 5, Public Question Time

When?

Public Question Time will be at the beginning of each meeting, immediately after the Minutes of any previous meeting have been agreed, and will be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes of questions and answers in total.

What?

- Only questions will be allowed and these must relate to the business of the Authority
- Any questioner will be limited to two minutes maximum speaking time
- Supplementary questions will only be allowed for purposes of clarifying an earlier answer
- If answers cannot be provided on the day a reply in writing will be offered

How?

Any questions must be delivered in writing to the Director of Corporate Services at least two clear working days before the meeting. The Chair will then call questioners at the meeting in the order questions were received.

Answers to questions will normally be given by the Chair.

Exclusions?

No question relating to an individual recipient of services will be allowed, as appropriate alternative channels exist for such inquiries.

The opportunity to ask questions under this scheme does not apply to staff or their representatives, since other mechanisms are available.

No questions can be accepted which relate to matters which would normally be dealt with in private session because they relate to exempt information, for example:-

- Legal actions
- Financial and business affairs of other organisations
- Individual members of staff
- Trade Union negotiations

No questions can be accepted where there is a statutory procedure in place for public consultation, for example:-

- Development control matters
- Traffic regulation orders
- Public rights of way orders, etc

Notice of questions should be sent to :

Director of Corporate Services, National Park Office, Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YO62 5BP. Tel: 01439 772700.

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2025

Item 7, Forvis Mazars LLP - Audit Completion report and Auditor's Annual Report 2024-25

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 Forvis Mazars LLP To report to Members the findings on the 2024-25 external audit.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Attached are the Audit Completion Report and Auditor's Annual Report for the 2024-25 audit. These contain the findings of the audit to date. The audit is now almost fully complete with just a small amount of testing remaining plus the results of the audit of the North Yorkshire Pension Scheme audit, which can affect the numbers in the Authority's Statement of Financial Accounts. It is anticipated that these will be concluded by the time of the meeting where an update will be provided where relevant.

3. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 3.1 External audit is a statutory requirement and an essential tool to provide assurance on the financial arrangements, sustainability and value for money of the Authority. The ability to deliver the outcomes of the management and business plan is dependent upon good financial management and an unqualified external audit and positive value for money opinion are key evidence of that.

4. Legal and sustainability implications

- 4.1 An annual external audit is a statutory requirement for the Authority.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the auditor reports.

Contact Officer
Pete Williams
Director of Corporate Services (s151)
01439 772700



Audit Completion Report

North York Moors National Park Authority – year ended 31 March 2025

3 December 2025

The North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
North Yorkshire
YO62 5BP

3 December 2025

Dear Members

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2025

We are pleased to present our Audit Completion Report for North York Moors National Park Authority (the “Authority”) for the year ended 31 March 2025. The purpose of this report is to summarise our audit findings and conclusions.

This report is intended solely for the full Authority for the purpose of communicating certain matters that, in our professional judgement, are relevant to your oversight of the financial reporting process. To the fullest extent permitted by law Forvis Mazars LLP accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability to any third party who purports to use or rely for any reason whatsoever on the report, its contents, conclusions, any extract, reinterpretation, amendment and/or modification. Accordingly, any reliance placed on the report, its contents, conclusions, any extract, reinterpretation, amendment and/or modification by any third party is entirely at their own risk.

We appreciate the courtesy and co-operation extended to us by North York Moors National Park Authority throughout our audit. We would be happy to discuss the contents of this report, or any other matters regarding our audit, with you in more detail.

Yours faithfully



Gavin Barker

Forvis Mazars LLP

**forvis
mazars**

Forvis Mazars

The Corner

Bank Chambers

26 Mosley Street

Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE1 1DF

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 - 02 Status of our audit
 - 03 Audit approach and risk summary
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-
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Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'PSAA Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Bodies' and the 'Appointing Person Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. This document is to be regarded as confidential to North York Moors National Park Authority. It has been prepared for the sole use of the Authority as those charged with governance. We do not accept any liability or responsibility to any other person in respect of the whole or part of its contents.

01

Executive Summary

Scope

We have been engaged to audit the financial statements of North York Moors National Park Authority for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are prepared in accordance with the 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

Our audit of the financial statements was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), relevant ethical and professional standards, our own audit methodology, and in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice.

Audit status

Our audit procedures are now substantially complete for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Please refer to the ‘*Status of our audit*’ section for a list of significant audit matters outstanding at the date of this report. We will provide an update to the Authority on completion of those outstanding matters by way of a follow-up letter.

Areas of focus and audit approach, and significant findings

We have not made any changes to our initial risk assessment and planned audit approach that was communicated to Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee in our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Significant control deficiencies

We identified significant deficiencies in internal control. Please refer to the ‘*Significant control deficiencies*’ section.

Audit misstatements

A summary of the adjusted and unadjusted misstatements above our reporting threshold we have identified to date is set out in the ‘*Summary of misstatements*’ section.

Audit opinion

At the time of issuing this report and subject to the satisfactory conclusion of our remaining audit work, we anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, as set out in Appendix B.

Value for Money

We anticipate having no significant weaknesses in arrangements or recommendations to report in relation to the arrangements that the Authority has in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Further detail on our Value for Money work is provided in section 8 of this report.

Wider reporting powers

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Authority and to consider any objection made to the accounts. We received no questions or objections.

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

The Authority is exempt from making a submission of WGA consolidation data as it has Minor Body status. As a result of this, we do not need to complete and submit a WGA Assurance statement to National Audit Office.

Qualitative aspects of North York Moors National Park Authority's accounting practices

We have reviewed the Authority's accounting policies and disclosures and conclude that they comply with the 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, appropriately tailored to the Authority's circumstances.

Draft accounts were received from the Authority on 29 July 2025. Although the accounts were published later than the statutory deadline of 30 June 2025, they were of a good quality. The working papers supporting the financial statements were also of good quality and were comprehensive.

Significant matters discussed with management

During our audit, we discussed a number of issues with management. One area of particular significance were discussions around the Authority's financial position, including development of the medium-term financial plan. The Authority's financial position is challenging, particularly in relation to grant funding. We reflected on the Authority's financial resilience and sustainability, and concluded that the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements was appropriate.

Significant difficulties during the audit

We have not encountered any significant difficulties, and we have had the full co-operation of management.

Other matters of significance

We encountered no significant difficulties during our audit and had no significant disagreements with The North York Moors National Park Authority's management. There was effective co-operation and communication between Forvis Mazars, management, and during our audit all requested information and explanations were provided to us.

Other matters we are required by ISA (UK) 260 *Communication with Those Charged with Governance* to communicate to you have been set out in Appendix D.

02

Status of the audit

Our audit work is substantially complete and there are currently no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion, subject to the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding matters set out below.

PPE Valuations (Including Heritage Assets) and Leases (including Right of Use Assets)

Minor queries are outstanding.



Defined Pension Benefit

Awaiting assurance letter from the auditor of North Yorkshire Pension Fund at the time of preparing this report.



Journal Entry testing (Including Journal Completeness)

We are finalising our work



Unusable reserves and grant income testing

Minor queries are outstanding



Disclosure notes

We are finalising our work in relation to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis, Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing note, Post Balance sheet events and Cash Flow statements



Completion procedures

Completion procedures will continue up to the point where we receive the final signed set of financial statements and the signed letter of representation from management. These procedures include ongoing completion and review of our audit file, checking the final version of the financial statements and considering any events after the balance sheet date up to the point that we issue our audit opinion



Value for money arrangements

We have completed our work, but we will continue to assess arrangements up to the point of issuing our audit opinion



Status



Likely to result in a material adjustment or a significant change to disclosures in the financial statements.



Potential to result in a material adjustment or a significant change to disclosures in the financial statements.



Not considered likely to result in a material adjustment or a change to disclosures in the financial statements.



Work on value for money arrangements

03

Audit approach and risk summary

Changes to our audit approach

There have been no changes to the audit approach we communicated in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, dated 14 August 2025.

Materiality

Our provisional materiality at the planning stage of our audit was set at £230k using a benchmark of 2% of gross operating expenditure as per the Audit Strategy Memorandum. Final materiality was set at £223k, and performance materiality was £178k using the same benchmark.

Significant audit risk / key area of judgement	Type of risk			Testing approach		Findings		Conclusion	Page ref to finding
	Fraud	Judgement	Error	Substantive audit procedures	Tests of controls	Misstatement identified	Control recommendations		
Management override of controls	●		●	●				Risk satisfactorily addressed. At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report. We are finalising our work on journals.	13
Net Defined Benefit Liability valuation		●	●	●				Risk satisfactorily addressed. At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report. Awaiting assurance letter from the auditor of North Yorkshire Pension Fund.	14
Property, plant and equipment valuations		●	●	●				Risk satisfactorily addressed. At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report. Minor queries are outstanding.	15
Accounting for Leases (key area of management judgement)		●	●	●				Risk satisfactorily addressed. At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report. Minor queries are outstanding.	16

Significant findings

The significant findings from our audit include our conclusions regarding the significant risks we identified and other key areas of judgement, which are set out in this section.

Management override of controls

Description of the risk

This is a mandatory significant risk on all audits due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur.

Management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur there is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud on all audits.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk through performing audit work over:

- accounting estimates included in the financial statements for evidence of management bias;
- any significant transactions outside the normal course of business; and
- testing a sample of journals that meet our risk criteria and other adjustments recorded in the general ledger in preparing the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report.

Net defined benefit liability valuation

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Description of the risk

The financial statements contain material pension entries in respect of retirement benefits. The calculation of these pension figures can be subject to significant volatility and includes estimates based upon a complex interaction of actuarial assumptions.

There is a risk that the assumptions and methodology used in valuing the Authority's pension obligation are not reasonable or appropriate to the Authority's circumstances. This could have a material impact to the net pension liability in 2024/25.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk by:

- critically assessing the competency, objectivity and independence of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund's Actuary;
- liaising with the auditors of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund to obtain confirmation that the controls are designed and implemented appropriately. This included the processes and controls in place to ensure data provided to the Actuary by the Pension Fund for the purposes of the IAS19 valuation is complete and accurate;
- reviewing the appropriateness of the Pension Liability or Asset valuation methodologies applied by the Pension Fund Actuary, and the key assumptions included within the valuation. This included comparing them to expected ranges, utilising information provided by PWC, the consulting actuary engaged by the National Audit Office;
- agreeing the data in the IAS 19 valuation report provided by the Fund Actuary for accounting purposes to the pension accounting entries and disclosures in the Authority's financial statements; and
- ensuring all required disclosures are reflected in the accounts and relevant notes.

Audit conclusion

At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report.

Some amendments were agreed to the pensions disclosure notes to improve accuracy.

We are awaiting the assurance letter from the auditor of North Yorkshire Pension Fund.

Valuation of property, plant and equipment

Description of the risk

The financial statements contain material entries on the balance sheet as well as material disclosure notes in relation to the Authority's holding of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE).

The Authority employs a valuation expert to provide information on valuations, however there remains a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with the (re)valuations of PPE due to the significant judgements and number of variables involved.

How we addressed this risk

We evaluated the design and implementation of any controls which mitigated the risk. This included liaising with management to update our understanding on the approach taken by the Authority in its valuation of land and buildings. We also:

- Assessed the scope and terms of engagement with the Valuer, and assessed the competence, skills and objectivity of the Valuer;
- Assessed how management use the Valuer's report to value land and buildings included in the financial statements; and tested the accuracy of the data used in valuations;
- Challenged the Authority's and Valuer's assumptions and judgements applied in the valuations; reviewed valuation methodologies used, including the appropriateness of the valuation basis; and
- Considered the reasonableness of the valuation by comparing the valuation output with market intelligence; and ensured all required disclosures are reflected in the accounts and relevant notes.

Audit conclusion

At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report.

Minor queries are outstanding.

Other key areas of management judgement / enhanced risks

Accounting for leases under IFRS 16

New for 2024/25

Description of the risk

IFRS 16 changes the definition of a lease compared to IAS 17 and IFRIC 4. The Authority will recognise lease liabilities and corresponding right of use assets.

On transition to IFRS 16 on 1 April 2024, the Authority will apply the standard retrospectively without restatement and with the cumulative effect of initially applying the standard recognised in the income and expenditure reserve at that date.

The Authority has previously made disclosures in its financial statements; however, this is a complex area, hence we have assessed it as a key area of management judgement and an enhanced risk.

How we addressed this risk

We critically reviewed the accuracy and completeness of the Authority’s assessment of leases under IFRS 16, and reviewed the accounting treatment for a sample of leases to test the valuation of the liability and right of use asset.

Audit conclusion

At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report.

Minor queries are outstanding.

Wider responsibilities

Our powers and responsibilities under the 2014 Act are broad and include the ability to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law; and
- issue an advisory notice under schedule 8 of the 2014 Act.

We have not exercised any of these powers as part of our 2024/25 audit.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account. No questions or objections were raised with us as part of the 2024/25 audit.

05

Internal control conclusions

As part of our audit, we obtained an understanding of the Authority's internal control environment and control activities relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, which was sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing, and extent of our audit procedures. Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls, we are required to communicate to Those Charged with Governance any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identified in during our audit.

Deficiencies in internal control

A deficiency in internal control exists if:

- A control is designed, implemented, or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, detect, and/ or correct potential misstatements in the financial statements; or
- A control that is necessary to prevent, detect, and/ or correct misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing.

The purpose of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit, we have considered the Authority's internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported in this section of our report are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and which we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported.

If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control, we might have identified more deficiencies to report or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported.

Our comments in this section should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

Significant deficiencies in internal control

A significant deficiency in internal control is one which, in our professional judgement, has the potential for financial loss, damage to reputation, or a loss of information which may have implications on the achievement of business strategic objectives. Our view is that observations categorised as a significant deficiency is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of Those Charged With Governance.

We have not identified any significant deficiencies in the Authority's internal controls as at the date of this report.

Other observations

We also record our observations on the Authority's internal controls where, in our professional judgement, there is a need to strengthen internal control or enhance business efficiency that do not constitute significant deficiencies in internal control but which we view as being important for consideration by management. There are two such deficiencies reported on pages 20 and 21.

Follow up on significant deficiencies in internal controls identified on prior year audits

We have followed up the actions arising from recommendations made in the prior year audit on pages 22 and 23. We are pleased to report that the recommendations have been fully addressed and there are no residual matters outstanding.

Other observations on internal control

In our view, internal control should be strengthened in this area

Related Parties – Declaration of Interest

Description of deficiency

Management was unable to provide the related party returns for 6 Members which are collated as part of the year end accounts process.

Potential effects

There is a risk that undisclosed relationships may lead to misstatement of the financial statements if related party transactions are not properly identified, classified and disclosed. This also limits our ability to verify the completeness of related party disclosures.

Recommendation

We recommend that all Members are reminded to comply with the year end related party process to ensure timely identification of related parties for all Members. This process should incorporate periodic reminders, and compliance monitoring, to ensure completeness of the disclosures.

Management response

It can prove challenging to get responses from Members to the Related Parties Questionnaire at year end. Of the 20 responses, only 6 were returned on the first request. A further 8 were returned following reminders or paper copies being supplied at meetings. 6 were not received despite multiple reminders. Management will work with Members to find a more workable solution and review best methods of communication to ensure questionnaires can be completed and returned.

Other observations on internal control

In our view, internal control should be strengthened in this area.

Disposal of Fixed assets

Description of deficiency

In a sample selected for the disposal of assets, management was unable to provide documentation to support the disposal of a car for £6k. The process followed was intended to maximise the receipt for the Authority but this was not carried out in accordance with the established process.

Potential effects

There is a risk that the accounts may be misstated, assets could be disposed of at less than their fair value, and it heightens the risk of misappropriation or unauthorised sales.

Recommendation

We recommended that the defined process is consistently followed.

Management response

There has been inconsistency in approach to the disposal of assets. Whilst management believe there is no risk to value for money being achieved in disposals, it would benefit from a more centrally controlled and regulated process, so we will write a clearer policy for this and ensure oversight of disposals greater than £5k from the Director of Corporate Services role.

Follow up on significant deficiencies in internal controls identified on prior year audits

Set out below is an update on the action taken by the Authority'sto address significant deficiencies in internal control identified on prior audits, that were not resolved on commencement of our audit.

Land and buildings revaluations

Description of deficiency

The CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 requires a full revaluation of land and buildings to be undertaken at least every 5 years. A full revaluation was due to be undertaken for the 2023/24 accounts, but management had thought that the next review was due for the 2024/25 accounts. In mitigation, the Authority has undertaken an annual revaluation each year of its most significant assets which make up a large percentage of its overall portfolio. We held discussions with management and the Authority's external valuer to understand the implications for assets that had not been revalued since March 2019

Current year update:

Full Revaluation has been performed this year. We are pleased to report that the recommendations have been fully addressed and there are no residual matters outstanding.

Potential effects

This could result in a material misstatement of property, plant and equipment and heritage assets in the financial statements.

We had to carry out additional work to satisfy ourselves that property, plant and equipment and heritage assets were not materially impacted by this deficiency in the 2023/24 accounts. We obtained the assurance we needed in relation to this, but it is important that this issue is addressed in the preparation of the 2024/25 financial statements.

Recommendation

The Authority must ensure that a full revaluation of its land and buildings is undertaken for the 2024/25 financial statements.

The Authority should consider indexing valuations of those assets that are not subject to an annual revaluation each year to avoid the risk of creeping materiality. These assets can then be subject to a full revaluation process every 5 years.

Management response

The work to commission the valuer to carry out a full valuation of assets for 2024/25 has already started. In order to avoid the error in the future relating to the timing of the 5-year full valuation exercise, a line has been added to the closedown timetable to specifically check what valuation requirement is due at the point of commissioning the valuation work. In addition, whilst the desktop valuation process between full valuations was one agreed with previous auditors, there is merit at looking at the process ahead of 2025/26 in relation to either/or indexing assets in the intervening period or rotating the valued assets to ensure that the portfolio does receive full valuation on a sampling basis at least once over the 5 year period.

Follow up on Other observation on internal control

Set out below is an update on the action taken by the Authority'sto address significant deficiencies in internal control identified on prior audits, that were not resolved on commencement of our audit.

Preparation of draft Annual Governance Statement

Description of deficiency

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Annual Governance Statement to be published alongside the draft financial statements and subject to the public inspection requirements. Detailed guidance on the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement recognises that the Annual Governance Statement may not have been approved when the draft financial statements are published, but in these cases requires a draft Annual Governance Statement to be published at that stage which can then be updated when it has been approved. The Authority did not include a draft Annual Governance Statement in its draft financial statements for 2023/24 and a draft was only prepared later in the year

Current year update:

Management has published the draft Annual Governance Statement within the draft 2024/25 Financial statements. We are pleased to report that the recommendations have been fully addressed and there are no residual matters outstanding.

Potential effects

The Authority could be challenged in relation to meeting its statutory responsibilities under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Recommendation

The Authority must ensure that a draft Annual Governance Statement is included in the draft 2024/25 financial statements when they are published and the public inspection period is initiated.

Management response

This will be brought in draft to May Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee from now onwards so that it can be published in draft form alongside the financial statements.

Summary of misstatements

Unadjusted misstatements

Our overall materiality, performance materiality, and clearly trivial (reporting) threshold were reported in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, dated 14 August 2025. Any subsequent changes to those figures are set out in the *‘Audit approach and risk summary’* section of this report.

We identified no misstatements above our reporting threshold, or that we deem to be material by nature, as at the date of this report which were not adjusted.

Adjusted misstatements

We identified no misstatements above our reporting threshold, or that we deem to be material by nature, as at the date of this report which were adjusted.

Disclosure misstatements

We identified the following disclosure points that have considered and addressed by management:

- Note 5, PPE: The total gross value as at 31 March 2025 was updated to agree with the valuation report;
- Note 24, Leases: text added to describe the impact of the application of the new leasing standard IFRS16;
- Note 25, Defined Pension Benefit: the asset allocation disclosure has been updated as it was originally carried forward from the prior year accounts;
- Note 27, Post balance sheet events: Updated to reflect the potential impact of a legal case, known as the Virgin Media pensions case. This is a national issue impacting on all authorities; and
- Other minor corrections and clarifications.

There are two unadjusted disclosure amendments that management has agreed to address in next year's financial statements:

- Note 23, Related party transactions, needs to be expanded to include the year end balance with the related parties that are disclosed as well as the income and expenditure which is included in the disclosure.
- Note 6, Unusable reserves is not strictly in accordance with the requirements of the accounting code.

07

Fraud considerations

We have a responsibility to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Your responsibilities

Management has primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud. It is important that management, with Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee oversight, place a strong emphasis on fraud prevention, which may reduce opportunities for fraud to take place, and fraud deterrence, which could persuade individuals not to commit fraud because of the likelihood of detection and punishment. This involves a commitment to creating a culture of honesty and ethical behaviour which is reinforced by Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee’s active oversight.

Our responsibilities

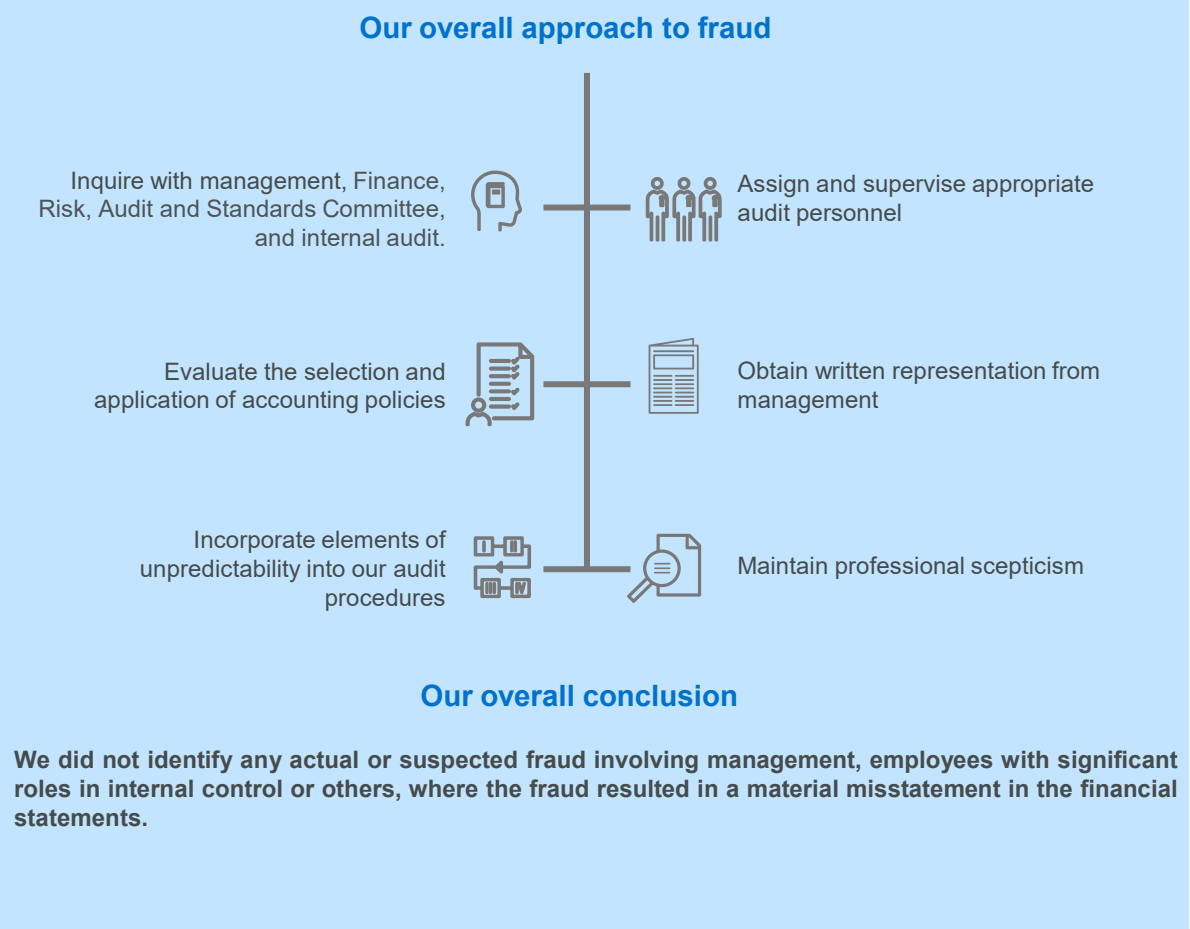
We have a responsibility for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements taken as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The distinguishing factor between fraud and error is whether the underlying action that results in a misstatement is intentional or unintentional. Two types of intentional misstatements are relevant to us – misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting, and misstatements resulting from the misappropriation of assets.

ISA presumed fraud risks

As set out in the ‘*Audit approach and risk summary*’ section, the risks of fraud in management override of controls were identified as significant risks.

Other fraud risks

As set out in the ‘*Audit approach and risk summary*’ section, the other risks of fraud that we identified, namely PPE Valuation and Defined Benefit Valuation and were identified as significant risks.



08

Value for Money

Value for Money

Authority's arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2025 and we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements that have required us to make a recommendation. Our draft audit report at Appendix B confirms that we have no matters to report in respect of significant weaknesses. As noted above, our commentary on the Authority's arrangements will be provided in the Auditor's Annual Report as set out above.

Appendices

A: Draft management representation letter

B: Draft audit report

C: Confirmation of our independence

D: Other communications

TO BE PROVIDED ON CLIENT LETTERHEAD

The client should provide this letter to us on client headed note paper, it should be signed by the Chief Financial Officer and dated as close to (but not after) the date of the audit report as possible.

Address to:
Gavin Barker
Audit Director
Forvis Mazars LLP

Dear Mr Barker

North York Moors National Park Authority - Audit for Year Ended 31 March 2025

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of North York Moors National Park Authority for the period ended 31 March 2025 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), and applicable law.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Authority you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Chief Financial Officer that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information.

As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Authority and committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Authority's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at current and fair value

I confirm that the methods, significant assumptions and the data used by the Authority in making the accounting estimates, including those measured at current and fair value, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

I confirm:

- that the significant judgments made in making the accounting estimates have taken into account all relevant information of which management is aware;
- the consistency and appropriateness in the selection or application of the methods, assumptions and data used by management in making the accounting estimates;
- that the assumptions appropriately reflect management's intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, when relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures;
- that disclosures related to accounting estimates, including disclosures describing estimation uncertainty, are complete and are reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework;
- that appropriate specialised skills or expertise has been applied in making the accounting estimates; and
- that no subsequent event requires adjustment to the accounting estimates and related disclosures included in the financial statements.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Authority have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Authority has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Chief Financial Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and I believe I have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Authority’s financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Authority’s related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment assets below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Charges on assets

All the Authority’s assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

Future commitments

The Authority has no plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law, require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Impacts of Russian Forces entering Ukraine

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of Russian Forces entering Ukraine on the Council, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and no disclosures are required in the financial statements.

Tariffs

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of changes in US trade policy in respect of tariffs, including the impact of reciprocal tariffs by other countries, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and no disclosures are required in the financial statements.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Authority will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Annual Governance Statement

I am satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Authority’s risk assurance and governance framework, and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect my understanding of the Authority’s financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

Unadjusted misstatements [only include this section if applicable]

We confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

Arrangements to achieve economy, effectiveness and efficiency in Use of Resources (Value for Money arrangements)

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all information that would be considered relevant to your work on value for money arrangements.

Yours faithfully

Pete Williams
Corporate Services Director (s151)
Date: To be confirmed [as close to the sign-off of the audit as possible]

Independent auditor's report to the members of North York Moors National Park Authority

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of North Yorks Moors National Park Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2025 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chief Financial Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, and taking into account the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Financial Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Financial Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Chief Financial Officer is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Authority to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the Authority, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: data protection and information governance regulation, employment regulation, health and safety regulation, procurement regulation, anti-money laundering regulation, and anti-fraud and corruption and anti-bribery regulation.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Authority, the environment in which it operates, and the structure of the Authority, and considering the risk of acts by the Authority which were contrary to the applicable laws and regulations, including fraud;
- inquiring with management and the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee, as to whether the Authority is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- reviewing relevant meeting minutes in the year;
- communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- considering the risk of acts by the Authority which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Local Government Act 2003 (and associated regulations made under section 21), the Local Government Finance Acts of 1988, 1992 and 2012, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

In addition, we evaluated management’s incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to land and buildings valuations and pension disclosures, revenue recognition, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of management and the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management and the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee.

As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

We are also required to conclude on whether the Chief Financial Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. We performed our work in accordance with Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statement and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2024), and Supplementary Guidance Note 01, issued by the National Audit Office in November 2024.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if, in our view we are not satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2025.

We have nothing to report in this respect.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the members of North York Moors National Park Authority, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Authority those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of North York Moors National Park Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

[Signature]

Gavin Barker, Key Audit Partner
For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP (Local Auditor)

The Corner
Bank Chamber
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1DF

[Date: To be confirmed]

Confirmation of our independence

We communicate any matters which we believe may have a bearing on the independence or the objectivity of Forvis Mazars LLP and the audit team. As part of our ongoing risk assessment, we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing our Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.

Other communication		Response
	Compliance with Laws and Regulations	We have not identified any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. We will obtain written representations from management that all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements have been disclosed.
	External confirmations	We did not experience any issues with respect to obtaining external confirmations.
	Related parties	We did not identify any significant matters relating to the audit of related parties. We will obtain written representations from management confirming that: - they have disclosed to us the identity of related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which they are aware; and - they have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
	Going Concern	We have not identified any evidence to cause us to disagree with the Chief Financial Officer that the Authority will be a going concern, and therefore we have not identified any evidence to cause us to consider that the use of the going concern assumption in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate. We will obtain written representations from management, confirming that all relevant information covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements has been taken into account in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements.

Other communication		Response
	Subsequent events	We are required to obtain evidence about whether events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements are appropriately reflected in those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. We will obtain written representations from management that all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
	Matters related to fraud	Our audit was designed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud. Please refer to the section titled 'Fraud considerations' for our fraud considerations and conclusion. We will obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee, confirming that: - they acknowledge their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud; - they have disclosed to the auditor the results of management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud; - they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving: - management; - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; and - they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Other communication		Response
	System of Quality Management	To address the requirements of ISQM (UK) 1, our firm’s System of Quality Management team completes, as part of an ongoing and iterative process, a number of key steps to assess and conclude on our firm’s System of Quality Management, including: • Ensuring there is an appropriate assignment of responsibilities under ISQM (UK) 1 and across Leadership • Establishing and reviewing quality objectives each year, ensuring ISQM (UK) 1 objectives align with our firm's strategies and priorities • Identifying, reviewing, and updating quality risks each quarter, taking into consideration a number of input sources (such as FRC / ICAEW review findings, internal monitoring findings, findings from our firm’s root cause analysis and remediation functions, etc.) • Identifying, designing, and implementing responses as part of the process to strengthen our firm's internal control environment and overall quality • Evaluating responses and remediating control gaps or deficiencies We perform an evaluation of our system of quality management on an annual basis. Our latest evaluation was performed as of 31 August 2024. Details of that assessment and our conclusion are set out in our 2023/2024 Transparency Report, which is available on our website here.

Contact

Forvis Mazars

Gavin Barker

Director

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Gaurav Gandhi

Audit Manager

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Auditor's Annual Report

North York Moors National Park Authority – year ended 31 March 2025

3 December 2025 - **DRAFT FOR AUTHORITY MEETING**

01	Introduction
02	Audit of the financial statements
03	Commentary on VFM arrangements
04	Other reporting responsibilities
05	Audit fees and other services
A	Appendix A: Further information on our audit of the Authority's financial statements

Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'Statement of Responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies' and the 'Appointing Person Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to the Authority are prepared for the sole use of the Authority and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

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01

Introduction

Purpose of the Auditor’s Annual Report

Our Auditor’s Annual Report (AAR) summarises the work we have undertaken as the auditor for North York Moors National Park Authority (‘the Authority’) for the year ended 31 March 2025. Although this report is addressed to the Authority, it is designed to be read by a wider audience including members of the public and other external stakeholders.

Our responsibilities are defined by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice (‘the Code’) issued by the National Audit Office (‘the NAO’). The remaining sections of the AAR outline how we have discharged these responsibilities and the findings from our work. These are summarised below.



Opinion on the financial statements

We issued our audit report on [insert date - to be confirmed]. Our opinion on the financial statements was unqualified.



Value for Money arrangements

We did not identify any significant weaknesses in the Authority’s arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Section 3 provides our commentary on the Authority’s arrangements.

02

Audit of the financial statements

Our audit of the financial statements

Our audit was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code, and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs). The purpose of our audit is to provide reasonable assurance to users that the financial statements are free from material error. We do this by expressing an opinion on whether the statements are prepared, in all material respects, in line with the financial reporting framework applicable to the Authority and whether they give a true and fair view of the Authority’s financial position as at 31 March 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended. Our audit report, issued on [insert date- to be confirmed] gave an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

A summary of the significant risks we identified when undertaking our audit of the financial statements and the conclusions we reached on each of these is outlined in Appendix A. In this appendix we also outline the uncorrected misstatements we identified and any internal control recommendations we made.

Qualitative aspects of the Authority’s accounting practices

We reviewed the Authority’s accounting policies and disclosures and concluded they comply with the 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, appropriately tailored to the Authority’s circumstances.

Significant difficulties during the audit

There were no significant difficulties noted during the audit. We received the full co-operation of management during the audit.

Other reporting responsibilities

Reporting responsibility	Outcome
Narrative Report	We did not identify any inconsistencies between the content of the annual report and our knowledge of the Authority.
Annual Governance Statement	We did not identify any matters where, in our opinion, the governance statement did not comply with the guidance issued by CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

03

Our work on Value for Money
arrangements

VFM arrangements

Overall Summary



Approach to Value for Money arrangements work

We are required to consider whether the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The NAO issues guidance to auditors that underpins the work we are required to carry out and sets out the reporting criteria that we are required to consider. The reporting criteria are:



Financial sustainability - How the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services.



Governance - How the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks.



Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness - How the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

Our work is carried out in three main phases.

Phase 1 - Planning and risk assessment

At the planning stage of the audit, we undertake work so we can understand the arrangements that the Authority has in place under each of the reporting criteria; as part of this work we may identify risks of significant weaknesses in those arrangements.

We obtain our understanding of arrangements for each of the specified reporting criteria using a variety of information sources which may include:

- NAO guidance and supporting information
- Information from internal and external sources, including regulators
- Knowledge from previous audits and other audit work undertaken in the year
- Interviews and discussions with officers

Although we describe this work as planning work, we keep our understanding of arrangements under review and update our risk assessment throughout the audit to reflect emerging issues that may suggest there are further risks of significant weaknesses.

Phase 2 - Additional risk-based procedures and evaluation

Where we identify risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements, we design a programme of work to enable us to decide whether there are actual significant weaknesses in arrangements. We use our professional judgement and have regard to guidance issued by the NAO in determining the extent to which an identified weakness is significant.

We outline the risks that we have identified and the work we have done to address those risks on page 10.

Phase 3 - Reporting the outcomes of our work and our recommendations

We are required to provide a summary of the work we have undertaken and the judgments we have reached against each of the specified reporting criteria in this Auditor's Annual Report. We do this as part of our Commentary on VFM arrangements which we set out for each criteria later in this section.

We also make recommendations where we identify weaknesses in arrangements or other matters that require attention from the Authority. We refer to two distinct types of recommendation through the remainder of this report:

- **Recommendations arising from significant weaknesses in arrangements** - we make these recommendations for improvement where we have identified a significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Where such significant weaknesses in arrangements are identified, we report these (and our associated recommendations) at any point during the course of the audit.
- **Other recommendations** - we make other recommendations when we identify areas for potential improvement or weaknesses in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant, but which still require action to be taken.

The table on the following page summarises the outcome of our work against each reporting criteria, including whether we have identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements, or made other recommendations.

Overall summary by reporting criteria

Reporting criteria		Commentary page reference	Identified risks of significant weakness?	Actual significant weaknesses identified?	Other recommendations made?
	Financial sustainability	11	No	No	No
	Governance	14	No	No	No
	Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness	17	No	No	No

VFM arrangements

Financial Sustainability

How the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services



Risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements in relation to Financial Sustainability

We did not identify any risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements as part of our continuous planning procedures.

Overall commentary on Financial Sustainability

How the National Park Authority ensures that it identifies all the significant financial pressures that are relevant to its short and medium-term plans and builds these into them

The Authority faces a challenging financial position, mainly caused by uncertainties over funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which have been for flat cash for a number of years UNTIL 2025/26 in a period of high inflation and significant cost pressures. The uncertainty has been exacerbated by annual funding settlements, which make medium-term financial planning more difficult, and for 2025/26 DEFRA was one of the Government Departments needing to make cuts overall and the implications for the Authority were unclear.

Once again, the Authority was forced to set its 2025/26 Budget before DEFRA funding was known. In the event, DEFRA revenue funding reduced to £4.0m, but significant additional capital funding was made available and was a total of £1.5m.

The financial position has been carefully managed and there has been diversification of income sources to reduce the reliance on DEFRA core grant. Core DEFRA grant was £4.9m in 2024/25, compared to total income of £15.4m.

The Authority sets an Annual Budget and 5 Year Medium-Term Financial Strategy. These are considered by the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee and then considered further and approved by the full Authority.

We have reviewed the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for recent years, and the Annual Budget for 2024/25 and the Annual Budget for 2025/26. These reports were comprehensive and set out all the challenges facing the Authority and included a range of reasonable assumptions, including the budget pressures faced by the Authority and the options available to it. Reserve levels enable the financial position to be managed over the medium term.

Both the 2024/25 Budget and 2025/26 Budget that were approved by the Authority were balanced.

The outturn for 2024/25 was a surplus of £381k against gross expenditure of £15m.

Usable reserves at 31 March 2025 were a total of £7.178m (up from £7.166m in the previous year) (including s106 and external funding income received in advance), with a general fund balance of £365k and earmarked reserves of £6.813m.

The latest 2025/26 financial monitoring indicates a projected deficit of £43k for the year.

2026/27 budgeting is well underway.

The financial position is very challenging, which will require difficult decisions to be taken by the Authority to deliver savings and efficiencies and improve the medium-term position.

Financial monitoring takes place monthly at a detailed level by management and is reported quarterly to the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee.

The Authority has no borrowing.

How the National Park Authority plans to bridge its funding gaps and identifies achievable savings

The financial position has been carefully managed and there has been diversification of income sources to reduce the reliance on DEFRA core grant. Core DEFRA grant was £4.9m in 2024/25, compared to total income of £15.4m.

There are two large s106 agreements with mining companies that operate in the area of the national park. Income in relation to these agreements was £4m in 2024/25, with underspends on projects relating to this income carried forward as balances to be utilised in the next financial year.

The approach of the Authority is increasingly project based so that it can switch its resources to and from projects as and when needed, and project funding can help support the core costs of the Authority.

Overall commentary on the Financial Sustainability reporting criteria – continued

How the National Park Authority plans to bridge its funding gaps and identifies achievable savings (continued)

Financial modelling considers various scenarios, but the Authority does have sufficient flexibility to manage its financial position if DEFRA funding is cut further. Reserve levels enable the financial position to be managed effectively over the medium term.

There is a constant drive for efficiencies; examples of projects include new systems, retail improvements, visitor centre investment programmes and increasing car park capacity. Many of the savings come from day-to-day management and improvement to services, but the Authority also have a commercial role to develop earned income improvement opportunities. Future mitigation includes procurement efficiency, use of vehicles and plant, moving more services into project funded delivery as well as increasing fees and tariffs.

How the National Park Authority plans finances to support the sustainable delivery of services in accordance with strategic and statutory priorities

The key corporate plans for the National Park Authority are its Management Plan, the current version being 2022 to 2027 and its Business Plan which underpins this. Every national park must have a Management Plan, which sets out how the Authority and its partners will work together to achieve shared objectives for the future management of the national park.

The Business Plan sets out how the future vision in the Management Plan will be achieved, including the key priorities and milestones that need to be achieved.

The Annual Budget and 5 Year Medium-Term Financial Strategy effectively shows how resources are allocated to the achievement of these priorities.

Conclusion

We have not identified a significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements in relation to the financial sustainability reporting criteria.

How the National Park Authority ensures that its financial plan is consistent with other plans such as workforce, capital, investment, and other operational planning which may include working with other local public bodies as part of a wider system

The Authority monitors performance against the Business Plan and the achievement of its objectives on a quarterly and annual basis, with formal reporting through the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee and the full Authority. The Annual Budget and 5 Year Medium-Term Financial Strategy effectively shows how resources are allocated to the achievement of these priorities.

We did not identify any significant inconsistencies in the Authority's plans.

How the National Park Authority identifies and manages risks to financial resilience, e.g. unplanned changes in demand, including challenge of the assumptions underlying its plans

The risk management process monitors and manages the risks to the achievement of the objectives set out in the Management Plan, Business Plan and the Annual Budget and 5-Year Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Taken together, these arrangements provide a cohesive framework for the Authority to set, monitor and deliver its objectives within the resource constraints it faces.

VFM arrangements

Governance

How the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks



Risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements in relation to Governance

We did not identify any risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements as part of our continuous planning procedures.

Overall commentary on Governance

How the National Park Authority monitors and assesses risk and how the National Park Authority gains assurance over the effective operation of internal controls, including arrangements to prevent and detect fraud

Financial risk is assessed in the Budget and 5 Year Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The Authority has a Corporate Risk Register which is updated annually, including support from North Yorkshire Council, and approved by the full Authority and then progress is reported on quarterly to the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee.

The risk management process uses a matrix to identify a risk score after any mitigating actions. The risk management process covers many risks including cyber, S106 agreements, financial risks, and health and safety.

An internal audit function is in place. An Internal Audit Plan is discussed with the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee and agreed each year, with progress reporting and an Annual Internal Audit Report. Veritau provide internal audit services, and their opinion in respect of 2024/25 was:

“The overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the framework of governance, risk management and control operating in the Authority is that it provides Substantial Assurance. No reliance was placed on the work of other assurance providers in reaching this, and there are no significant control weaknesses which, in the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit, need to be considered for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement.”

There are appropriate systems of internal control in place and an anti-fraud culture has been fostered.

There have been no instances of suspected or reported fraud during 2024/25 and up to the current date.

The Authority produces an Annual Governance Statement and this is reviewed by the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee and approved by the Full Authority. The statement provides an overview of the control systems in place to give a high level of assurance over the effective operation of internal controls.

How the National Park Authority approaches and carries out its annual budget setting process

The budget setting process begins when Directors meet prior to production of the 5 Year Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Year 2 of the previous 5 Year Medium-Term Financial Strategy is taken, updated for latest assumptions, any changes in payroll or any known in year amendments. Meetings are then held with budget managers and Directors to run through the figures and see if there are any amendments needed or concerns to explore. Budget managers are encouraged to own their budgets – so they are empowered to make changes with the approval of their Director. This is then pulled together to see what the bottom-line position is. There is then a short period if there is a deficit to come together and discuss the challenges, and as a group of Directors seek options for further mitigation.

There is a Staff meeting each year near Christmas to present the Authority’s financial position to ensure that staff are all aware of the pressures and the role that they all play in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Authority and understand the reasons for and nature of the strategy.

The Authority is required to deliver a balanced budget so the impact of the budget on reserves over the budget period is reviewed and mitigating actions taken if necessary. A budget report is taken to Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee in February and scrutinised in detail. Any changes are taken on board and made before the budget report is taken to full Authority in March for further consideration and approval.

Overall commentary on the Governance reporting criteria - continued

How the National Park Authority ensures effective processes and systems are in place to ensure budgetary control; to communicate relevant, accurate and timely management information (including non-financial information where appropriate); supports its statutory financial reporting requirements; and ensures corrective action is taken where needed

Financial systems are in place, and there are appropriate Financial Regulations, that form the requirements of the Authority's system of internal control. A detailed monthly financial review is carried out by the Senior Leadership Team. Budget managers are involved in budget monitoring. The implementation of a new financial system is expected to improve the reporting functionality for budget reporting.

Financial monitoring is reported quarterly to the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee.

How the National Park Authority ensures it makes properly informed decisions, supported by appropriate evidence and allowing for challenge and transparency. This includes arrangements for effective challenge from those charged with governance/audit committee

The Authority has a comprehensive set of Governance arrangements in place. The full Authority is the key decision maker. There are sub-committees including the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee and a Planning Committee.

The Authority has the full set of features of a Governance framework which we would expect to see including Codes of Conduct for officers and Members, Constitutional documents including appropriate standing orders for the conduct of the Authority's business, schemes of delegation and financial regulations.

Review of agenda papers and attendance at meetings have demonstrated to us that the reports presented are comprehensive so that informed decisions can be made, and that there is effective challenge provided by Members and appropriate accountability from management.

How the National Park Authority monitors and ensures appropriate standards, such as meeting legislative/regulatory requirements and standards in terms of officer or member behaviour (such as gifts and hospitality or declarations / conflicts of interests)

Where reports are taken to the full Authority or other Committee meetings, reports consider the standards required of the Authority, including ensuring that the Authority meets its legislative / regulatory obligations.

The role of the three statutory positions of Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer helps ensure that all matters that should be considered are properly considered by the Authority and evidenced when decisions are taken.

The Authority has a Code of Conduct that all staff are expected to adhere to. There were no significant issues relating to officer conduct in 2024/25 and up to the current date.

There is a Code of Conduct for Authority Members. There were no issues relating to Member conduct in 2024/25 up to the current date.

Conclusion

We have not identified a significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements in relation to the governance reporting criteria.

VFM arrangements

Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness

How the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services



Risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements in relation to Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness

We did not identify any risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements as part of our continuous planning procedures.

Overall commentary on Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness

How financial and performance information has been used to assess performance to identify areas for improvement

The key corporate plans for the National Park Authority are its Management Plan, the current version being 2022 to 2027 and its Business Plan covering the same period. Every national park must have a Management Plan, which sets out how the Authority and its partners will work together to achieve shared objectives for the future management of the national park.

The business plan sets out the National Park Authority delivery which will help to achieve the future vision in the Management Plan, including the key priorities and milestones that need to be achieved.

The Authority monitors performance against the Business plan on an ongoing basis and the achievement of its objectives are reported on a regular basis.

The Annual Budget and 5 Year Medium-Term Financial Strategy effectively shows how resources are allocated to the achievement of these priorities.

The risk management process monitors and manages the risks to the achievement of these objectives.

Taken together, these arrangements provide a cohesive framework for the Authority to set, monitor and deliver its objectives within the constraints it faces. It also enables it to identify areas for improvement and reflect these in its plans and monitor the delivery of the improvements.

There is a full scorecard and Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reporting process to assess organisational performance including financial indicators – this is reported to Members and scrutinised by the Senior Leadership Team. All reports include consideration of financial implications where applicable – so this is a key part of the assessment on any business cases or issues.

Performance improvements are an ongoing process with a responsibility of everyone in the Authority to look for ways to deliver the best services possible. Financial deficits mean that all services are reviewed to identify improved ways of delivery. The Authority are now looking at systems and how they can help improve efficiency – an example being the replacement of the finance system which has taken place in 2025/26. The Authority have also worked strategically with other National Park Authorities including recruiting key expertise in areas such as performance monitoring. It continues to seek opportunities across a range of strategic areas.

How the National Park Authority ensures it delivers its role within significant partnerships, engages with stakeholders it has identified, monitors performance against expectations, and ensures action is taken where necessary to improve

The Authority has wide ranging partnerships including with DEFRA, local government and a range of other national and local bodies.

Working with partners and as a partner is one of the central pillars of the Authority's strategy. It is laid out in the Management Plan and Business Plan. The Management Plan is a document for the place which has been pulled together alongside a wide range of stakeholders and partners.

There is a twice-yearly Management Plan meeting with all stakeholders. In addition, there are many examples of meeting with stakeholder groups throughout the year, including parish forums, specific interest groups, other National Parks (including National Park England and the support that the Authority provides to it) and North Yorkshire Council and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

In addition, within projects there are partnering funding bodies such as Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency, National Trust, etc. They are all parties collaborated with on project outcomes, and those working relationships at the project level including have led to improved performance and outcomes reporting. Other clear stakeholders are residents in the National Park; communications are through Moors Messenger as well as established communications channels. These channels are increasing in importance to tie in with brand and reputation which will enhance the Authority's working with partners.

Overall commentary on the Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness reporting criteria - continued

Where the National Park Authority commissions or procures services, how the National Park Authority ensures that this is done in accordance with relevant legislation, professional standards and internal policies, and how the National Park Authority assesses whether it is realising the expected benefits

The Authority has an appropriate system in place for procurement of services, with Financial Regulations incorporating the requirements for contracting and tendering, and the letting of contracts through a procurement portal.

Procurement governance is set out in the financial regulations. This has been done in conjunction with North Yorkshire Council to ensure this adheres to relevant legislation. The Authority uses the e-Tenders system for tender exercises.

In the last year the Authority have carried out procurement and contract training for staff – including how to ensure the right balance of quality and price to get to the right outcome.

Conclusion

We have not identified a significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements in relation to improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness reporting criteria.

Other reporting responsibilities

Matters we report by exception

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 provides auditors with specific powers where matters come to our attention that, in their judgement, require specific reporting action to be taken. Auditors have the power to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to the law; and
- issue an advisory notice.

We have not exercised any of these statutory reporting powers.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account. We did not receive any such objections or questions.

Reporting to the NAO in respect of Whole of Government Accounts consolidation data

The NAO, as group auditor, normally requires external auditors to complete a WGA Assurance Statement in respect of the Authority's consolidation data.

However, the Authority is exempt from making a submission of WGA consolidation data as it has Minor Body Status. As a result of this, we do not need to complete a WGA Assurance Statement.

05

Audit fees and other services

Fees for our work as the Authority’s auditor **WE WILL UPDATE THIS INFORMATION WHEN WE HAVE COMPLETED THE AUDIT**

We reported our proposed fees for the delivery of our work under the Code of Audit Practice in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, dated 14 August 2025, and presented to the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee on 1 September 2025. Having completed our work for the 2024/25 financial year, we can confirm that our fees are as follows [To be updated on completion]:

Area of work	2024/25 fees	2023/24 fees
Code Audit Work (PSAA Scale Fee)	£48,845	£41,766
Additional fees in respect of ISA 315 (risks of material misstatement) and ISA 240 (auditor’s responsibilities relating to fraud)	£0	£4,710
Additional fees in respect of review of the impact of the Authority not completing the revaluation of land and buildings within a five-year period and the consequences for our audit reporting	-	£3,500
Additional fees in respect of 2024/25 audit	To be confirmed *	-
Total fees	To be confirmed *	£ 49,976

** The following are areas for potential additional fee in 2024/25 that we are aware of at this stage. These were not reflected in the scale fee set by PSAA for 2024/25. The quantum of any additional fee can not be estimated at this stage:*

- Additional work required in relation to the implementation of IFRS 16, Leases.*

Fees for other work

We confirm that we have not undertaken any non-audit services for the Authority in the year.

Appendices

Appendix A: Further information on our audit of the Authority's financial statements

Significant risks and audit findings

As part of our audit of the Authority, we identified significant risks to our opinion on the financial statements during our risk assessment. The table below summarises these risks, how we responded and our findings.

Risk	Our audit response and findings
Management override of controls This is a mandatory significant risk on all audits due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur. Management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur there is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud on all audits. You should assess this risk as part of your oversight of the financial reporting process.	We did not identify any significant issues to report.
Net defined benefit liability valuation The financial statements contain material pension entries in respect of retirement benefits. The calculation of these pension figures can be subject to significant volatility and includes estimates based upon a complex interaction of actuarial assumptions. There is a risk that the assumptions and methodology used in valuing the Authority's pension obligation are not reasonable or appropriate to the Authority's circumstances. This could have a material impact to the net pension liability in 2024/25.	We did not identify any significant issues to report.
Valuation of property, plant and equipment The financial statements contain material entries on the balance sheet as well as material disclosure notes in relation to the Authority's holding of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE). The Authority employs a valuation expert to provide information on valuations, however there remains a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with the (re)valuations of PPE due to the significant judgements and number of variables involved.	We did not identify any significant issues to report.

Appendix A: Further information on our audit of the Authority’s financial statements

Appendix A: Further information on our audit of the Authority’s financial statements

Related Parties – Declaration of Interest

Description of deficiency

Management was unable to provide the related party returns for 6 Members which are collated as part of the year end accounts process.

Potential effects

There is a risk that undisclosed relationships may lead to misstatement of the financial statements if related party transactions are not properly identified, classified and disclosed. This also limits our ability to verify the completeness of related party disclosures.

Recommendation

We recommend that all Members are reminded to comply with the year end related party process to ensure timely identification of related parties for all Members. This process should incorporate periodic reminders, and compliance monitoring, to ensure completeness of the disclosures.

Management response

It can prove challenging to get responses from Members to the Related Parties Questionnaire at year end. Of the 20 responses, only 6 were returned on the first request. A further 8 were returned following reminders or paper copies being supplied at meetings. 6 were not received despite multiple reminders. Management will work with Members to find a more workable solution and review best methods of communication to ensure questionnaires can be completed and returned.

Appendix A: Further information on our audit of the Authority’s financial statements

Disposal of Fixed assets

Description of deficiency

In a sample selected for the disposal of assets, management was unable to provide documentation to support the disposal of a car for £6k. The process followed was intended to maximise the receipt for the Authority but this was not carried out in accordance with the established process.

Potential effects

There is a risk that the accounts may be misstated, assets could be disposed of at less than their fair value, and it heightens the risk of misappropriation or unauthorised sales.

Recommendation

We recommended that the defined process is consistently followed.

Management response

There has been inconsistency in approach to the disposal of assets. Whilst management believe there is no risk to value for money being achieved in disposals, it would benefit from a more centrally controlled and regulated process, so we will write a clearer policy for this and ensure oversight of disposals greater than £5k from the Director of Corporate Services role.

Appendix A: Further information on our audit of the Authority’s financial statements

Description of deficiency

The CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 requires a full revaluation of land and buildings to be undertaken at least every 5 years. A full revaluation was due to be undertaken for the 2023/24 accounts, but management had thought that the next review was due for the 2024/25 accounts. In mitigation, the Authority has undertaken an annual revaluation each year of its most significant assets which make up a large percentage of its overall portfolio. We held discussions with management and the Authority’s external valuer to understand the implications for assets that had not been revalued since March 2019

Current year update:

Full Revaluation has been performed this year. We are pleased to report that the recommendations have been fully addressed and there are no residual matters outstanding.

Potential effects

This could result in a material misstatement of property, plant and equipment and heritage assets in the financial statements.

We had to carry out additional work to satisfy ourselves that property, plant and equipment and heritage assets were not materially impacted by this deficiency in the 2023/24 accounts. We obtained the assurance we needed in relation to this, but it is important that this issue is addressed in the preparation of the 2024/25 financial statements.

Recommendation

The Authority must ensure that a full revaluation of its land and buildings is undertaken for the 2024/25 financial statements.

The Authority should consider indexing valuations of those assets that are not subject to an annual revaluation each year to avoid the risk of creeping materiality. These assets can then be subject to a full revaluation process every 5 years.

Management response

The work to commission the valuer to carry out a full valuation of assets for 2024/25 has already started. In order to avoid the error in the future relating to the timing of the 5-year full valuation exercise, a line has been added to the closedown timetable to specifically check what valuation requirement is due at the point of commissioning the valuation work. In addition, whilst the desktop valuation process between full valuations was one agreed with previous auditors, there is merit at looking at the process ahead of 2025/26 in relation to either/or indexing assets in the intervening period or rotating the valued assets to ensure that the portfolio does receive full valuation on a sampling basis at least once over the 5 year period.

Appendix A: Further information on our audit of the Authority’s financial statements

Description of deficiency

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Annual Governance Statement to be published alongside the draft financial statements and subject to the public inspection requirements. Detailed guidance on the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement recognises that the Annual Governance Statement may not have been approved when the draft financial statements are published, but in these cases requires a draft Annual Governance Statement to be published at that stage which can then be updated when it has been approved. The Authority did not include a draft Annual Governance Statement in its draft financial statements for 2023/24 and a draft was only prepared later in the year

Current year update:

Management has published the draft Annual Governance Statement within the draft 2024/25 Financial statements. We are pleased to report that the recommendations have been fully addressed and there are no residual matters outstanding.

Potential effects

The Authority could be challenged in relation to meeting its statutory responsibilities under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Recommendation

The Authority must ensure that a draft Annual Governance Statement is included in the draft 2024/25 financial statements when they are published and the public inspection period is initiated.

Management response

This will be brought in draft to May Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee from now onwards so that it can be published in draft form alongside the financial statements.

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North York Moors National Park Authority

Monday 15 December 2025

Item 8, Statement of Financial Accounts 2024/25, Annual Governance Statement and Letter of Representation

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To present to Members for approval a proposed final Statement of Financial Accounts (SoFA) for the year 2024/25 including the annual governance statement and audit opinion from Forvis Mazars LLP – included at **appendix A**. In addition, at **appendix B** is the Letter of Representation which is to be signed at the meeting also.
- 1.2 There are two recommendations in the report, dependent upon the completion of the audit and receipt of the pension's assurance letter by the date of the meeting.

2. Background

- 2.1 As a result of the Environment Act 1995 the North York Moors National Park Authority is recognised as a separate corporate body which is required to produce its own SoFA.
- 2.2 The draft SoFA including the Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Section 151 Officer on 29 July 2025 and was published on the Authority website on the same date. The proposed final SoFA, which also includes the Annual Governance Statement is attached in **appendix A**. The format and content of this document complies with the CIPFA IFRS Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (The Code). The Code sets out the proper accounting practice required for the SoFA, within the statutory framework of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
- 2.3 Following issues in completion of audits across the whole Local Government sector, a backstop date of 27 February 2026 applies for the 2024/25 audit.
- 2.4 Subject to sign off at the meeting, the Authority and Forvis Mazars LLP will have completed the audit within the statutory dates, avoiding the issue of a modified or disclaimed opinion.

3. Audit of the accounts

- 3.1 The audit has been conducted by Forvis Mazars LLP. The audit is made up of two parts: the financial audit of the Statement of Financial Accounts and the value for money audit. The annual Audit Report can be found under Item 7 on this agenda.
- 3.2 The outturn figures reported to Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee in May 2025 have not been adjusted or amended.

- 3.3 The audit at the point of publication is not fully concluded, but it is expected to be completed by the time of the meeting so that the accounts can be signed off in person. There are two small areas of testing to complete, plus the pensions assurance from the audit of the North Yorkshire Pension Scheme is still awaited. Whilst it is expected that this will be completed, there are two sets of recommendations should this not be the case. This is laid out in section 7 of the report.
- 3.4 There were no unadjusted misstatements. A number of disclosure amendments were made as a result of the audit which are summarised in the Audit Completion Report.
- 3.5 The Audit Completion Report highlights two control issues to address for the 25/26 audit. Details of these can be found in the Audit Completion Report including a management response and action plan.

4. Financial and staffing implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 5.1 It is a requirement for the Authority to produce a Statement of Accounts and complete and external audit each year. A positive audit conclusion is one of the key financial targets and provides evidence of good financial controls and financial sustainability at the Authority.

6. Legal and sustainability implications

- 6.1 There are no legal issues as a result of this report.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 There are two recommendations in the report, dependent upon whether the pensions assurance is completed in time for the meeting.
- 7.2 **Recommendation Option 1** : If the pensions assurance is complete and the audit report and Statement of Financial Accounts are final then :-

Members approve the Statement of Final Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 and for documents to be signed as follows:

Statement of Financial Accounts – Chair of the Authority

Annual Governance Statement – Chair of the Authority and Chief Executive

Letter of Representation – Chief Financial Officer

- 7.3 **Recommendation Option 2** : If the pensions assurance is not complete and therefore there is potential for change to the audit report and Statement of Financial Accounts then :-

Members delegate signing of the accounts as laid out in 7.2 to the Chief Executive and S151 Officer of the Authority in liaison with the Chair of the Authority and the

Chair of FRASC in the event of no material changes to the accounts as a result of the pensions assurance letter. If there is material change, then the report will be brought back to Finance, Risk and Audit Standards Committee in February 2026.

Contact Officer:

Pete Williams

Director of Corporate Services (s151)

01439 772700

Due to it's size appendix A, SoFA, will appear as a separate document



Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

Date: To be confirmed [as close to the sign-off of the audit as possible]

Gavin Barker
Audit Director
Forvis Mazars LLP

Dear Mr Barker

North York Moors National Park Authority - Audit for Year Ended 31 March 2025

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of North York Moors National Park Authority for the period ended 31 March 2025 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), and applicable law.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

- access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Authority you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Chief Financial Officer that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information.

As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Authority and committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Authority's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at current and fair value

I confirm that the methods, significant assumptions and the data used by the Authority in making the accounting estimates, including those measured at current and fair value, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

I confirm

- that the significant judgments made in making the accounting estimates have taken into account all relevant information of which management is aware;
- the consistency and appropriateness in the selection or application of the methods, assumptions and data used by management in making the accounting estimates;
- that the assumptions appropriately reflect management's intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, when relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures;
- that disclosures related to accounting estimates, including disclosures describing estimation uncertainty, are complete and are reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework;
- that appropriate specialised skills or expertise has been applied in making the accounting estimates; and
- that no subsequent event requires adjustment to the accounting estimates and related disclosures included in the financial statements.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and

- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Authority have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Authority has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Chief Financial Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and I believe I have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Authority's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Authority's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment assets below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Charges on assets

All the Authority's assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

Future commitments

The Authority has no plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law, require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Impacts of Russian Forces entering Ukraine

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of Russian Forces entering Ukraine on the Council, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and no disclosures are required in the financial statements.

Tariffs

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of changes in US trade policy in respect of tariffs, including the impact of reciprocal tariffs by other countries, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and no disclosures are required in the financial statements.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Authority will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Annual Governance Statement

I am satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Authority's risk assurance and governance framework, and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect my understanding of the Authority's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

Unadjusted misstatements [only include this section if applicable]

We confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

Arrangements to achieve economy, effectiveness and efficiency in Use of Resources
(Value for Money arrangements)

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all information that would be considered relevant to your work on value for money arrangements.

Yours faithfully

Pete Williams
Corporate Services Director (s151)

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2025

Item 9, Strategy and Business Plan six-month progress report

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To report on the progress towards annual milestones and 5-year objectives in the Business Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Authority's Strategy and Business Plan covers a five-year period and was approved by National Park Authority (NPA) Members in March 2022. It sets out the Authority's strategic direction and the work that the NPA will undertake in contributing to the delivery of the National Park Management Plan.
- 2.2 The plan is organised into the six Management Plan outcomes and an organisational outcome. Climate change and nature recovery; nature-rich, biodiverse landscape; and health and wellbeing are priority outcomes.
- 2.3 The Outcomes are divided into objectives, many of which are taken from the Management Plan. These are divided into five-year objectives ('Delivery by 2027'), under which are annual milestones for 2025/26 that were agreed by the NPA in March 2025. These represent the work that the NPA will deliver in this financial year.
- 2.4 The Annex to this report shows a commentary on progress to Q2 2025/26. The milestones and five-year objectives are assigned a status from: target met, underway and on target, underway but behind target, or no data available/setting baseline.
- 2.5 Where there is no milestone or an objective has been subsumed or cancelled, this is marked as 'not applicable' or 'cancelled'. These are not included in the statistics in section 3, below.

3. Progress against annual milestones and five-year objectives

- 3.1 66% of all 2025/26 annual milestones and 66% of priority milestones have met the target or are underway and on target. Table 1 shows the status of the milestones by outcome and indicates priorities.
- 3.2 82% of five-year objectives (delivery by 2027) have met or are on target. Table 2 shows the status of the five-year objectives by outcome.
- 3.3 Good progress is being made towards the climate change and nature recovery and health and wellbeing priority outcomes. A minimum of 66% of annual milestones and 86% of five-year objectives have met or are on target.
- 3.4 Slightly more limited progress is being made with the nature-rich, biodiverse landscape priority (58% milestones, 57% five-year objectives target met/on

target). This is due to delays with creating wildlife-rich habitat, woodland restoration, the Bransdale Conservation Management Plan launch and the Linking Levisham delivery phase. Limited progress is being made with the non-priority outcome for thriving local communities, largely due to the Local Plan review and Design Code being behind schedule.

Table 1. Annual milestone status by outcome (%)

Outcomes	Target met/on target	Behind target	No data/baseline
Organisational outcome	71%	16%	13%
Priority: A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery	73%	27%	0%
Priority: A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape	58%	42%	0%
A landscape rich in heritage and highly valued for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity	82%	18%	0%
Priority: A place that lifts the nation's health and wellbeing	66%	32%	2%
A place that supports a diverse and innovative low carbon economy	67%	33%	0%
A place of great beauty where local communities thrive	14%	71%	14%
Total (priorities)	66%	33%	1%
Total (all)	66%	29%	5%

Note: percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Table 2. Five-year objective (delivery by 2027) status by outcome (%)

Outcomes	Target met/on target	Behind target	No data/baseline
Organisational outcome	86%	14%	0%
Priority: A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery	86%	14%	0%
Priority: A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape	57%	43%	0%
A landscape rich in heritage and highly valued for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity	100%	0%	0%
Priority: A place that lifts the nation's health and wellbeing	86%	9%	5%
A place that supports a diverse and innovative low carbon economy	100%	0%	0%
A place of great beauty where local communities thrive	25%	75%	0%
Total (priorities)	81%	17%	3%
Total (all)	82%	17%	1%

Note: percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

4. Significant priority milestones achieved

- 4.1 The following significant milestones have been achieved so far in 2025/26, under the three priority Outcomes:

- Invasive Non-Native Species control undertaken on Esk and Rye (Milestone 46).
- NYMNP Nature Recovery Plan completed and published on the NYMNPA website (Milestone 52).
- Three workshops held with moorland communities (Milestone 62).
- 'A Beacon for the Arts' festival was delivered in April 2025 (Milestone 76).
- Two permanent art installations completed at Danby Lodge and Sutton Bank National Park Centres (Milestone 78).
- Installation of the Danby Lodge National Park Centre Changing Places facility (Milestone 87).
- Three new Explorer cycle routes launched in June 2025 at Sutton Bank National Park Centre (Milestone 118).
- 'Make a Difference', a visitor-giving/ business donations scheme launched over the summer (Milestone 121).

5. Significant priority milestones that are behind target

5.1 The following significant milestones are underway but behind target in 2025/26, under the three priority Outcomes:

- Hedgerow and peat restoration targets (Milestones 43-44).
- Creation of new wildlife-rich habitat (Milestone 53).
- Restoration of woodland (Milestone 55).
- Bransdale Conservation Management Plan launch (56).
- Completion of Linking Levisham recovery pilot (Milestones 59 and 61).

6. Other significant milestones achieved

6.1 The following significant milestones have been achieved under the non-priority outcomes in 2025/26:

- E-newsletter audience has increased (Milestone 1) and the number of website visits (sessions) has exceeded the annual target (Milestone 6).
- New finance system go-live (Milestone 33).
- Upgrade of toilet facilities at Hutton le Hole Car park (Milestone 31).
- Three heritage skills training events held, 1 on thatching and 2 on lime mortar (Milestone 66).
- Four 'dark skies friendly' community engagement/improvement schemes delivered (Milestone 73).

7. Conclusions

7.1 Good progress is being made overall, and towards two priority outcomes (climate change and nature recovery; health and wellbeing).

- 7.2 Slightly more limited progress is being made towards the nature-rich, biodiverse landscape priority outcome. This is due to delays with achieving our deliverables relating to habitats and ecosystem restoration.

8. Financial and staffing implications

- 8.1 None.

9. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 9.1 The Strategy and Business Plan sets our contribution to the delivery of the Management Plan.

10. Legal and sustainability implications

- 10.1 None.

11. Recommendation

- 11.1 That Members note the contents of this report and offer any comments.

Contact Officer:

Kate Clark

Performance Management Officer

01439 772700

Annex: Strategy and Business Plan 2022 – 27, 6-month update 2025/26

Organisational outcome - A high profile, contemporary organisation, fit for purpose

Objective 1 – Raise profile and brand

Raise the profile and position the brand of the North York Moors, so that more people recognise and appreciate the special nature of the National Park.

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Increased awareness of the North York Moors National Park.	A ‘caring’ mailing list has been introduced for nature and wildlife, our e-newsletter audience has increased, and the open rate is above the industry standard. Successful annual campaigns have increased awareness of the National Park, and three campaigns are currently underway in 2025/26.	Underway and on target
Milestone 1 2025/26	Increase existing e-newsletter audiences by 10% (visitor, arts and nature/wildlife ‘caring’), maintaining above industry standard open rate of 38%.	E-newsletter audiences have increased by 19.7% with an average open rate of 42%.	Underway and on target
Milestone 2 2025/26	Deliver three communications campaigns that help to position the profile and reputation of the North York Moors and the NP. - Community engagement on climate action. - Landscape-scale change (encompassing nature recovery). - Experience life, unplugged (health & wellbeing focused destination campaign).	Our three communications campaigns are all underway. Community engagement on climate action has focused on the GrubsUp! project, which has been on the road, using hands-on activities (1,000 blue hearts for children to decorate) to start climate/nature conversations at the various summer country shows the Authority attends. This created high-volume, face-to-face engagement converting awareness into actions. GrubsUp! also featured in the July edition of LookWild, a National Parks UK newsletter. Landscape-scale change activity has ensured that legacy content from the Ryevitalise project is prominent on our website, with linkages to new REConnect delivery. Public events and activities are underway to keep communities involved as REConnect goes forward. Comms input into the development stage of Linking Levisham has been embedded early, including a robust interpretation plan that centres community voice and clear storytelling.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
		‘Experience life, unplugged’ campaign – our main tourism campaign for the National Park went live for its second year in September 2025. Refreshed assets met familiar digital platform-advertising across Google and social media channels, while a new contract for Out Of Home advertising has seen placements across transport networks (buses, trains and transport hubs), meaning a wider range of public transport users are being targeted. The previous year’s two-hour drive time [from the National Park] of targeting the adverts has been extended to Manchester, Newcastle and Edinburgh.	
Milestone 3 2025/26	Increase unprompted awareness of the National Park by non-visitors above the 2024 Baseline (9%).	2025 figures will not be available until Q4 2025/26.	No data available/setting baseline
Delivery by 2027	Complete the rollout of the National Park’s brand including signage and vehicle branding.	To date (since 2022/23), signage has been completed at Danby Lodge and Sutton Bank. 23 vehicles have been branded since 2022 (some may no longer be in service).	Underway and on target
Milestone 4 2025/26	Signage scheme/interpretation completed at nine National Park car parks.	Designs for signage for the car parks at Thornton le Dale, Grosmont, Newton Under Roseberry and Cawthorn Roman Camps are complete and in production. Designs for new complementary information points are underway. Audits for car parks at Hutton le Hole, Goathland, Hole of Horcum, Chop Gate are now complete with design work to commence shortly. Signage for four smaller car parks (Blue Bank, Sledgates, Boggle Hole, Ravenscar (toilets only) and White Horse Bank) is also underway.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Increase website traffic, social media engagement and reach.	Our new website was launched in August 2023 and in the first half of 2025/26, sessions and user numbers are on target. Our TikTok channel was launched in April 2024. Video views increased significantly in 2024/25 (279%). In the first half of 2025/26 video views and social media engagements are at their lowest quarterly level since 2024/25, however levels are still well above 2022/23.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 5 2025/26	Increase engagement (including video views) on social media by 10%. Baseline (2024): Engagements (including video views) = 4,258,196.	Total engagements reached 1,612,011 (April - September). Video views dropped by 77% over this period due to fewer videos being created and fewer videos were posted through late August and into September (at the peak of the wildfire). This was appropriate as our messaging was more focused around visitors keeping away from the wildfire area.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 6 2025/26	Increase website reach by 10% above 2024 baseline: - Sessions (number of visits to the website) 809,860. - Users (number of different people who visited) 534,252.	Sessions for the first six months of the year are 965,945, an increase of 19%. Unique users for the first six months of the year are 348,472.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Enhance our offer at National Park Centres.	To date, the See Moor project components, including a Tramper route, art trails, events, sensory spots and a reflective area, were delivered or installed at Sutton Bank by March 2025. Danby Lodge playground was installed in June 2025. A retail profitability plan has been created. Visitor numbers at the National Park Centres are reported to Committee in the Quarterly Performance Scorecard.	Underway and on target
Milestone 7 2025/26	Implement new retail strategy.	The retail profitability plan has been created and is underway across both our National Park Centres, with a performance assessment scheduled for October.	Underway and on target
Milestone 8 2025/26	Explore the viability of Sutton Bank Park Run/Tramper Loop and achieving planning.	Various feasibility discussions have been held with stakeholders and potential contractors. A viable route has been identified for a Tramper route, and a planning application is being prepared. Park Run remains more challenging due to their specific route requirements.	Underway and on target

Objective 2 - Employment and volunteering experience

Provide an employment and volunteering experience which supports people to thrive, is inclusive and actively engages with the wider National Park family.

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Deliver an Organisational Development Plan which sets out an approach to staff and volunteer communication which is clear about what we want to achieve and does so making best use of the available technology.	The ODP was produced and published in 2023 (March National Park Authority meeting). An external Health and Safety Audit was completed, and the report was made available to members in March 2025. A new staff performance development approach to recognition and rewards was implemented, a staff survey improvement plan was agreed and ten core HR policies were reviewed in 2024/25.	Target met
No milestone 2025/26	See milestones below.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Delivery by 2027	Blended working and desk sharing arrangements that provide opportunities for better professional interaction.	Six hot desks were established at Danby Lodge (2024/25), and consultation with staff on internal layout of new HQ and depot was completed prior to seeking planning consent. A working patterns survey was completed in 2025.	Underway and on target
Milestone 9 2025/26	Develop a change management programme in readiness for the move from the Old Vicarage to a full desk sharing system.	A survey has been completed to understand employees' typical working patterns and office space use to in readiness of developing a change management plan.	Underway and on target
Milestone 10 2025/26	Initiate the active travel plan in relation to promoting car sharing, use of bikes etc in readiness for moving to Riccal Drive.	This will be commenced in line with property review decisions.	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Benchmarked salaries in difficult to recruit to work areas, combined with updating the appraisal process and linkage to pay.	The staff turnover target was met in 2022/23 (and is now monitored in the Quarterly Performance Scorecard, reported to Committee). In 2024/25 a new approach to staff recognition, 'bonus' awards and salary progression were implemented.	Underway and on target
Milestone 11 2025/26	Benchmark planning salaries with other public sector roles.	This work is planned to be undertaken in Quarter 4. This is to allow the Head of People to undertake NJC scheme job evaluation training.	No data available/setting baseline
Milestone 12 2025/26	Monitor the effectiveness of the revised performance development process.	This is currently underway. The Head of People has reviewed feedback from the latest performance development reviews and has developed a set of actions in response. A recurring theme in the feedback relates to the paperwork and layout of the process, particularly concerns around the sign-off stage.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 13 2025/26	Undertake annual staff survey and develop action plan as a result.	The annual staff survey was completed in January 2025. A concise action plan has since been developed and agreed upon by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). One key area of focus identified is internal communication. To explore this further, a pulse survey is planned to gain deeper insights. Overall, the staff survey results were very positive, indicating that staff feel supported and valued within the organisation.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Staff training programme to develop leadership and project management skills.	Implementation of the corporate leadership programme was paused from 2022/23 to allow for urgent work on the appraisal and rewards programme. The programme has restarted in 2025, with delivery due to start in early 2026. Project management training has started, with the first cohort completing training in 2025. Work on provision of recruitment and EDI training is ongoing.	Underway and on target
Milestone 14 2025/26	Select supplier and commence delivery of leadership programme.	The first cohort of project management training has been completed and received positive feedback from participants. This is now being rolled out to a second cohort, and a plan is being developed to enable new employees to benefit from the principles laid out in the training and ensure consistency in project management methodology across the authority. A supplier has been selected to deliver Leadership Development training. This is now in the co-design phase with delivery aimed to commence early 2026	Underway and on target
Milestone 15 2025/26	Provide training for all those engaged in recruitment and selection.	The Head of People, appointed in May 2025, has been observing recruitment processes to gain a clear understanding of current practices within the Authority. Additionally, a joint advertising framework for national parks has been out to tender during Q2. Confirmation of the selected supplier is pending, and once finalised, training will be tailored to align with the framework to ensure relevance and consistency.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 16 2025/26	Deliver Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training that is appropriate for the Authority and the work that it undertakes.	A supplier has been selected to deliver the EDI training. The training sessions are scheduled to take place in January and February 2026.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Maintain our current offer and develop new opportunities for training and employing young people in the National Park.	North Yorkshire Moors Railway funded three Level 2 apprentices from September 2022 – August 2024 and further funding was agreed to August 2025. S106 funding was secured for four Level 4 ranger apprentices. Level 7 planning apprentices are included in the core budget. In 2023/24 a new apprenticeship post was made available in the National Trails team funded through s106 and National Trails UK.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 17 2025/26	Assess Government's planned changes to level 7 apprenticeships and redevelop our training programmes accordingly.	The Authority currently offers Level 7 apprenticeships within the Planning department. Two Level 7 apprentices have been recruited to start in September 2025, ahead of the Government's planned changes taking effect in January 2026. The Head of People is actively engaging with the university that provides our apprenticeship training to determine the most suitable route for continuing this programme. The university is contesting the decision to restrict entry to those under 22, and we are exploring the pathway to planning route to meet future training needs.	Underway and on target
Milestone 18 2025/26	Develop sustainable funding streams for all practical apprentice programmes and implement revised Countryside Work national apprenticeship standard.	The Countryside Worker national apprenticeship standard has been revised, with the Authority actively supporting Skills England in this process. The updated standard has now been submitted and is awaiting formal approval. While alternative funding options are being explored to support practical apprenticeship programmes, no viable solutions have been identified at this stage.	Underway but behind target

Objective 3 – Environment and systems

Ensure our working environment and systems are efficient and minimize our negative impact on the environment.

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	NPA net Scope 1 and 2 emissions to fall by 75% by 2027.	Actions to reduce our carbon emissions and changes in Authority building usage led to further reductions in emissions that were evident in the 24/25 data. Overall, there has been a reduction in combined net Scope 1 and 2 emissions of 7.4% from the last reporting year (23/24). The Authority's Decarbonisation Plan was adopted in 2023/24 and was updated with progress to date in 2024/25. In 2024/25, net Scope 1 and 2 emissions were 55% lower than the 2021/22 level.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 19 2025/26	Trial new Defra dashboard for collecting and reporting organisational emissions.	We have attended Defra workshops to provide feedback on the new tool and have used it in internal reporting. The new tool is now available to the Defra family and will assist in our reporting against climate targets.	Target met
Milestone 20 2025/26	Ensure net zero measures are incorporated into new build HQ if approval is given.	Pending decision on new HQ.	No data available/setting baseline
Milestone 21 2025/26	Develop and deliver the Climate Action Plan	In June 2025 we delivered a CAP workshop to the Partnership Delivery Group as well as additional attendees. The outcomes will be incorporated in the draft CAP to be released in January 2025.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	New Procurement framework and policy takes into account environmental credentials of suppliers.	Procurement framework and policy completed in 2023/24. Sustainable Procurement guidelines were briefed at all department meetings in 2024/25.	Target met
Milestone 22 2025/26	Complete.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Delivery by 2027	Implement the outcomes of the property review in relation to Helmsley-based premises.	Planning application for a new headquarters in Helmsley was approved in January 2025. A final business case relating to office premises is pending and will be considered before the end of this financial year.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 23 2025/26	Present business case to members to seek approval to build the new headquarters.	It is expected that the business case will be put forward to Members in a Special NPA in January 2026. In June 2025 Members approved the proposal to redevelop the Old Print Works as the replacement of Sawmill Lane. Construction started in September and is on schedule to complete on time in March 2026.	Underway and on Target
Milestone 24 2025/26	Subject to approval of business case, develop and oversee the delivery of the construction programme to commence in 25/26 and be completed in 26/27.	Business Case being presented in Jan 2026.	No data available/setting baseline
Milestone 25 2025/26	Subject to approval of business case, develop and commence delivery of the involvement and engagement programme with local residents and, separately, with staff.	Business Case being presented in Jan 2026.	No data available/setting baseline

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Replace all Authority vehicles with zero carbon emissions as soon as ‘fit for purpose’ vehicles become available.	Two electric pool vehicles are now in use.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 26 2025/26	Delivery of the first 2 electric pool vehicles and put in place plans to maximise their use.	Since their introduction in January 2025, the new EV vehicles have accounted for approximately a 11% reduction in scope 1 emissions from the fleet.	Target met
Delivery by 2027	EV charging points installed at all key Authority operational sites and National Park Centres.	An EV charging point was installed at Authority’s headquarters in 2024. EV chargers are now installed, operational and in use at Newton under Roseberry, Hutton le Hole, Danby Lodge and Sutton Bank car parks.	Underway and on target
Milestone 27 2025/26	Installation of our first superfast chargers at Thornton le Dale CP.	Work on this project has started, with an estimated completion date of November this year.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Deliver a costed programme of works for Sutton Bank and Danby Lodge National Park Centres to reach net zero.	The buildings at Sutton Bank and Danby Lodge National Park Centres have reached net zero for Scope 1 and 2 emissions. New automatic doors have been installed in the main Sutton Bank entrances to reduce heat loss.	Target met
Milestone 28 2025/26	Design and costings for installation of solar panels at Danby Lodge.	The 25/26 Defra capital funding programme has allocated funding for three further solar PV installations to reduce the Authority’s electricity consumption and operating costs. Work will commence in the winter. The three installations are: 1. An additional 19kw capacity of solar PV will be added to the Sutton Bank installation this winter 2. A 35kWp rooftop solar PV installation at Danby Lodge, concentrating on the ancillary buildings. 3. Rooftop solar PV installations and solar-powered immersion heaters at 6 toilet NPA-operated toilet facilities at Hutton le Hole, Newton-under-Roseberry, Goathland, Low Mill, Chopgate and Ravenscar.	Underway and on target
Milestone 29 2025/26	Undertake feasibility and costings for installation of thermal curtain at Sutton Bank National Park Centre.	New automatic doors have now been installed in the main entrances. These should reduce heat loss from the centre. As such thermal curtains will be de-scoped whilst we assess the impact of the new doors over the coming months.	Target met

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Implement new systems to deliver land charge services directly to the Land Registry Office.	The Authority is now a Land Charge Authority.	Target met
No milestone 2025/26	Delivery completed - NPA is now a Land Charge Authority.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Delivery by 2027	Provide and support the delivery of facilities (including toilets and Car Parks) in the National Park for public benefit.	Facility provision: to date, Newton under Roseberry and Goathland toilet refurbishments completed, Changing Places toilet facility installed in Sutton Bank, toilet facilities at Hutton le Hole car park renovated and upgraded, and a strategic plan for Grosmont car park, footbridge and woodland area agreed.	Underway and on target
Milestone 30 2025/26	Develop costed plans for the renovation of the listed wall at Thornton le Dale car park.	Officers have appointed local builders to carry out repairs to the garden walls at Thornton le Dale Car Park, with work due to start in early October. Vegetation clearance will be completed beforehand to enable access. The repair work will follow a conservation-led approach using traditional materials.	Underway and on target
Milestone 31 2025/26	To renovate and upgrade the toilet facilities at Hutton le Hole car park.	This has now been completed to a high standard and matches the specification of other recent toilet renovations.	Target met
Milestone 32 2025/26	Agree and implement a strategic plan for Grosmont Car Park, Footbridge and Woodland area.	The approach and plan have been agreed. Woodland works are complete, infrastructure and grounds works are scheduled for this year, and bridge repair contractors are being procured, with work planned for 2026. A new extended contract is currently under negotiation.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Implement the new finance system from 1 August, delivering efficiencies in finance processes, reporting and budget manager experience. (Added 2025/26).	The new finance system went live in July 2025; work is ongoing on developing reporting packs.	Underway and on target
Milestone 33 2025/26	Go live date for new finance system 1 August 2025.	The new finance system went live on 31st of July.	Target met
Milestone 34 2025/26	Fully operational and all staff fully trained and confident on the new finance system by end of December 2025.	Working for operational needs. Work still ongoing on reporting packs to meet SLT and Committee requirements.	Underway and on target

Objective 4 – Level of service

Provide an excellent level of service to all our clients and staff through their every interaction with the organisation.

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Deliver a customer focused Development Management and planning enforcement service.	From 2022/23 to 2024/25, targets were met for 60% of major and 70% of non-major applications determined within statutory timescales. This is now monitored in the Quarterly Scorecard report to Committee. A new planning system is planned and customer satisfaction survey and pending.	Underway and on target
Milestone 35 2025/26	Assess the requirements and procure a successor Planning IT system. Implementation in 2026/27.	Supplier chosen and migration has started. Planned go live is March 2026.	Underway and on target
Milestone 36 2025/26	Undertake benchmarking of posts and focused service review.	See Milestone 11	Not applicable
Milestone 37 2025/26	Customer service satisfaction survey.	Survey preparatory work to commence once Head of Development Management in post.	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Undertake Annual Planning training events with Parish Councils and Agents forums.	The Agents' Forum was established in 2022/23, with training events now held annually. Parish training forums are now held annually. An internal staff workshop on planning has been postponed to 2026.	Underway and on target
Milestone 38 2025/26	Hold one Parish Council training event and one Agents Forum.	Parish Training event held 22 October 2025. Agents' forum to be arranged once Head of Development Management in post.	Underway and on target
Milestone 39 2025/26	Hold internal staff workshop on planning.	Last held 23/24 October 2024. Postponed to 2026 due to workload and vacant Head of Development Management post.	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Develop a programme for assessing the level of customer service and an improvement plan which should include training and development initiatives.	In 2022/23, the Authority Values were launched and are now a central part of the appraisal process. Internal customer service standards were reviewed and publicised to staff. A new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group was established in 2023/24. Our National Park Centres achieved an annual combined Mystery Shopper score of 80.1% in 2024/25, in future an internal visitor experience score will be used. The new Historic Environment System and Rights of Way Management System (RoWMans) went live in 2025/26.	Underway and on target
Milestone 40 2025/26	Embed new Historic Environment Record (HER) system and Rights of Way Management System (RoWMans), improving delivery in these work areas.	RoWMans and HER system now both live, as we explore reporting options in RoWMans we should be able to produce online mapping that allows members of the public to see the status of reported issues.	Underway and on target

Management Plan outcome 1 - A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery

Objective 5 – Carbon capture and storage through wooded habitat

Capture and store carbon by creating at least 2,500 hectares of additional wooded habitat by 2032. (Management Plan objective 2).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Create 375ha of new woodland	From 2022/23 to 2024/25, 286.59 ha of woodland has been created.	Underway and on target
Milestone 41 2025/26	75 ha of new woodland created.	Expect 55 ha to be delivered by Woodsmith S106 funded projects. There are also plans for planting near River Esk and two FiPL woodland creation projects.	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Plant 500 landscape trees.	From 2022/23 to 2024/25, 1,278 landscape trees have been planted.	Target met
Milestone 42 2025/26	175 landscape trees planted.	Landscape Tree Scheme has signed agreements for 100 trees through Boulby S106 funding and 101 trees through Woodsmith S106 funding. A FiPL project to plant 15 fruit trees is signed. It is expected that further individual trees will be planted through the Reconnect Project.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Plant/enhance 50km hedgerow.	From 2022/23 to 2024/25, 48.46 km hedgerow has been enhanced.	Underway and on target
Milestone 43 2025/26	8 km of hedgerows enhanced.	6.3 km of hedgerow enhancement planned for autumn/winter across NPA schemes.	Underway but behind target

Objective 6 – Carbon capture and storage through peat bog restoration

Capture and store carbon by ensuring all degraded blanket bogs and peat habitats in the National Park are under active restoration by 2032. (Management Plan objective 3).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Work with Natural England, Estates and the Yorkshire Peat Partnership to complete restoration works on 2500ha of blanket bog by 2027.	Peat assessment and restoration plans were completed in 2022/23, and a restoration grant was secured for 1,100 ha across nine sites (Moor to Restore Phase 2) in 2023/24, when work commenced on one site (Allerton Moor). From 2022/23 to 2024/25, 348 ha of peat restoration has taken place across seven sites.	Underway but behind target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 44 2025/26	All restoration works from nature for climate delivery grant complete (1000 ha) (Moor to Restore).	375 ha of peat restoration has been completed under the Moor to Restore Project. Currently finalising agreements and putting out Invitations to Tender for sites being restored in autumn/winter 25/26. Agreements have been delayed due to sensitivities surrounding vegetation management using controlled burning on peat less than 30 cm. Natural England's grant conditions stipulate that no management of vegetation using fire can take place on Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme sites. Estates do not want to have this legal right curtailed by signing up to restoration agreements and this has led to restoration plans needing alteration to exclude peat shallower than 30 cm and subsequent delays in signing appropriate land use agreements. Works tendered in Q3 25/26 can still be completed by March 31 st 2026.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 45 2025/26	Remaining deep peat sites identified and prioritised for restoration agreements. Priority shallow peatland sites identified.	Remaining deep and shallow peat sites have been identified using the peat soils map, and options for future restoration sites are being explored.	Underway and on target

Objective 7– Protect, restore and improve soils

Protect, restore and improve soils across the National Park. (Management Plan objective 4).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Improve 77 ha of land through a programme of invasive plant species control.	From 2022/23 to 2024/25, 130.2 ha of invasive species control (primarily Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed) has been carried out across the Rye and Esk catchments.	Target met
Milestone 46 2025/26	20 ha of land being improved via invasive species control. Annual total includes repeat sites previously controlled as well as new sites (cumulative figure).	Invasive Non-Native Species control undertaken on Esk and Rye (within National Park) over the summer through six contracts. Contractors' control maps to confirm hectareage of control achieved are pending but based on previous years outputs the target should be achieved.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Enhance soil health throughout the National Park by working with land managers. Engage at least 200 land managers in best practice to enhance awareness of soil health.	From 2022/23 to 2023/24, 96 land managers attended at least one Ryevitalise 'Working with Farmers' best practice event, and 230 farmers attended at least one FiPL-funded knowledge transfer events to raise awareness of soil health. In 2024/25, the Authority delivered 20 events that engaged c. 315 farmers (not unique) in soil health awareness	Underway and on target
Milestone 47 2025/26	20 land managers engaged in soil health awareness - Esk & Coastal Streams best practice programme via REConnect.	A new round of farmer knowledge exchange events has started, funded by FiPL and REConnect. Some of these 11 events will focus on soil health awareness but these have not yet taken place.	Underway and on target
Milestone 48 2025/26	Support the delivery of actions proposed in the regenerative agricultural report commissioned in 2024/25 on farm holdings in the North York Moors.	FiPL provides funding opportunities to farmers and land managers seeking to adapt their conventional farming systems to more regenerative systems. Capital funding is available for infrastructure projects and advice, and support is available through the FiPL funded Esk Valley and Derwent Dales Farmers groups and the Farming Forward programme.	Underway and on target

Objective 8 – Good ecological status for all water bodies

Achieve good ecological status for all water bodies by 2027 and support the improvement of marine and coastal habitat. (Management Plan objective 5).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Work with land managers to deliver improvement works on water bodies through agricultural infrastructure and management, invasive species control, improvements to septic facilities and monitoring.	The Blue Corridors project was completed in 2023/24; five in-channel sites were addressed across the Rye and Esk catchments to benefit natural river processes and migratory fish species. Staithes Caravan park ford easement completed in October 2025 to aid fish migration upstream. The Ryevitalise legacy plan was produced in 2024/25, and the final evaluation report was received. A legacy partnership meeting group has been established and work on the legacy management plan is ongoing. Delivery of the Esk and Coastal Streams Restoration Programme and REConnect are ongoing.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 49 2025/26	Deliver Ryevitalise legacy plan: 1. Rye Catchment partnership working group established and regular meetings held. 2. Ryevitalise legacy management plan written and approved. 3. Ryevitalise legacy works from agreements checked and signed-off with associated budget on track.	1. Legacy partnership meeting group established with several meetings completed. Broader catchment partnership concept established to roll Ryevitalise legacy into neighbouring catchment. 2. Ryevitalise legacy agreement works reviewed/progressing within budget. 3. Legacy management plan drafted.	Underway and on target
Milestone 50 2025/26	Continue delivery of the Esk & Coastal Streams Restoration Programme (including Catchment Partnership objectives): 1. Collaborative Agreement for £20k with EA successful, Coastal Streams agreements developed and delivered. 2. Create a comprehensive Catchment Delivery Plan plan for the Esk and Coastal Streams, outlining agreed priority actions and timeline for baseline data collection. 3. Develop a system to track key ecological indicators, including water quality, species diversity, and habitat conditions, underpinned by a new monitoring and evaluation framework.	4. EA collaborative agreement on track with conservation agreements signed to deliver practical works by March 2026 and fully utilising agreed budget. 5. Esk & Coastal Streams Catchment Partnership (ECSCP) Steering Group members have undergone initial consultation regarding priorities for the Delivery Plan. Five working groups established (Healthy Habitats, Water Quality, Freshwater Pearl Mussels, Engagement, and Monitoring & Evaluation) - based on the ECSCP Management Plan aims - that will explore these priorities in more detail. 6. Monitoring of ecological indicators (including water quality, invertebrates, river habitats, fish and bats) ongoing to better understand catchment, data feeding into M&E working group.	Underway behind target (I cant change the colour?)

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 51 2025/26	Deliver REConnect objectives: 7. Engage with 75 people during project launch events. 8. Secure £5,000 in match funding by March 2026 and identify additional potential funding sources to meet the £90k match funding target. 9. Create project comms plan and finalise branding.	1. Engaged with 1,087 adults and 1,110 children during Year 1 of REConnect (Sep 2024 - Aug 2026), including 200 people at the REConnect main launch event in Whitby. 2. Secured £47,037.09 in match funding. 3. Project branding finalised.	Underway and on target

Management Plan outcome 2 - A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape

Objective 9– Joined-up habitats

Create bigger, better and more joined up habitats, with nature rich wildlife corridors extending beyond the National Park boundaries. (Management Plan objective 6).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Develop and deliver a Nature Recovery Strategy for local North York Moors nature recovery work. Ensure NYM nature recovery priorities are incorporated into any wider regional LNRS.	A Nature Recovery Plan for the North York Moors was adopted in 2025. North Yorkshire Council and the Tees Combined Authority are producing Location Nature Recovery strategies, which will take account of the local nature recovery plan for NYM.	Underway and on target
Milestone 52 2025/26	NYMNP Nature Recovery Plan being used to feed into delivery of conservation work in the National Park.	NYMNP Nature Recovery Plan completed and published on the NYMNPA website.	Underway and on target
Milestone 53 2025/26	Facilitate creation/restoration of 200ha of new wildlife-rich habitat.	Landscape projects including Linking Levisham and the Bransdale Conservation Management Plan are ongoing but not yet reached delivery stage and so habitat outputs have not yet been achieved.	Underway but behind target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Maintain 115 ha habitat enhancements through existing conservation agreements and bring 100 ha into new conservation agreements.	As of end Q2 2025/26, 143 ha is managed under conservation agreements with the NPA.	Underway and on target
Milestone 54 2025/26	Maintain 148 ha of land managed under conservation agreements, 20 ha of new wildlife rich habitats created or restored.	143 ha of land managed under conservation agreements as of end of Q2 25/26. This year 17 ha of land has been lost from agreement due to land sale or agreement expiry, whilst 22 ha of land has been brought into agreements. Note that this total includes land inside and outside the NP boundary, to reflect the work of colleagues to extend our reach beyond the National Park.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Protect, manage and enhance 250ha of ancient and significant woodlands.	From 2022/23 to 2024/25, 115.32 ha of woodland restoration was delivered.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 55 2025/26	75 ha of woodland restoration delivered.	40 ha of woodland restoration projects currently being worked on for delivery.	Underway but behind target

Objective 10 – Restore ecosystems

Restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems on at least 2,000 hectares in the National Park. (Management Plan objective 7).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Develop and implement a partnership approach to deliver Bransdale Conservation Management Plan.	Final draft of the Conservation Management Plan has been prepared, and funding applications have been submitted for a species-focused project in Bransdale.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 56 2025/26	Launch Conservation Management Plan.	Final Draft of CMP received and circulated to partners and internal colleagues.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 57 2025/26	Deliver a species focussed project in Bransdale - extend Birds on the Edge or Grubs Up.	External funding applications submitted to National Grid and to the Combined Authority Net Zero Fund. National Grid Expression of Interest accepted, and awaiting full confirmation (fund delayed). Net zero business case accepted, approval pending)	Underway and on target
Milestone 58 2025/26	Prepare a project plan for the Mill to Mill project.	Discussions taking place with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on feasibility study funding for four in-channel obstacle removals	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Develop a partnership approach to create/deliver a Newtondale/Levisham Conservation Management Plan.	The Linking Levisham Landscape Recovery pilot has been extended to June 2026.	Underway but behind target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 59 2025/26	Complete Linking Levisham Landscape Recovery pilot.	3-month extension to project granted to take it to June 2026 for assurance and progression to delivery phase, however latest guidance from Defra suggests that the project may not enter delivery phase until the autumn.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 60 2025/26	Submit application to Natural England for delivery phase of Linking Levisham.	3-month extension to project granted, resulting in proposals being submitted by the end of March 2026.	Underway and on target
Milestone 61 2025/26	Undertake financial optimisation review of Authority owned land at Levisham.	Three-month extension to project granted to take it to June 2026 for assurance and progression to delivery phase.	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Develop a Landscape Recovery Pilot programme.	A Derwent Catchment Nature Recovery pilot did not progress due to lack of capacity amongst partners. The Linking Levisham Landscape Recovery pilot is underway.	Target met
No milestone 2025/26	See above.	Not applicable.	Not applicable

Objective 11 – Sustainable management of moorland

Work with our moorland community to support the sustainable management of moorland to ensure it retains its intrinsic character which supports a greater variety of species and habitats. (Management Plan objective 8).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Work with Natural England and Moorland partners to enhance moorland fringe habitat.	The Moorland Forum has a regular meeting programme to discuss moorland management practice and exchange knowledge and in 2023/24 the forum's terms of reference were refreshed. A research paper on climate change impact with Leeds University was completed in 2023/24. In summer 2025, the climate change modelling report was shared via three sessions with estates and one farmers' workshop, and at the Authority's Conservation and Climate Change group. In 2025/26, FiPL funding has been secured to develop a roadmap for economically and environmentally sustainable commoning and the Environmental Farmers Group has been established.	Underway and on target
Milestone 62 2025/26	Hold three workshops with moorland communities	Two meetings with large landowners held and 1 farmers meeting held during the summer. Further workshops planned for this winter.	Target met

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 63 2025/26	Establish Moorland Farming support group.	FiPL funding has been secured by the Foundation for Common Land to build on the scoping project funded last year to develop a roadmap for economically and environmentally sustainable commoning in the North York Moors. The project will work to secure the long-term establishment of a North York Moors Grazier Group (NYMGG). The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust have also secured FiPL funding to scope the establishment of a North York Moors Environmental Farmers Group (EFG).	Underway and on target

Management Plan outcome 3 - A landscape rich in heritage and highly valued for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity

Objective 12 – Historic environment

Ensure that our historic environment is better understood, conserved, explained and under appropriate management; and work with partners to reduce the number of identified Designated Heritage Assets at Risk. (Management Plan objective 11).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Improve the condition of at least 25 Heritage Assets at Risk.	From 2022/23 to 2024/25, 21 heritage assets have either been removed from the Authority's At Risk register or prevented from entering the list.	Underway and on target
Milestone 64 2025/26	Five designated heritage assets removed from At Risk List/prevented from entering the At Risk List.	Three buildings currently under restoration (one listed building and two non-designated heritage assets). Three condition survey reports done on a further three listed buildings. Conservation grazing projects to improve condition of two Scheduled Monuments initiated. Stabilisation works for vehicle damaged Scheduled Monument in Wykeham Forest completed.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Deliver the Land of Iron legacy.	Ongoing, business as usual.	Underway and on target
No milestone 2025/26	Complete - business as usual.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Delivery by 2027	Restore the Rosedale Kilns.	The Rosedale kilns project was cancelled.	Cancelled
No milestone 2025/26	Abandoned.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Delivery by 2027	Develop a major multi- stranded historic environment focused project seeking external funding.	Now subsumed within North York Moors Landscape Connections application.	Not applicable

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
No milestone 2025/26	Action now subsumed within North York Moors Landscape Connections (Moor Connected) project.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Delivery by 2027	Complete 10 Conservation Area appraisals/management plans.	Five new Conservation area appraisals and Management Plans have been adopted to date: Castleton, Thornton-le-Dale, Fylingthorpe, Osmotherley and Robin Hoods Bay, in 2023/24.	Underway and on target
Milestone 65 2025/26	Adopt 4 Conservation Area Appraisals (Appleton le Moors, Goathland, Staithes, Grosmont).	Appleton le Moors appraisal drafted, and public consultation carried out, due at November Planning Committee for adoption. Goathland appraisal due at November Planning Committee for adoption. North Yorkshire Moors Railway line appraisal being written.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Deliver 5 heritage skills training workshops.	From 2022/23 to Q2 2025/26, 13 heritage skills training workshops have been delivered.	Target met
Milestone 66 2025/26	Deliver three training events in thatching and lime mortar.	Complete. Three training days held so far this year - (two hotmixed lime mortar training and one thatching course). Total of 31 attendees.	Target met
Milestone 67 2025/26	15 heritage skills sessions delivered.	See above and below (66 and 68).	Underway but behind target
Milestone 68 2025/26	Three hedgerow management training sessions and website advice.	In discussions with National Trust Bransdale as a base for traditional skills. No sessions delivered to date but looking for opportunities	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Deliver a historic building repair grant (focusing on energy efficiency).	From 2022/23 to Q2 2025/26, three projects focusing on energy efficiency have been delivered and extensive advice has been provided to one listed property through the Warm Homes Local Grant for energy improvements.	Underway and on target
Milestone 69 2025/26	Provide grant assistance to at least five projects for works which improve the thermal efficiency of properties.	One project, which has delivered a series of improvements to a listed property, which will improve the thermal efficiency of the property. Extensive advice given to one listed property through the Warm Homes Local Grant for energy improvements.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Deliver a multi-strand Historic Environment focused project	The Raiding the Bank community archaeology project commenced 2024/25.	Underway and on target
Milestone 70 2025/26	Year two of Raiding the Bank Project delivered, community archaeology and capital elements completed.	The Community Archaeology element of Raiding the Bank has completed, with a closing event held at the Gliding Club in September. School groups are visiting through Autumn/Winter 2025. Works on the Star Hub pond have been completed, and the pond close to the Gliding club is anticipated to complete in December. Some elements of the project, including capital works on accessible route creation, and some digital visualisation work are likely to push into next financial year. The LEI funding stream allows for this variation to timescale.	Underway and on target

Objective 13 – Dark sky reserve

Increase the intrinsic darkness of the National Park International Dark Sky Reserve, through expanding the current dark sky core zone by twenty percent by 2027. (Management Plan objective 9).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Deliver a lighting strategy/management plan to maintain dark sky status and increase the area of dark sky core zone by 20%.	The Dark Sky core zone expansion area has been defined, and a permanent network meter was rolled out in 2024/25. Survey work was completed in 2025/26, and consultations are in progress. Large- and small-scale lighting projects have been completed at locations across the National Park. Dark Sky Friendly Community Schemes and engagement sessions have been delivered at multiple locations.	Underway and on target
Milestone 71 2025/26	Commence survey work for Core expansion; report due spring 2026.	Survey work complete. One more Parish Council consultation meeting to be held.	Underway and on target
Milestone 72 2025/26	Deliver dark skies friendly community engagement/improvement schemes in expanded Core Zone.	Consultation partially complete. Two projects delivered (pre-2025) with others being identified.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Proactively use the planning system to conserve dark skies.	Lighting conditions (where appropriate) are now business as usual for all planning applications and figures are reported as part of the Planning annual report. Four dark skies friendly community engagement/improvement schemes have been delivered.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 73 2025/26	Deliver at least two additional dark skies friendly community engagement/improvement schemes.	Four schemes delivered with two more on the way this year.	Target met
Milestone 74 2025/26	Deliver a purpose-built Dark Skies observatory at Danby Lodge.	Work started on 1 September and is on track for completion in November, allowing a soft launch for testing, training, snagging, and interpretation installation ahead of the official launch in February for our Dark Skies Festival.	Underway and on target

Management Plan outcome 4 - A place that lifts the nation's health and wellbeing

Objective 14 – Health and wellbeing

Create specific, targeted opportunities to improve mental and physical health and wellbeing by connecting people with nature. (Management Plan objective 12).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Provide Green Social Prescribing opportunities to communities within and around the National Park.	The Authority's Health and Wellbeing Strategy was adopted in June 2023. The Nature Prescriptions Calendar was launched in June 2024 and 2024/25 training was delivered to social prescribers and healthcare professionals across the local Primary Care Networks and at Phoenix House MOD personnel recovery centre.	Underway and on target
Milestone 75 2025/26	Expand Green Social Prescribing into the Tees Valley by embedding it in 5 Tees Valley Primary Care Networks. Train 25 members of staff.	Expanded into Hartlepool and Stockton Health, Early Help in Psychosis Team Redcar, Redcar Coastal PCN, East Cleveland PCN, Eston PCN and the Waiting Well Team for South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Establish an Arts & Culture Partnership for the National Park which will develop externally funded projects that deliver the outcomes of the Art & Culture Strategy.	The Arts and Culture Partnership was launched in October 2024. Danby Lodge arts trail 'The Moment' and the Sutton Bank arts trail 'Words in the Landscape' were completed in 2024. 'A Beacon for the Arts' festival took place in 2025.	Target met
Milestone 76 2025/26	Deliver "A Beacon for the Arts" Festival (April 2025).	Festival undertaken. 53 events took place within the festival. Over 900 people engaged.	Target met
Milestone 77 2025/26	Submit Arts Council bid in May 2025, including promotional film.	The Arts Council system was unavailable for a long period of time, so we were unable to submit. The Bid is still being worked on, and submission is planned for December.	Underway but behind target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 78 2025/26	Provide two dedicated external art offers.	Two permanent art installations, completed as part of the See Moor project, are now in place at our National Park centres: Words in the Landscape at Sutton Bank by Adrian Riley and The Moment at Danby Lodge by Aphra O'Connor.	Target met
Delivery by 2027	Refocus the NYM events programme, targeting health and wellbeing benefits.	A new events programme was implemented in 2023, focused on health and wellbeing. In 2024/25, the Mindful on the Moor Festival was launched, which ran for a second year in the summer of 2025/26.	Underway and on target
Milestone 79 2025/26	Year 2 of the Mindful on the Moor Festival delivered. 100 people to take part in taster sessions workshops. 50% of these to identify they are likely/more than likely to access art workshops in the coming year.	156 people took part in the workshops. Limited feedback forms returned.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 80 2025/26	Work with 2 mental health charities to provide 25 externally funded places to access creative experiences.	Worked with Footprints in the Community (Redcar) to deliver workshops. Works exhibited alongside the Connections Through Time Exhibition. Number of participants 15.	Underway and on target
Milestone 81 2025/26	Produce and publish a film of 'The Art of Being' exhibition which is incorporated into the virtual walks programme. Incorporate it into a touring exhibition at 3 venues outside of the National Park.	5 films were created and incorporated into the virtual walks programme. Touring exhibition venues still being sourced.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 82 2025/26	Ensure 150 evaluation forms for health and wellbeing events are completed. 85% of participants identify that the event has had a positive effect on their health and wellbeing.	138 evaluations. 96% identified the event had had a positive impact on their health and wellbeing.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Implement a revised volunteering strategy, which determines targets for health and wellbeing, participation and output.	The initial draft of the new volunteering strategy is in the stakeholder engagement phase.	Underway and on target
Milestone 83 2025/26	Develop a revised volunteering strategy to overcome the decline in volunteer numbers and participation.	An initial draft of the new volunteering strategy has been developed and is currently in the stakeholder engagement phase. It will be presented to volunteers during a dedicated Volunteer Feedback Session in November. Following this, the strategy will be shared with key staff stakeholders to gather further input before finalising and mobilising the approach.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 84 2025/26	Complete volunteer satisfaction survey.	The delivery of the volunteer satisfaction survey has been delayed to prioritise an in-person Volunteer Feedback Session. This session will provide an opportunity to share the draft volunteering strategy and gather initial insights from volunteers. The feedback collected will help inform the design and focus of the survey to ensure it captures what matters most to our volunteers.	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Build on our emerging destination PR activity working with underserved groups and organisations.	To date, eight Community Champions have been trained through the Championing National Parks for Everyone project, to make films for sharing on social media. Two walks were delivered in partnership with Muslim Hikers in both 2024/25 and 2025/26.	Underway and on target
Milestone 85 2025/26	Four community champions trained, through the Championing National Parks for Everyone (CNPfE) project, to make their own films for sharing on social media platforms by March 2026.	Eight champions trained so far as well as one volunteer, our trainee and community link officer.	Target met
Milestone 86 2025/26	New Community Champions from the CNPfE project to take part in two new Muslim Hiker Walks.	Community Champions have attended both walks this year.	Target met

Objective 15 – Increase awareness

Increase awareness of, and access to the National Park among underserved communities, particularly those in the surrounding area. (Management Plan objective 13).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Develop an improved and accessible visitor offer in the north of the National Park.	The main access path to Roseberry Topping was restored in 2024/25. In 2025/26, the Danby Lodge Changing Places facility was installed in the gallery, and an exterior toilet was renovated to meet accessibility requirements.	Underway and on target
Milestone 87 2025/26	Installation of Danby Lodge Changing Places facility.	Installation has been completed within the gallery's disabled toilet, which is a full Changing Places facility. An additional disabled toilet on the exterior of the building has also been renovated to meet accessibility requirements.	Target met

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 88 2025/26	Complete Phase 2 of the Restoring Roseberry Topping project.	Delays to Phase 2 have occurred due to contractor availability and a large-scale restructuring of National Trust local teams. Work on Paths 8 and 10 has commenced and planning application for remaining main paths is due to be submitted before the end of the year.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 89 2025/26	Agree joint masterplan for access improvements in Guisborough Forest area.	Stantec have completed the stakeholder engagement process for the Northern Gateway masterplan. The outcome of this report is due by the end of this year, and partners will be able to then agree joint priorities.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Support the VisitEngland North York Moors Accessibility Project to improve information, customer service and facilities.	The NYM Accessibility Project is complete, and evaluation found that the businesses involved went beyond their initial scope. The marketing campaign won Digital PR Campaign of the Year 2023 at the TravMedia UK awards.	Target met
Milestone 90 2025/26	Support partners in developing plans to deliver Helmsley Changing Places facility.	Full funding has been secured from NPA, Howardian Hills and Visit North Yorkshire. Planning application due to be submitted in November following engagement with planning team. A medium level risk remains as to whether North Yorkshire Council will grant permission to install the pod on their land and connect to services. If this is withheld the project will have to be abandoned.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Deliver a programme of outreach activities and events focusing on underserved communities.	The Authority has attended the Middlesbrough Mela festival annually. Targeted Transport grants have provided for 51 self-led visits to the National Park from 2022/23 to 2023/24. In 2024/25 the Community Transport Project had 771 participants; and two walks were delivered with Age UK and Nur Fitness. Six Community Champions (Championing National Parks for Everyone Project) have been trained and 14 activity sessions delivered as of Q2 2025/26.	Underway and on target
Milestone 91 2025/26	Deliver three Community Champion training programmes as part of the Championing National Parks for Everyone Project by end March 2026 Impact measure: 20 Community Champions trained.	One training cohort completed with six Champions fully trained. Second and third cohorts brought together and partially trained with 17 Champions partially trained.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 92 2025/26	Deliver 14 activity sessions within the National Park for diverse audiences as part of the Championing National Parks for Everyone Project by end March 2026.	14 activity sessions delivered and completed.	Target met
Milestone 93 2025/26	Implement the findings of the targeted transport review with the aim of widen the breath of beneficiaries.	Review still underway and report due November 2025.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Increase the proportion of people from under-represented groups involved in volunteering.	This data is not collected from volunteers. A review of current volunteering performance has been initiated in 2025/26.	No data available/set ting baseline
Milestone 94 2025/26	Use the Volunteering Strategy development process to review current performance in this area and prioritise areas for development. Report findings to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group for discussion/scrutiny.	As part of the Volunteering Strategy development process, a review of current volunteering performance has been initiated. Key areas for development are being identified through stakeholder engagement, including feedback from volunteers and staff. Once this phase is complete, findings will be compiled and presented to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group to support.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Provide immersive learning experiences through an Outdoor Learning Service tailored to schools, with a focus on areas of high deprivation.	In 2024/25, 55% of schools/groups were from areas of high deprivation, helped by funding from Generation Green 2. So far in 2025/26, 1,140 pupils from schools in areas of high deprivation have taken place in Outdoor Learning Service activities.	Underway and on target
Milestone 95 2025/26	1200 pupils from schools in areas of high deprivation take part in Outdoor Learning Service activities.	1,140 pupils engaged.	Underway and on target
Milestone 96 2025/26	90% of children to identify a closer connection to nature. 100% of children to identify one thing they could do to care for nature.	91% identified a closer connection to nature. 91% identified one thing they could do to care for nature. The questions need separating out of the feedback form as have caused some incomplete answers.	Underway but behind target

Objective 16 – Inspire the next generation

Inspire the next generation to enjoy, learn about and care for the National Park and support young people’s direct involvement in decision making about its future. (Management Plan objective 14).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Deliver a programme of youth engagement provision and volunteering, aiming for 30% of volunteers being 30 and under by 2027.	In 2024/25, 26.7% of volunteers were aged 30 and under.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 97 2025/26	Expand Young Rangers/Explorer Volunteers through Moor Connected project.	Moor Connected funding not secured.	No data available/setting baseline
Milestone 98 2025/26	Establish as baseline in terms of the following: - Young People identify an improvement to their wellbeing. - Young People acknowledge that they have developed skills to make a difference for nature.	Questionnaire to be undertaken in Nov/Dec 25	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Ensure Youth Council and Youth Voice is embedded into National Park processes.	Youth Voice has 19 members as of 2024/25 and has representatives on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group, Management Plan stakeholder forum and Conservation and Climate Change forum.	Underway and on target
Milestone 99 2025/26	Undertake year-1 review of youth co-options to Forums making recommendations to Members as necessary by June 2025.	A review completed in June 2025. No co-option has yet been made to the Recreation & Wellbeing Forum. The review recommended moving towards open recruitment for young person co-options in addition to working with Youth Voice.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 100 2025/26	Support growth and diversity of Youth Voice group by March 2026. Baseline in place for April 2025.	Baseline in place. Youth Voice recruitment to happen each quarter from Nov 2025.	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Successfully conclude delivery of the NHLF funded Young Explorer Project and seek legacy funding to ensure equitable provision of these clubs.	Project was completed in July 2023. Funding was received from BMW for Teeside Young Rangers, families and Scarborough families to continue until May 2024. Forest Holidays/Ganton Educational Trust funding was received for Scarborough and Whitby Young Rangers until March 2024.	Target met
Milestone 101 2025/26	Complete.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Objective 17 – Rights of way and open access land

Ensure that all members of the public are able to enjoy the National Park using easy to use, well-marked rights of way and open access land. (Management Plan objective 15).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Maintain promoted rights of way at 85% easy to use	The 2025 survey result was 87%. Work on categorisation of promoted routes is ongoing for 2025/26.	Underway and on target
Milestone 102 2025/26	Develop improved Survey methodology with Volunteers.	Produced improved method of issue reporting through the development of a MS Form being hosted on the NYMNP Website. This brings more consistency and detail to the report enabling more effective Rights of Way management.	Underway and on target
Milestone 103 2025/26	Review promoted route offer across the National Park.	Survey of promoted routes under way with the volunteer rangers, to establish the current suitability of the routes to be categorised as "Promoted Routes". Are they still fit for purpose and meet with the promoted route criteria.	Underway and on target
Milestone 104 2025/26	Complete 25% survey of Promoted Routes using improved methodology.	The next annual 25% promoted route survey will be programmed in for spring 2026. The most recent survey undertaken in 2025 reported 87% of promoted routes as in good condition.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 105 2025/26	Publish updated Promoted Route publication for Danby and Sutton Bank National Park Centres.	Work is underway on the rebranding and modernising of the Walks around Danby Lodge and Sutton Bank guides to raise the profile of promoted walks and set a standard template for future publications.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Increase the offer of 'Miles Without Stiles.'	The Miles Without Stiles audit was completed in 2023 and seven additional routes were re-graded as 'Miles Without Stiles' walks. Currently there are 18 routes.	Underway and on target
Milestone 106 2025/26	Publish three additional MWS routes for publication on Outdoor Active.	We have an accessibility officer in post; this objective will sit with them. Work on this is ongoing.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 107 2025/26	Replace 30 stiles (or similar access barrier) with more accessible alternatives.	The focus has been on DEFRA access for across the network, which means that work has concentrated on surface improvements. Improving access through the removal of stiles is ongoing with the Ranger Service.	Underway but behind target
Delivery by 2027	Expand the provision of a quality Tramper Network across the National Park.	A new Tramper route was completed and installed at Danby Lodge in 2024.	Underway and on target
Milestone 108 2025/26	Introduce two additional Tramper Host Sites within the National Park.	Tramper Officer in discussions with English Heritage for adoption of Mount Grace Priory as a new Tramper Host Site.	Underway but behind target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 109 2025/26	Pilot the provision of a mobile Tramper offer.	Discussions with Linking Levisham Project to look at feasibility of introducing a mobile Tramper offer is ongoing.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 110 2025/26	Develop plans for the Sutton Bank Southern Loop for the Tramper Network.	Feasibility survey of proposed route completed. A planning application is being prepared.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Work with partners to establish the Coast to Coast as a National Trail and maintain support for the Cleveland Way.	As of March 2024/25, 8,600 metres of path were surfaced, and all signage was completed. Establishment of the route is currently 92% complete.	Underway and on target
Milestone 111 2025/26	Complete the establishment of the Coast-to-Coast Path National Trail	Most recent technical report shows the establishment is now 92% complete and is on schedule for a March 2026 completion. Some additional work is now required in the fire-damaged section.	Underway and on target
Milestone 112 2025/26	Prepare a new strategic Management & Marketing Plan for the Cleveland Way National Trail	National Trails Officer is now in post and work is underway.	Underway and on target
Milestone 113 2025/26	Prepare an Interpretation Plan for the Cleveland Way National Trail	National Trails Officer is now in post and will be working on this.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Formulate and publish a prioritisation policy for public rights of way, with agreement from the Recreation and Wellbeing Forum.	To date, a new Rights of Way management system (RoWMans) has been implemented, and high priority routes have been identified.	Underway and on target
Milestone 114 2025/26	Identify high, medium and low priority Public Rights of Way	Implementation of new rights of way management system has enabled the ranger service to prioritise the network. A network of high priority routes has been identified. Consultation with Parish Councils is underway and will be completed by the end of November.	Underway and on target

Objective 18 – Cycling destination

Promote the North York Moors National Park as the premier recreational/ family cycling destination in the North of England. (Management Plan objective 16).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Develop and promote a compelling, diverse cycling offer around the National Park's special qualities (e-bikes, gravel, family friendly and mountain biking), supporting events and encouraging a transformative change in the way people get to and move around the National Park.	In 2025/26, a film has been produced to showcase the cycling offer at Sutton Bank National Park Centre, which is being used in our social media promotion. Developed a partnership with Struggle events for the delivery of cycling events from Sutton Bank, including their event Struggle Moors and North York Moors branded event Minds and Miles. Supported other cycling events with promotion and marketing in 2026 including Tour of Britain Women, British Gravel Championships and Dalby Grit. New Gravel Explorer Route content generated over 180,000 impressions on social channels and over 15k YouTube views. Yearly attendance promoting cycling in the Netherlands as part of our 'no fly' promotion with Visit England.	Underway and on target
Milestone 115 2025/26	Produce a new Sutton Bank film showcasing the cycling offer.	Film complete and being weaved into social media content as well as included on the Sutton Bank Cycling landing webpage.	Target met
Delivery by 2027	Upgrade and expand cycling infrastructure across the National Park including enhancing the Moor to Sea Cycle Network, signing the North York Moors Cycleway, supporting businesses through grants, developing Sutton Bank's offer, and improving connectivity between key areas to support sustainable, accessible cycling experiences.	Cycle trail signs at Sutton Bank National Park Centre were renewed and updated in 2024/25. Three new Explorer cycle routes were launched at Sutton Bank in June 2025. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was adopted at the June 2025 National Park Authority meeting funded by Active Travel England. 3 businesses were supported by grant funding, including a new bike hire facility in Robin Hood's Bay. Continuing to deliver accessible cycling days at Sutton Bank.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 116 2025/26	Start the auditing, usage and review of existing Moor to Sea Cycle Network.	The initial project was rolled into the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid, which was unsuccessful. Proposal to be reviewed and taken forward, through monitoring existing usage and creating extension of the route.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 117 2025/26	Working with NYC and consultants, WSP, begin signage installation on the North York Moors Cycleway.	A draft design of the signs and location plan has been produced, signs yet to go into production.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 118 2025/26	Launch three new Explorer cycle routes at Sutton Bank.	New routes developed and launched in June 2025 - received plenty of national press coverage helping to raise the profile of the North York Moors as a cycling destination. To be replicated at other locations across the National Park.	Target met

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 119 2025/26	Integrate findings from the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and take forward key priorities.	The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was formally signed off at the June 2025 National Park Authority meeting - the main priorities are being developed into further funding bids and continuing relationship with Active Travel England into 2026.	Underway and on target
Milestone 120 2025/26	Reestablishment of Rosedale Railway Permissive Cycle Agreement. Final signoff from Estate for Permissive Agreement. Deliver necessary improvement works to the Southern extension.	Finalised agreement currently with landowner for approval. Improvement works to the southern extension can be programmed in once signed.	Underway but behind target

Objective 19 – Regenerative tourism

Establish regenerative tourism as a guiding principle and encourage visitors to make a positive contribution to the National Park. (Management Plan objective 17).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Work with North York Moors Tourism Network to encourage hosts to build an even closer relationship with the place distinctiveness/special qualities.	The North York Moors National Park Champions initiative was launched in 2022/23, working with tourism businesses to become champions for sustainable practices. In 2024/25 and 2025/26, we have run marketing campaigns on public transport and transport hubs, and trains and buses have featured as modes of transport in the campaigns. In 2025, the Make a Difference visitor-giving/business donations scheme was launched with the North York Moors Trust. Local Distinctiveness learning materials have been created, which the North York Moors Tourism Network have used in their workshops.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 121 2025/26	Develop 'Make a Difference', a visitor-giving/ business donations scheme - joint initiative with the North York Moors Trust, with visitor and business donation opportunities available to three given projects.	'Make a Difference' was soft launched over the summer, with digital promotion across our website, social media and e-newsletter plus a feature in Moors Messenger. Postcards and posters have been widely distributed (National Park Centres, car parks, Voluntary Rangers, summer country shows and Parish Council Clerks). The scheme has also been promoted internally via an all staff meeting, The Hub and Involved newsletter. North York Moors Champions have given very positive feedback, and any business can apply for a Supporter logo for those actively supporting the scheme.	Underway and on target
Milestone 122 2025/26	Complete a 'Local Distinctiveness' project - create website content, insider guides, blogs and online workshops.	Learning materials (written and online video course), templates and examples to use have been created, which are now available to businesses online. NYM Tourism Network has delivered a standalone Sense of Place workshop and incorporated some of this content into other marketing workshops. Blogs have also been developed and used as successful social media post templates, which have been shared widely.	Target met
Milestone 123 2025/26	Work with public transport operators to include messaging about sustainable travel in five transport hubs.	We are building stronger relationships with transport operators and their comms teams to cross-promote messaging and/or feature transport in advertising and target those who use public transport, including working with Esk Valley Railway in our recent campaign activity, and have promoted MoorsBus through our own channels and externally via our Visit York partnership. Advertising for our current campaign is live in various transports hubs e.g. Edinburgh, Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, and on bus rears.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Deliver tourism elements of S106.	In 2024/25, permission in principle was obtained for a new sculpture trail at Staithes, Port Mulgrave and Runswick Bay; the Staithes festival was supported to increase visitor numbers and exhibitors, which rose 32% and 4.7% respectively. In 2025/26 so far, 11 businesses have been supported through tourism grants and marketing support has been provided to businesses.	Underway and on target
Milestone 124 2025/26	Support 12 businesses through the Tourism Grants' process.	Support has been provided to 11 businesses, six through the Local Business Tourism Contribution (s106 Woodsmith) and five through the Visitor Experience Grant (s106 Boulby).	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 125 2025/26	Work with the North York Moors Tourism Network to deliver a programme of training and networking events to improve marketing techniques and develop a sense of welcome.	Activity has included written 'how to' information in the form of weekly marketing blogs, in-person workshops, live Zoom calls and pre-recorded sessions on topics from using location in marketing, to creating distinctive experiences and practical marketing skills.	Underway and on target

Management Plan outcome 5 - A place that supports a diverse and innovative low carbon economy

Objective 20 – Farming and land management

Maintain a strong and viable farming and land management community that delivers more for climate, nature, people and place. (Management Plan objective 19).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Support a significant proportion of farmers and land managers in the National Park in accessing ELM.	Two rounds of the Royal Countryside Fund's Farm for the Future programme were delivered in 2024 and 2025, which enabled 44 farm businesses to access a series of workshops, meetings and consultancy that has supported their access to ELM. Where appropriate, FiPL Project Officers have signposted farmers and land managers to the opportunities offered by ELM. Workshops delivered by the Esk Valley and Derwent Dales facilitation groups (funded by FiPL) have also supported farmers in accessing ELM.	Underway and on target
Milestone 126 2025/26	Maximise Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) uptake to deliver Management Plan Objectives through FiPL advice and Guidance.	The SFI closed to new applications on 11 March 2025 and a revised SFI offer is not expected to open until 2026. Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier re-opened for applications in September 2025, but applications are by invitation only. Capital Grants closed for applications on 1 August 2025. FiPL has been designed to work alongside, not in competition with, Defra's existing and new schemes to add value where it's needed most, but it is not allowed to mirror SFI or Capital Grant type works whilst those programmes are closed.	Underway but behind target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Develop a project to test how farming in the North York Moors can deliver Biodiversity Net Gain or Carbon Credits.	A Test and Trial project, focusing on incorporating private sector funding into ELM, concluded in 2023 and the final report was submitted to Defra. Two project development forms relating to Raisdale and Bransdale Test and Trials were submitted in 2024, however Defra is yet to confirm whether Test and Trial funding will be reinstated. The two proposals have now been submitted to the Carbon Negative Challenge Fund (York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority) and are awaiting confirmation.	Underway and on target
Milestone 127 2025/26	Secure funding to implement two new projects - one assessing how farming in the North York Moors can offset carbon emissions generated elsewhere, and one looking at the role of advice and guidance in optimising management plan objective delivery.	Applications for these two projects were submitted to Defra as 'Test and Trials' proposals, but no decision has yet been made by Defra as to whether funding will be reinstated for the 'Test & Trials' Programme. The two proposals have subsequently been submitted to the 'Carbon Negative Challenge Fund' delivered by York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority and have been shortlisted for funding. It is anticipated that final confirmation will be given in October 2025.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Deliver and fully spend the resources allocated to the Farming in Protected Landscapes Scheme.	FiPL has been extended to 31 March 2026.	Underway and on target
Milestone 128 2025/26	Deliver and optimise the use of the resources allocated to the Farming in Protected Landscapes Scheme should an extension to the programme be secured.	The FiPL programme was extended for a further year (until 31 March 2026) with £895k budget for project spend. We are on track for the budget to be fully committed by end of Dec 2025 and fully spent by end of March 2026.	Underway and on target

Management Plan outcome 6 - A place of great beauty where local communities thrive

Objective 21 – Affordable housing

Increase the delivery of affordable housing above 2010-2020 levels to build at least 100 affordable homes in villages across the National Park by 2027; and press for changes to control the conversion of housing to second or holiday homes. (Management Plan objective 21).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Undertake a review of the Local Plan.	Review commenced September 2025.	Underway and on target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 129 2025/26	Commence a review of the Local Plan.	Commenced September 2025.	Underway and on target
Delivery by 2027	Prepare an affordable housing and second homes strategy to implement targets.	An internal strategy was prepared in 2022. In 2023/24 the Authority responded to the UK Government consultation on short-term lets needing planning permission if planning authorities designate areas. Good practice guidance was produced in 2024/25 but is not yet published, as this will be part of the review of the Local Plan.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 130 2025/26	Prepare good practice guidance and approach Parish Councils to promote/seek interest/sites.	Attended Southern Parish Forum 8 April, Hinderwell Parish Council 21 May. Management Plan Stakeholder Forum held 16 September, covering affordable housing.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 131 2025/26	At least 3 affordable housing schemes granted planning permission for 30 units.	Nine units approved at West Ayton. We continue to regularly meet with Housing Associations and schemes at Danby and Lealholm are progressing towards planning application stage. Met with Rosedale Parish Council 17 July. Housing Needs Survey sent out in Kilburn, Hinderwell and Grosmont.	Underway but behind target

Objective 22 – Low-cost, low-carbon housing

Work to establish the North York Moors National Park as a leader in low-cost, low-carbon housing design through the development of at least one new-build exemplar scheme; and promote the deployment of sustainable materials and responsible retrofitting measures in historic buildings to secure their long-term future. (Management Plan objective 22).

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Delivery by 2027	Facilitate two exemplar schemes – focusing on retrofitting a heritage building and a new build.	To date, no exemplar schemes facilitated. Sustainable retrofit guidance for heritage buildings is underway and will be published alongside the Design Code.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 132 2025/26	Incorporate sustainable retrofit guidance appropriate for heritage buildings in the Design Code.	Ongoing. Will be published alongside the Design Code.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 133 2025/26	Participate in YNYCA Energy Generation Accelerator Programme (EGAP) project to identify potential new energy generation sites in the National Park.	The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority EGAP is still awaiting a funding decision. We anticipate being involved when the project is given the go ahead.	No data available/setting baseline
Delivery by 2027	Update the design guide/design codes.	The Design Code scoping phase went out to public consultation in June 2024.	Underway but behind target

Delivery or milestone	Details	6-month update	Status
Milestone 134 2025/26	Publish guidance on retrofit.	Ongoing. Will be published alongside the Design Code.	Underway but behind target
Milestone 135 2025/26	Publish updated design guide/design codes.	Work on the draft underway and mostly complete. Likely to prioritise the Local Plan for public engagement. Awaiting Government Regulations to be put in place before we can do this. Subject to these being in place, we anticipate formal engagement on the Local Plan Spring 2026 with engagement on the Design Code Summer 2026.	Underway but behind target

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2025

Item 10, Business Plan Milestones - Priorities for 2026/27

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To set out the proposed Business Plan priority milestones for 2026/27.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Authority's five-year Strategy and Business Plan was approved by National Park Authority (NPA) Members in March 2022. Each year, milestones are agreed with Members at the spring NPA meeting. The next full set of milestones for 2026/27 will be put before members in March 2026.
- 2.2 Before approval of the annual milestones, officers consider the priorities for the Authority's work for the year ahead. Officers have considered the priorities for 2026/27, and these are set out in this paper.

3. Strategic context

- 3.1 Our organisational strategy is to grow the work of the National Park Authority by becoming a more project-based organisation. This will help maximise our delivery of Management Plan objectives whilst reducing reliance on core Defra revenue funding, which has fallen by over 50% in real terms over the last decade.
- 3.2 Our strategy is supported by four pillars: raising the profile of our work, strengthening partnerships, investing in our people and property and delivering excellent customer service. The Business Plan's organisational objectives and milestones detail the actions of the Authority regarding work on profile, people and property and customer service. Strengthening partnerships is achieved through working towards National Park Management Plan objectives with partners and stakeholders.
- 3.3 Our delivery focus is on three key Management Plan Priorities identified and agreed by Members in 2022: nature recovery, climate change and health and wellbeing.

4. Priorities for 2026/27

Landscape-scale nature recovery

- 4.1 **Fylingdales Moor restoration.** The Langdale Forest and Fylingdales Moor wildfire of summer 2025 has had a significant impact on the Authority's priorities and resources this financial year. A Recovery Co-ordination Group has been set up to support partners and communities in the recovery effort. Work in 2026/27 will concentrate on putting in place the remaining restoration plans, working closely with land managers and funders.

4.2 **The Linking Levisham project** should be entering into the delivery phase by mid-2026, subject to the conclusion of the current pilot project, ongoing partner commitment and confirmation of grant funding from Defra. Successful conclusion of the pilot project will develop a long-term blueprint for the management of the project area, optimising management for nature and climate resilience whilst identifying sustainable long-term funding.

4.3 **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Delivery** – we will work with North Yorkshire Council & Tees Valley Combined Authority to deliver nature recovery actions to deliver LNRS priorities.

Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

4.4 **Increase woodland cover.** We will plant 75 hectares of new mixed deciduous woodland, at least 175 new landscape trees and 5 kilometres of new hedgerow.

4.5 **Shallow Peat.** A feasibility project will commence and deliver 219ha of shallow peat restoration.

4.6 **Decarbonisation.** We will continue to deliver the Authority's Decarbonisation Plan and implement the Climate Action Plan for the North York Moors.

Health and wellbeing

4.7 **The Championing National Parks for Everyone community champions project,** led by Peak District Mosaic is currently training volunteers to create a network of community champions to lead visits to the North York Moors and create networks with National Park communities, staff and other community champions. The project will conclude in 2026/27, and the priority is to look at ways to embed the learning and practices in a range of work across the North York Moors and other National Parks.

4.8 **Extension of the social prescribing pilot.** In 2025/26, green social prescribing is expanding into Tees Valley primary care networks, and a consortium of the four main Protected Landscapes in North Yorkshire has received further development and capacity funding from the York and North Yorkshire Mayor. In 2026/27, the aspiration is to move away from a pilot methodology to a mainstreamed offer across primary care networks and supported by relevant Mayors, Local Authority Public Health teams and NHS Integrated Care Boards.

4.9 **New volunteer strategy.** An initial draft of the new volunteering strategy has been developed and is currently in a stakeholder engagement phase. In 2026/27, this will be launched with key aims being improving and increasing volunteer experience and opportunities, further integrating volunteering across the organisation and improving systems of delivery.

4.10 **National Park-wide evaluation of Social Return on Investment.** This will help assess the impact of progress on current National Park Management Plan (NPMP) objectives, in particular around health and wellbeing outcomes. This will build upon previous work undertaken by the University of York in 2018 and will refresh the evidence base to underpin new projects and future funding applications.

Corporate

- 4.11 **Planning.** Work on reviewing the Local Plan began in Autumn 2025. It will take around two to three years to update and adopt the Plan. Pending new local plan regulations, we expect to formally consult on the early stages in the Spring of 2026. The Design Code will also be completed, and we expect to consult on a draft in the summer of 2026.
- 4.12 **Property.** It is expected that the business case will be put forward to Members in a special NPA meeting in January 2026, with a decision to be made on the future office accommodation for the Authority. Depending on the decision taken, we will develop and oversee the delivery of the construction programme of a new build Headquarters or carry out considerable works on existing premises and manage associated disruption. We will also execute the relocation of our southern depot to the Old Print Works on Riccal Drive.
- 4.13 **National Park Management Plan (NPMP).** The current NPMP runs from 2022-2027. It is a statutory requirement that the plan is reviewed and updated every 5 years (i.e. by the end of 2027). This involves external delivery partners and stakeholders across the National Park, public consultation and engagement, appraisals and assessments. Work on the next version of the Management Plan will commence in early 2027.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The priorities establish where officers propose to focus our effort, resources and attention in the next financial year (2026/27). These will form part of a suite of milestones that will be submitted to Members for approval in March 2026 and support the delivery of the agreed five-year Business Plan objectives.

6. Financial and staffing implications

- 6.1 The priorities identified here are incorporated into our Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

7. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 7.1 The priorities identified support the milestones in the Strategy and Business Plan. This is critical to the delivery of many of the Management Plan's outcomes and objectives, as it describes the contribution of the Authority's activities towards delivering the Management Plan.

8. Legal and sustainability implications

- 8.1 None.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That Members note the proposed Business Plan milestone priorities for 2026/27 and offer any comments.

Contact Officer:

Kate Clark, Performance Management Officer
01439 772700

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2025

Item 11, National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Statement 2024/25 and Stakeholder Forum report 2025

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To inform members of the progress made in implementing the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan 2022-27, through the Annual Monitoring Statement 2024/25 (appendix 1).
- 1.2 To present the 2025 Stakeholder Forum report (**separate appendix 2**).

2. Background

- 2.1 The National Park Management Plan is the most important document that the Authority produces. It sets out six outcomes and 24 supporting objectives that the Authority and key delivery partners will pursue to achieve them. The current National Park Management Plan was adopted in May 2022.
 - 2.2 A Partnership Delivery Group, representing the key stakeholders with delivery responsibilities for the Management Plan meets twice a year to review and co-ordinate progress. A wider group of organisations (the Stakeholder Forum) also meets annually to consider progress and address challenges affecting delivery of the Management Plan, based around a selected outcome. The scope of the groups is defined in the Delivery and Monitoring Plan.
 - 2.3 The Annual Monitoring Statement sets out the progress made towards the Management Plan outcomes and objectives. It is published on the Authority's website, in the Delivery and Monitoring section of the National Park Management Plan webpages.
 - 2.4 Progress is measured as set out by the Delivery and Monitoring Plan and national targets. The national targets are the ten Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) targets. These are national targets for all 44 protected landscapes (National Parks and National Landscapes). The National Park's contribution to locally apportioned targets was agreed at the National Park Authority Meeting in June 2025. The Authority's performance against the PLTOF targets is published on our website.
 - 2.5 Partnership, national and PLTOF data are used to measure progress. National datasets are available online and links have been provided in the statement. PLTOF data is provided to protected landscapes by Natural England.
- ### 3. Annual Monitoring Statement 2024/25
- 3.1 The Annual Monitoring Statement 2024/25 report is in **appendix 1** of this report. It is a summary of the collective actions of the Partnership Delivery Group and other stakeholders, where information is available.

- 3.2 Overall, out of 24 objectives, 15 (63%) were underway and on target and eight (33%) were underway but behind target in 2024/25
- 3.3 The statement in **appendix 1** highlights the significant achievements for each objective.
- 3.4 The objectives that were underway but behind target are as follows, and more information is provided in **appendix 1**:
- Creation of wooded habitat (2)
 - Peat restoration (3)
 - Ecological status of waterbodies (5)
 - Wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems (7)
 - Health and wellbeing (12)
 - Engaging the next generation with the National Park (14)
 - Affordable housing and holiday homes (21)
 - Low-cost, low-carbon housing (22)
 - Resilient communities (23)
- 3.5 We are currently on track to achieve PLTOF indicators for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and greenhouse gas emissions (indicators 2, 3 and 6) objectives 1 and 6), at the current rate of progress. Peat restoration is most likely on target as per PLTOF data (indicator 7, objective 3), there is 1,800 ha of restoration at present out of 5,682 ha by 2050 (32%).
- 3.6 Other PLTOF indicators are behind target. Data for increasing wildlife-rich habitats and woodland cover (indicators 1 and 8; objectives 2, 6 and 7) show that these are behind target, however the data is most likely an underestimate. Wildlife-rich habitat data is taken from a limited number of Defra schemes and woodland cover data may not capture newly planted trees that have been planted as part of objective 2. When newly planted trees mature, the woodland cover metric should increase. The number of heritage assets at risk (Grade I/II* listed buildings and scheduled monuments) is unchanged from 2023-24 according to PLTOF data and has not significantly decreased according to our own research up to 2025. However, this indicator does not include Grade II listed buildings, where progress has been made (indicator 10, objective 11).
- 3.7 No PLTOF data is available yet for priority habitat outside SSSIs, nature-friendly farming, and accessibility and engagement (indicators 4, 5, and 9; objectives 6, 13 and 19).

4. Stakeholder forum 2025

- 4.1 The third Annual Stakeholder Forum was held on 16 September 2025 at Helmsley Town Hall. The theme was ‘Somewhere to Live – Completing the Affordable Housing Jigsaw’ (Management Plan outcome 6, ‘A place of great beauty where local communities thrive’). The event brought together the key partners involved in building affordable housing, who focussed on the barriers to affordable housing

and how they may be overcome. 33 individuals from 16 organisations were in attendance. A summary report from the day is at (separate) **appendix 2**.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Progress has been made towards all Management Plan objectives, and the majority (63%) are currently underway and on target, based on current data.
- 5.2 Four of the PLTOF indicators are on target and three are behind target, according to current data. However, some data may be incomplete and future data releases may alter the picture. No data has been released for three of the indicators.
- 5.3 The 2025 Annual Stakeholder Forum was held on 16 September 2025 at Helmsley Town Hall. A report of the event is appended.

6. Financial and staffing implications

- 6.1 None. Work is carried out within existing budgets/teams.

7. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 7.1 The Annual Monitoring Statement 2024/25 shows the progress towards delivering the National Park Management Plan outcomes and objectives.
- 7.2 The Stakeholder Forum 2025 report shows the recent engagement of the wider stakeholders and representative bodies, who contribute to monitoring progress towards delivering the National Park Management Plan outcomes and objectives.

8. Legal and sustainability implications

- 8.1 There are no legal and sustainability implications to the contents of this report. The National Park Management Plan is a statutory document, however neither the Annual Monitoring Statement for the Annual Stakeholder Forum are legal requirements.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That Members:
 - a) note the 2025 Stakeholder Forum report and offer any comments
 - b) note and comment on the progress made in implementing the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan 2022-2027
 - c) approve the publication of the 2024-25 Annual Monitoring Statement on the Authority's website

Contact Officer:

Kate Clark

Performance Management Officer

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Background documents to this report

- 1. **Appendix 2: 2025 Stakeholder Forum Report**

Appendix 1. National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Statement 2024/25

Why have we produced this statement?

This report summarises the progress made by a range of partners towards achieving the six outcomes and 24 objectives in the [North York Moors National Park Management Plan 2022-2027](#). This monitoring framework was set out in the Authority's [Delivery and Monitoring Plan](#) in 2022, which was published alongside the management plan.

The reporting period is from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, the third year that this Plan has been in place.

Each management plan objective is given a status from the following:

- Information not available
- Little or no progress
- Underway but behind target
- Underway and on target
- Target met

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

In January 2024 the previous UK Government announced that Management Plans and their reporting processes would be required to incorporate [ten national targets and indicators](#) around environmental improvements and access. These targets are largely based on wider national environmental targets that are set out in the Environment Act 2021 and the government's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP). They are incorporated into the [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) (PLTOF). These targets are referred to as 'National Indicators' in this monitoring statement and progress against these targets is included with the statement for the related management objective(s).

References

Where 'source: Natural England' is cited, this refers to the data we receive annually from Natural England as part of PLTOF. National Indicators are reported on using the data provided to us by Natural England. All other references are specified in the text, with links where available.

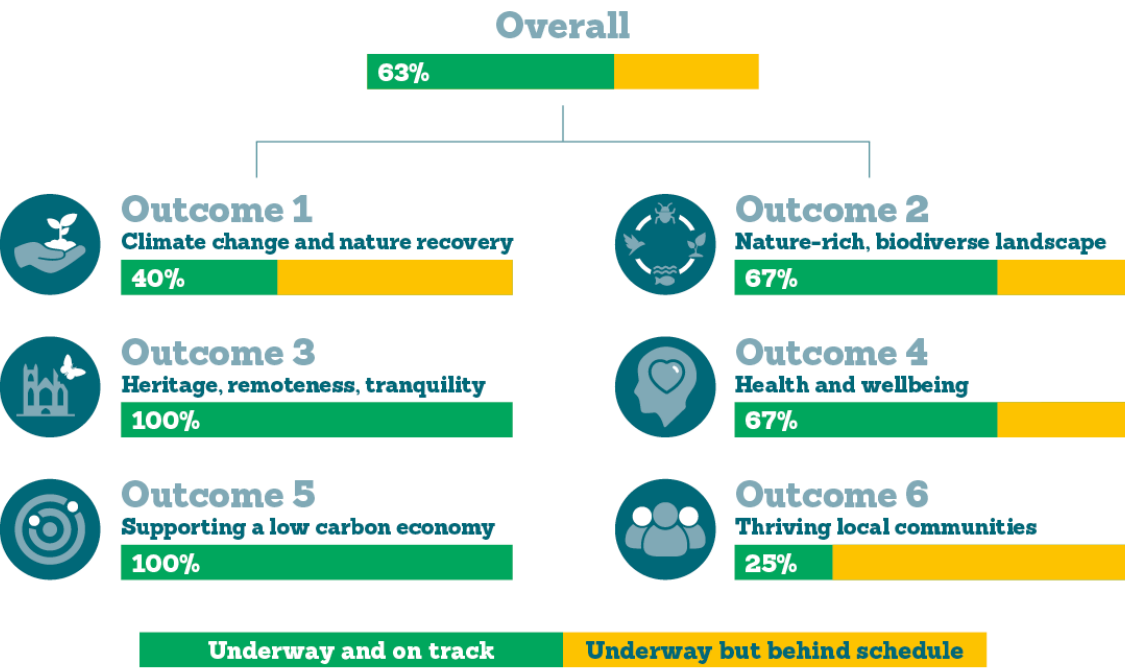
Summary

The 24 Management Plan objectives are grouped under six outcomes. In 2024/25, 67% (16 of 24) of objectives were underway and on target and 33% (8 of 24) of objectives were underway but behind target.

The Outcomes summary section below shows the percentage of objectives on target for the six Management Plan outcomes and this is also illustrated in the infographic below.

The status of individual objectives under each outcome are given in the Objectives summary.

Management plan outcomes and objectives status (% on track) March 2025



Outcomes summary

This table shows each Management Plan outcome, the percentage and number of objectives on target.

Outcome	% objectives on target
Outcome 1 – A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery	40% (2 of 5)
Outcome 2 - A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape	67% (2 of 3)
Outcome 3 – A landscape rich in heritage and highly valued for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity	100% (3 of 3)
Outcome 4 – A place that lifts the nation’s health and wellbeing	67% (4 of 6)
Outcome 5 – A place that supports a diverse and innovative low carbon economy	100% (3 of 3)
Outcome 6 – A place of great beauty where local communities thrive	25% (1 of 4)
All outcomes	63% (15 of 24)

Objectives summary

Below are tables showing each outcome, their objectives and whether the objectives were on target in 2024/25.

Outcome 1 - A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery

Objective	Status
1. The National Park should play a significant part in achieving the regional ambition of being a carbon negative economy by 2040	Underway and on target

Objective	Status
2. Capture and store carbon through creating at least 2,500 hectares of additional wooded habitat by 2032	Underway but behind target
3. Capture and store carbon by ensuring all degraded blanket bogs and peat habitats in the National Park are under active restoration by 2032	Underway but behind target
4. Protect, restore and improve soils across the National Park	Underway and on target
5. Achieve good ecological status for all water bodies by 2027 and support the improvement of the marine and coastal habitat	Underway but behind target

Outcome 2 - A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape

Objective	Status
6. Create bigger, better and more joined-up habitats, with nature-rich wildlife corridors extending beyond the National Park boundaries	Underway and on target
7. Restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems on at least 2,000 hectares in the National Park	Underway but behind target
8. Work with our moorland community to support the sustainable management of moorland to ensure it retains its intrinsic character and supports a greater variety and abundance of species and habitats	Underway and on target

Outcome 3 - A landscape rich in heritage and highly valued for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity

Objective	Status
9. Increase the intrinsic darkness of the National Park International Dark Sky Reserve by expanding the current dark sky core zone by twenty percent by 2027	Underway and on target
10. Work to maintain and improve the sense of peace and tranquillity, including through the protection of its remotest areas	Underway and on target
11. Ensure that our historic environment is better understood, conserved, explained and under appropriate management; and work with partners to reduce the number of identified Designated Heritage Assets at Risk	Underway and on target

Outcome 4 - A place that lift's the nation's health and wellbeing

Objective	Status
12. Create specific, targeted opportunities to improve mental and physical health and well-being by connecting people with nature	Underway but behind target
13. Increase awareness of, and access to, the National Park among under-served communities, particularly those in the surrounding area	Underway and on target
14. Inspire the next generation to enjoy, learn about and care for the National Park, and support young people's direct involvement in decision-making about its future	Underway but behind target
15. Ensure that all members of the public are able to enjoy the National Park using easy-to-use, well-marked rights of way and open access land	Underway and on target

Objective	Status
16. Promote the North York Moors National Park as the premier recreational/family cycling destination in the north of England	Underway and on target
17. Work with businesses to establish regenerative tourism as a guiding principle and encourage visitors to make a positive contribution to the National Park	Underway and on target

Outcome 5 – A place that supports a diverse and innovative low carbon economy

Objective	Status
18: Provide opportunities that attract, upskill and retain a local workforce in high-value, knowledge-intensive jobs and the 'green' or 'landscape' economy	Underway and on target
19: Maintain a strong and viable farming and landscape community that delivers more for climate, nature, people and place	Underway and on target
20: Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park	Underway and on target

Outcome 6 – A place of great beauty where local communities thrive

Objective	Status
21. Increase the delivery of affordable housing above 2010-2020 levels to build at least 100 affordable homes in villages across the National Park by 2027; and press for changes to control the conversion of existing housing to second or holiday homes.	Underway but behind target
22. Work to establish the North York Moors National Park as a leader in low-cost, low-carbon, housing design through the development of at least one new-build exemplar scheme; and promote the deployment of sustainable materials and responsible retrofitting measures in historic buildings to secure their long-term future.	Underway but behind target
23. Enable resilient communities where residents are able to meet their basic needs, by identifying any existing gaps in provision and developing community hubs to service a wider catchment or areas where services can be shared.	Underway but behind target
24. Facilitate local solutions to ensure superfast broadband and/or mobile phone coverage is available to 100 percent of households in the National Park by 2030.	Underway and on target

Outcome 1: A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change

Objective 1: The National Park should play a significant part in achieving the regional ambition of being a carbon negative economy by 2040

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- National Indicator 6: Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

- CO₂ emissions across the National Park are in line with the identified carbon pathway from the 2019 baseline position.

2024/25 monitoring statement

Official [UK Protected Landscapes greenhouse gas emissions statistics](#) for territorial emissions are currently available for Protected Landscapes from 2005 to 2023, the data on emissions in this section is from [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023](#) (Department for Energy and Net Zero). The net greenhouse gas emissions for the National Park were 541 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂e) in 2005. By 2023, emissions reduced to 234 ktCO₂e, which is a 57% reduction from 2005.

If the annual emissions data from the Department for Energy and Net Zero follow a similar trend to 2005-2023, emissions in 2036 are estimated to pass net zero and become carbon negative (estimated at -15 kt CO₂e based on current data; illustrated in Figure 1). This exceeds National Indicator 6, which requires that the National Park reaches net zero emissions by 2050, and the National Parks England Climate Delivery Plan target of net zero by 2040 for all English National Parks. Regionally, it is in line with the Combined Authorities' Routemap to Carbon Negative, which targets 2036 for carbon neutrality. There are limitations with the data used for the estimates. The dataset at present uses only carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane emissions; it is not currently possible to estimate levels of other greenhouse gases within the boundaries of the national parks. The data is also territorial emissions rather than consumption-based, therefore it does not account for other factors such as emissions from visitors. Emissions are not predictable, therefore estimates are not necessarily accurate and future data may indicate a different trend.

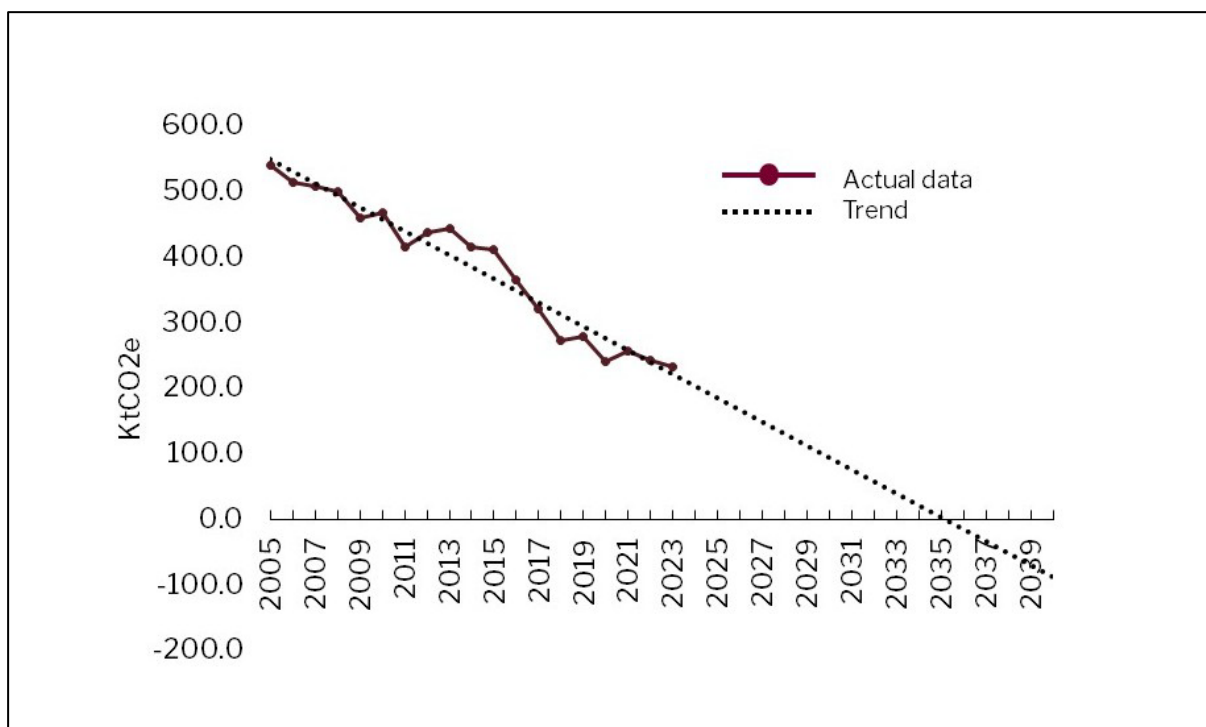


Figure 1. Greenhouse gas emissions in the North York Moors National Park - actual and trend. Source: [UK Protected Landscapes greenhouse gas emissions statistics 2005-2023](#) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero)

From 2005, territorial emissions from electricity use by the agriculture, domestic, industry, commercial and public sectors reduced 81% from 202 kt CO₂e to 38 kt CO₂e in 2023. In contrast, emissions from gas usage by the same sectors reduced by 41%, from 42 kt CO₂e to 25 kt CO₂e. The largest source of territorial emissions in the National Park in 2023 was agriculture (55%), followed by transport (23%), industry (10%) and domestic emissions (8%). Commercial, waste and public sector emissions comprised the remaining emissions (4%).

Livestock contributed to 73% of agriculture territorial emissions and soils contributed 15%. Both sources have decreased modestly from 2005 to 2023 (17% and 14%, respectively). In contrast, emissions from gas and electricity usage in agriculture have decreased dramatically by 97.5% and 99.6% respectively. Refer to Objective 4 and Objective 19 to find out more about work on soil restoration and land management that will help deliver more for the climate.

Transport on minor and A-roads was responsible for 95 kt CO₂e territorial emissions in 2023 (95% of transport emissions). From 2005 to 2023, the decrease in emissions has been modest (19%) but may decrease more sharply in future if electric vehicle usage becomes more widespread. Refer to Objective 20 to find out more about developments in sustainable travel in the National Park.

Land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sources emit or sequester greenhouse gases. In 2023, grassland mineral soils, forestry and bioenergy crops together sequestered 241 kt CO₂e emissions. Peatland, cropland mineral soils, other sources and settlements, however, contributed to emissions (32 kt CO₂e). Refer to Objective 2, Objective 3, Objective 4, Objective 6 and Objective 7 to find out more about developments in forestry, soil health peat restoration, habitat management and ecosystems in the National Park. Although forestry in the National Park is still contributing significantly to carbon sequestration, woodland creation is behind target (see Objective 2).

Objective 2: Capture and store carbon through creating at least 2,500 hectares of additional wooded habitat by 2032

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

- At least 2,500 ha of additional wooded habitat by 2032 (from 2022/23). This target also contributes to reaching National Target Indicator 8.
- National Indicator 8: Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline). The apportioned target for the National Park is 4,323 ha.

2024/25 monitoring statement

In 2023 there was 32,104 ha of woodland in the National Park, which was 22% of the National Park area (Source: Natural England). In 2024, 79% of woodland was sustainably managed by the public and private sectors. The National Park has 6,296 ha of ancient

woodland, of which 2,683 ha is ancient and semi-natural ancient woodland and 3,612 ha is plantations on ancient woodland sites (Source: Natural England).

From 2022/23 to 2024/25, 350 ha new woodland has been created by the NYMNPA and partners (including Forestry England, the Forestry Commission (EWCO), White Rose Forest, the Woodland Trust and Tees Community Forest), of which 112.26 ha was created in 2024/25. To date, the majority (82%) of tree planting has been carried out by the NYMNPA. The NYMNPA’s contribution in 2024/25 was mainly funded by Woodsmith Section 106, with contributions from Ryevitalise, Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment Partnership and Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) (see Table 1).

Table 1. Hectares of woodland created by NYMNPA and partners 2022/23 - 2024/25

Year	NYMNPA	Partners	Total
2022/23	74.70	5.67	80.37
2023/24	132.37	25.00	157.37
2024/25	79.52	32.74	112.26
Total (ha)	286.59	63.11	350.00

Source: NYMNPA

By 2024/25, it would be expected that approximately 30% (750ha) of 2,500 ha would have been created, to stay on track for our 2,500 ha by 2032 target. However, only 14% (350 ha) of 2,500 has been created to date, therefore woodland creation is less than half of what is targeted at present. The 2,500 ha target feeds into the 4,323 ha by 2050 target (National Target 7), therefore this target is currently behind target too. Data from the National Forestry Inventory shows that from 2022-2023 shows that the total woodland area in the National Park increased only by 8.3 ha, however this is likely to be mature trees rather than newly planted trees. In 2022 the total canopy cover (including trees outside woodland) was 24.6% (Source: Natural England).

Objective 3: Capture and store carbon by ensuring all degraded blanket bogs and peat habitats in the National Park are under active restoration by 2032.

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

- 2,500 ha under active restoration by 2027 (this contributes to the Moor to Restore and national targets)
- National Indicator 7 - Restore approximately 130,000 ha of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (locally apportioned target: 5,683 ha).

2024/25 monitoring statement

In 2021 it was estimated that there were 5,876 ha of deep peat (more than 40 cm deep), which is 4% of the National Park area. Together with shallow peat types, peat habitat was estimated to cover 45% of the National Park area (Source: Natural England). The National Park has committed to a target of 5,683 ha of restoration, to contribute to National Indicator 7.

Peat restoration projects in the National Park include Great North Bog and Moor to Restore, which are under the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme. As of December 2024, the total area of peat committed for restoration from September 2021 to March 2026 under the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme is 1,800.18 ha (32% of the target of 5,683 ha) (Source: Natural England). In 2024/25 a total of 1,042.5 ha of peat in this area under active restoration (i.e. works have commenced) under the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme projects. Therefore, 42% of the 2,500 ha active restoration target by 2027 has been achieved, with two years remaining out of five (behind target).

In May 2025, Natural England published a new peat map for England. This was produced using new methods such as satellite data analysis and machine learning. The map estimates that 42% of the National Park is peat, with the extent of deep peat is now 21,112 ha or 14.6% of the National Park area (Source: Natural England) (previously it was estimated that the total area of deep peat was 5,876 ha). The majority of peat habitat in the National Park is 10-30 cm deep (58%), with 8% at 30-40 cm deep (Source: Natural England). The impact of the new England peat map on peat restoration plans within the National Park is yet to be determined.

Objective 4: Protect, restore and improve soils across the National Park.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Hectares of improved grassland soil and arable and horticultural soils delivered for example through ELM/FiPL schemes.
- Case study - At least 200 land managers engaged to raise awareness of soil health by 2027.

2024/25 monitoring statement

In 2024, 50,780,625 tonnes of carbon was stored below ground (i.e. in soil) in the National Park (Source: Natural England). Well-managed soil stores more carbon, therefore an increase in below-ground storage over time can indicate an improvement in soil quality. Data on below-ground storage is only made available every 5 years so is unlikely to be available before the end of the current management plan in 2027. Out of the 44 protected landscapes in England (national parks and national landscapes), North York Moors National Park is thirteenth highest for below ground carbon storage in tonnes/hectare (Source: Natural England), although it should be noted that landscapes vary in their potential for storage. Out of the ten national parks in England, the North York Moors ranks eighth, and has a similar tonnes/hectare value as Exmoor and the New Forest National Parks (Source: Natural England).

The NYMNPA has delivered 20 soil health awareness events for farmers with an estimated attendance of 315 farmers (some farmers may have attended multiple events; the unique number of farmers is not available). From 2022/23 to 2023/24, 96 farmers/land managers attended Ryevitalise 'working with farmers' best practice events.

With funding from the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, the five protected landscapes in North Yorkshire commissioned a study into regenerative agriculture and farm emissions. The study sets out an action plan for how a move towards regenerative agriculture might reduce farming emissions. The study also provides a baseline dataset of farming emissions for each protected landscape.

Invasive species control (Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed removal) was carried out on 21 ha balsam and 8 ha of balsam and knotweed through [Ryevitalise](#) and the [Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment Partnership](#). From 2022/23, a total of 130 ha has been subject to invasive species control (65 ha in 2022/23; 36 ha in 23/24).

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) funded 24 schemes in 2024/25, covering a total of 1,562 hectares. FiPL has supported 8 soil health awareness projects involving 190 farmers/land managers in 2024/24. The total number of these projects supported by FiPL since 2022/23 is 48 and the total number of farmers/land managers involved is 433.

Low impact silvicultural system (LISS) management by Forestry England aims to increase biodiversity and resilience in the North York Moors forests. The overall area of LISS management within the National Park boundary is 7,449.95 ha (other management is 11,345.40 ha); which is 39.64% LISS (other = 60.36%) (Source: Forestry England).

Objective 5: Achieve good ecological status for all water bodies by 2027 and support the improvement of the marine and coastal habitat.

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

Environment Agency Water Framework Directive (WFD) Classification data

2024/25 monitoring statement

Data on water quality is from the Environment Agency's Water Framework Directive (WFD) Cycle 3 classifications of 2022 (Source: Natural England). Classification is not annual, and updated data is awaited from the Environment Agency (expected 2027). 31% of river water in the National Park is classified as 'good' (243 km out of 792 km). The overall figure for waterbody condition has been calculated by counting the number of waterbodies in each classification. Of all 95 waterbodies counted within the National Park (groundwater, lakes, transitional and coastal waters (TRAC) and waterbody catchments), 22.1% were classified as 'good', of which one was groundwater and 20 were waterbody catchments (which include rivers). 48.4% of waterbodies were classified as 'moderate', 17.9% were 'poor' (3.2% were 'bad' and 8.4% have no status or were not assessed).

The [REConnect](#) project started in September 2024, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, and is based around the River Esk and coastal streams. The five-year project will include [river and adjacent habitat restoration](#) to improve water quality.

Phases 1 and 2 of the [Esk and Coastal Streams](#) Restoration Programme are underway and include river habitat surveys and data analysis. The fourth year of the Coastal

Streams restoration programme (in collaboration with the Environment Agency) to address diffuse pollution has been delivered with works for a fifth year being coordinated, and feasibility plans are in place for in-channel works and wetland creation. Over the four years delivery has achieved 6.77 ha riparian buffer strip creation, 0.64 ha marshy grassland restoration, 3,045 trees planted, 965 m hedgerow enhanced, 6.3 km of fencing installed and 13 water troughs installed. Feasibility has been completed for an in-channel obstacle with consents obtained and works scheduled to take place in autumn 2025.

Outcome 2: A nature-rich, more biodiverse landscape

Objective 6: Create bigger, better and more joined-up habitats, with nature-rich wildlife corridors extending beyond the National Park boundaries.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Local Nature Recovery Plan for North York Moors National Park completed by Autumn 2024.
- Area of land covered by conservation agreements.
- National Indicator 1: Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline). Measured by: extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites. (locally apportioned target is 11,916 ha).
- National Indicator 2: Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.
- National Indicator 3: 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
- National Indicator 4: Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042. Measured by: extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes; percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land.

2024/25 monitoring statement

The [Local Nature Recovery Plan](#) has been prepared and is published on our website. North Yorkshire Council and Tees Valley Combined Authority are preparing the [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) for North Yorkshire and York and Tees Valley respectively, which is required under the [Environment Act 2021](#). The strategies will set priorities and target areas for restoring and enhancing nature in the region and are due to be published in 2025/26. Forestry England have actively engaged with development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

In 2024, 67,600 ha of land was in agri-environment schemes (Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Initiative), which was 58% of the registered area (total hectares of land parcels on the Rural Land Register) in the National Park (Source: Natural England).

NYMNPA delivered 115.32 ha of woodland restoration in 2024/25, with Boulby Section 106 funding supporting 105.24 ha of woodland restoration over 16 agreements and the final year of Ryevitalise supporting 10.08 ha of restoration. 13.06 km of hedgerow was also enhanced.

100 broadleaf trees were planted at Levisham Brow as part of the Planting a Lasting Legacy for People and Nature project, led by the North York Moors Trust. This was funded by 50 individuals/families. A new orchard was planted at Low Horcum Farmstead, Hole of Horcum, which included local heritage varieties, i.e. Hunt House Apple from Goathland. This was funded by a partnership between Rounton Coffee and the North York Moors Trust.

National indicator 1 data from Natural England shows that from January 2023 to March 2025, 79.7 ha of wildlife rich habitat was created or restored outside protected sites in the National Park. However, there isn't yet complete data for all activities that count towards this target, therefore the data is probably an underestimate at present (Source: Natural England). The NYMNPA has agreed an apportioned target of 11,916 ha of wildlife-rich habitats (outside protected sites) to be restored by 2042. The target assumes that by 2042, 17% of farmland will be managed wholly for nature (9,975 ha); 500 ha of plantations on ancient woodland sites will be restored; 121 ha of forest to bog and wildlife-rich habitats will be restored; 520 ha (25%) of grassland will be restored; and 800 ha of conifer woodland will be converted to native broadleaf. National Indicator 1 also applies to Objective 7.

National indicator 2 is on target. In 2024, 57 SSSI features (31%) were in favourable condition and in 2025 this had increased significantly to 76 (42%) (Source: Natural England). An additional five SSSI features per year need to come into favourable condition to stay on target for 80% (147) in 2042.

National indicator 3 is on target. By 2024, 7% of SSSI features (12 features) had actions on track to become favourable (Source: Natural England). By 2025, 20% (37 features) had actions on track, an increase of 25 (Source: Natural England). To achieve 60% (110) SSSI features with actions on track by 2028, there will need to be 24 additional SSSI features with actions on track each year.

SSSIs are no longer graded as an entire area by Natural England, they are instead assessed for condition by feature. An SSSI may have multiple features, each given a separate condition grade. What is reported for National Indicators 2 and 3 is the condition of individual features, not the overall condition of each SSSI.

Data for National indicator 4 is currently awaited from Natural England. In 2024, 37% of the National Park was priority habitat, of which the majority was upland heathland (Source: Natural England). However, most priority habitat (especially upland heathland) is within SSSIs and therefore will not contribute to National Indicator 4. 2024 data also showed that 58% of the registered area in the National Park was managed under agri-

environment scheme agreements ([Countryside Stewardship](#), Environmental Stewardship and the [Sustainable Farming Incentive](#)) (Source: Natural England).

Objective 7: Restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems on at least 2,000 hectares in the National Park.

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

- Bransdale Management Plan completed by March 2023
- Newtondale Partnership completed by March 2023
- National Indicator 1: Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline). Measured by: extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites. (locally apportioned target is 11,916 ha).

2024/25 monitoring statement

Bransdale Conservation Management Plan work is continuing, with contributions from the National Trust, tenant farmers, Forestry England, Newton Towers Estate and the Environment Agency, with completion expected in 2025.

Forestry England received permission to remove 25 ha of conifer woodland from Scot Ridge and replace with heathland/wooded mosaic. Forestry England also formed the Wild Newtondale Partnership and a land management plan was produced, with funding secured to begin implementation over 458 ha.

The [Linking Levisham](#) Landscape Recovery Project is underway; this and Forestry England work at Newtondale have superseded the Newtondale Conservation Management Plan. Linking Levisham will explore how the Levisham Estate can work harder for nature and climate through land use change, whilst supporting viable farming businesses. The project aims to establish ecologically connected habitats, such as woodland, bog, fen, grassland and moorland. The project team have now been recruited, and the development phase has commenced, with progress underway data gathering and feasibility studies. The evidence gathered will inform proposals for land management, monitoring and funding. The development phase is due to complete in March 2026.

In the [Birds on the Edge](#) project, [North York Moors Trust](#) worked with communities, farmers and land managers in National Park and surrounding areas, including the Howardian Hills National Landscapes, to create and restore rich habitat for birds. In 2024/25, four ponds, eight drinking pools and 4.2 hectares of feeding/nesting habitat (wildflower plots) were created, two historic dew ponds were restored, and 24 supplementary feeder/seed dispensers were installed across 12 farms. This work was funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, Section 106, Farming in Protected Landscapes and Yorkshire Water.

Information on the progress towards National Indicator 1 can be found under Objective 6.

Objective 8: Work with our moorland community to support the sustainable management of moorland to ensure it retains its intrinsic character and supports a greater variety and abundance of species and habitats.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Work with Natural England and Moorland Partners to enhance moorland fringe habitat.
- SSSIs in favourable condition increased by 10%.
- Case studies - Evidence of changing land management practices on moorland areas.

2024/25 monitoring statement

The Moorland Forum continues to meet regularly, to discuss moorland issues and address challenges. Following an initial scoping exercise, the NYMNP has been working to establish a North York Moors Graziers group through FiPL.

Under the Moor to Restore project, peat restoration work was completed on seven sites as of March 2025. An extension to the project (until 31 March 2026) was granted. Peatland restoration will continue to be delivered with a further 5 sites in the pipeline. Restoration work will commence after the 2025 nesting bird season.

In 2024, 57 SSSI features (31%) were in favourable condition and in 2025 this had increased significantly to 76 (42%) (Source: Natural England). This is an increase of 33%, which already exceeds our target of increasing SSSI in favourable condition by 10% before the end of the current management plan in 2027.

NYMNP, Forestry England, North York Moors Railway, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Ministry of Defence, Natural England, Historic England and land managers/licensees are partners on the Linking Levisham Landscape Recovery Scheme, which will pioneer innovative management to restore moorland biodiversity.

Outcome 3: A landscape rich in heritage and highly valued for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity

Objective 9: Increase the intrinsic darkness of the National Park International Dark Sky Reserve by expanding the current dark sky core zone by twenty percent by 2027.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Core zone extended by 2027 following evidence submitted to International Dark Sky Association.
- Number of lighting conditions attached to planning permissions.

2024/25 monitoring statement

The new core zone boundary has been identified based on data from the network of permanent dark sky meters. This represents an approximate 30% increase and would see the core extend north and east to encompass Beck Hole, Harwood Dale and Ravenscar. Work is now underway to engage with communities and several meetings have been set up with Parish Councils. At present the new boundary has been drawn to exclude RAF Fylingdales.

Six large-scale lighting projects have been delivered across the National Park, including Sutton Bank and Danby Lodge National Park centres. Projects are underway in Bransdale and Botton Village. Two small-scale projects have been delivered at Chop Gate Village Hall and Coxwold Village Hall.

The Dark Sky Friendly Community Scheme helps communities across the North York Moors to gain recognition for the work they do to protect and enhance the quality of the night sky above their neighbourhood. In 2024/25, schemes were delivered in Hawnby, Coxwold and Ampleforth. Additionally, eight community engagement sessions were delivered to local organisations.

Planning conditions are routinely applied to control outside lighting. In 2024/25, 178 planning applications had lighting conditions attached, compared to 45 in 2022/23 and 169 in 2023/24.

Together with the Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors National Park ran two Dark Skies festivals in 2024/25. October 2024 was the 5th anniversary of the Dark Skies Fringe Festival and 10th anniversary of the Dark Skies Festival was in February 2025.

Objective 10: Work to maintain and improve the sense of peace and tranquillity, including through the protection of its remotest areas.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

Number of applications for development approved within Remote Areas (target = 0)

2024/25 Monitoring Statement

Remote areas are set out in the NYMNPA's Local Plan and are defined as being at least one kilometre from the nearest road or address point.

In 2024/25 there was one application approved within a Remote Area, but this related to the existing mast at Bilsdale for which there was a national communications need, so there was no net loss to the sense of remoteness.

Objective 11: Ensure that our historic environment is better understood, conserved, explained and under appropriate management; and work with partners to reduce the number of identified Designated Heritage Assets at Risk.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments on the At Risk register
- Number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments removed from the At Risk Register (target: 25 by 2027)
- Case studies – delivery of heritage skills workshops
- National Indicator 10: Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes

2024/25 monitoring statement:

In Historic England's Heritage at Risk Registers (published annually in November), which includes Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments, there were 45 heritage assets in the North York Moors National Park area in 2023 and 44 entries in 2024. Of these 44, three were Grade I/II* listed buildings and 41 were Scheduled Monuments. The change in 2024 was due to the removal of a Scheduled Monument consisting of the flying medieval deer park wall section, Fylingdales. In 2025, there is currently only one Grade I/II* listed building at risk (Arden Mill near Main Lane, Hawnby: Grade II*, reference 1391800) and there are 41 Scheduled Monuments at risk; totalling 42 on the Heritage At Risk register.

Eight Grade II Listed buildings were removed from the NYMNPA's At Risk register in 2024/25, bringing the total removed since 2022/23 to 16 (four in both 2022/23 and 2023/24). A total of 17 building grants were issued and eight of these removed or reduced the level of risk on listed buildings/designated heritage assets. Furthermore, both FiPL and Section 106 grants contributed towards repairs. Training was also provided to land agents, local interest groups and Conservation Area villages by the NYMNPA, on the restoration and retrofitting of historic buildings. Currently there are 34 Grade II listed buildings on the NYMNPA's At Risk register.

The NYMNPA undertook preventative or repair works on Cawthorn Camps, Roulston Scar promontory fort and Coomb Hill enclosure. Bracken management work continued on the large scheduled monument at Levisham.

Year 1 of the Raiding the Bank project was delivered, which included getting community archaeology and history projects underway and completing test pitting, survey and geophysics projects. Raiding the Bank finishes in October 2025.

The Botton Historic Area Assessment was published in July 2024. This assessed the origins and development of the settlement (from early occupation up to recent developments) and provided a detailed architectural assessment including styles, materials, details and landscaping.

The NYMNPA undertakes written appraisals of the special historic and architectural character of the Conservation Areas under its control. Appraisals for Goathland and Appleton le Moors should be adopted in 2025/26, as well as consultation on an appraisal for Grosmont. Progress on appraisals for Hutton le Hole, North York Moors Railway and Staithes is likely to be in 2026/27.

Two heritage skills sessions in lime mortar were delivered by the NYMNPA in 2024/25. These were attended by local contractors and homeowners. In 2022/23 there were also two lime mortar sessions. A thatching course for young people was delivered at the

NYMNPA's headquarters in 2024/25 and three heritage skills sessions in drystone walling were delivered through the [Traditional Boundary Fund](#). This brings the total number of heritage skills sessions delivered since 2022/23 to eight.

Outcome 4: A place that lifts the nation's health and well-being.

Objective 12: Create specific, targeted opportunities to improve mental and physical health and well-being by connecting people with nature

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

- Impact on health and wellbeing (Social Return on Investment)
- Health and Wellbeing (engagement) strategy produced

2024/25 monitoring statement

In 2018 and 2019, [Social Return on Investment Reports](#) were provided to the NYMNPA by York Management School and morethanoutputs. The [2018 report](#) measured the health and wellbeing impact of the NYMNPA and found that for every £1 invested, there is a positive return on health and wellbeing equivalent to approximately seven times the value. The [2019 report](#) measured the social value of the [Explorer Club and Young Rangers pilots](#). The report found that for every £1 of investment in these schemes, there was a positive return on health and wellbeing of six times that value.

The [Health and Wellbeing Engagement Strategy](#) was adopted by the NYMNPA in 2023.

The North York Moors Trust, the NYMNPA, the Yorkshire Dales and health professionals developed, designed and delivered a Nature Prescription calendar. The NYMNPA delivered nine [nature prescriptions](#) training sessions to GPs, Social Prescribers, Health and Wellbeing coaches, occupational therapists across 7 primary care networks, the Early Help in Psychosis team (Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale) and the Personal Recovery Unit North (Catterick Garrison). Over 1,000 calendars were distributed to GPs, social prescribers and health professionals.

[Trust Treks](#) were delivered by the North York Moors Trust. This is a programme of targeted wellbeing walks in the National Park to connect participants with nature and inspire physical activity in nature to improve health and wellbeing, tackle social isolation and nurture an appreciation of and desire to protect nature.

The Trust delivered 8 monthly nature connection/wellbeing walks. These engaged men aged between 21-72. Following evaluation, 100% stated that they would return to the National Park for wellbeing and recreation; 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the programme had benefitted their mental and physical health; and 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they had a stronger connection to nature as a result of the programme. The work was funded by You've Got This, Tees Foundation and Everyone Active.

The Moment art trail was completed at Danby Lodge National Park centre in November 2024 and the Words in the Landscape art trail was installed at Sutton Bank National Park Centre in December 2024.

Mindful Month was held in September 2024 and will be held again in September 2025. Each year, the NYMNPA partners with local businesses in a month-long programme of mindfulness events in the National Park, including yoga, the Mindful on the Moor Art and Wellbeing festival, and art and craft classes.

Objective 13: Increase awareness of, and access to, the National Park among under-served communities, particularly those in the surrounding area.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this measured?

Visitor survey statistics on the diversity of the surrounding areas

2024/25 monitoring statement

The last visitor survey was in 2021. 5% of visitors were from ethnic minorities, an increase from 1% in 2016. More data will be available next year.

The NYMNPA provided outdoor learning activities for schools/groups, of which 55% of visits have been made by from areas of high deprivation, helped by funding from Generation Green 2.

Delivery of Championing National Parks for Everyone commenced, which is led by the Peak District Mosaic charity in partnership with the North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales and Peak District National Parks and the Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service. The project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project's area of focus for the North York Moors National Park is culturally and ethnically diverse communities on Teesside. A series of outreach events and monthly activities is planned.

Championing National Parks for Everyone aims to create a network of Community Champions, who can lead their own visits to introduce others to the National Park. Cohort 1 Community Championing training started in 2024/25 and will conclude in 2025/26. Two monthly activities were delivered within this period in partnership with the University of Teesside and Forestry England.

The NYMNPA organised two walks in partnership with Muslim Hikers in August and September 2024, and two walks with Age UK from Sutton Bank and Danby Lodge. Visits for over 700 participants were facilitated through the Community Transport Project. A review of the Targeted Transport Scheme has commenced which will develop our understanding of the role transport plays in furthering this objective. Changes to the scheme will be implemented in 2026.

The NYMNPA attended Middlesbrough Mela in September 2024 and made 150 contacts. This was half the number of contacts made in 2023/24, which may have been due to inclement weather on day two of the festival. The NYMNPA attended the Middlesbrough Diwali event in October for the first time.

The North York Moors Trust, supported by NFU Mutual, delivered Stepping Stones to Nature, a tailored year-long programme of nature-based, sensory and curriculum enriching interventions engaging children aged 7-9 in primary schools in the most underserved communities surrounding the National Park. The programme is designed to support children's health, development and learning, build confidence and skills in the outdoors, and nurture an appreciation of nature and the National Park. Through 40 one-day sessions, the Trust engaged with 120 children aged 7-9, 80 from schools in Redcar and Middlesbrough. The schools served communities in the top 1% most deprived in England (per Index of Multiple Deprivation). An evaluation of the programme found that 90% of children felt more confident in themselves and in nature; 79% reported improved wellbeing; 73% felt calmer and 69% said it helped them do better in lessons.

The North York Moors Trust's Birds on the Edge project delivered two 'Dawn Chorus' residential activities for families and young people; 16 one-day art sessions for young people; and two one-day conservation sessions for young people. This was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Woodsmith Foundation.

'Feel Good in the Forest' at Pinchinthorpe, near Guisborough, has become one of the most successful outreach programmes run by Forestry England, which is supported by Sport England. In the last 12 months, over 1,000 people from underserved communities have taken part in activities. Activities include health walks for heritage, archaeology, photography and men's health. Regular visits from dementia and minority groups are now self-led following an introduction to the benefits of spending time in our forests. Relationships have been developed with health providers to identify those who would benefit from wellbeing support, and Forestry England is looking to extend this work with partners such as the National Park, and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.

Objective 14: Inspire the next generation to enjoy, learn about and care for the National Park, and support young people's direct involvement in decision-making about its future.

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

- Number of education visits
- 30% of volunteers aged 30 and under by 2027

2024/25 monitoring statement

In 2024/25, the NYMNPA made 5,989 education and youth contacts, of which 55% were from areas of multiple deprivation.

The percentage of NYMNPA volunteers under 30 was 26.7% in 2024/25, compared to 31% in 2023/24 and 26.8% in 2022/23. The average percentage across the three years is 27.8%, which is narrowly below our target of 30%.

The NYMNPA's contribution to Generation Green 2 was delivered, helping young people from disadvantaged communities forge lasting connections with nature. Generation Green 2 was a joint project with the Access Unlimited partnership. The partnership is

made up of the English National Parks, the YHA, Field Studies Council, The Outward Bound Trust, Scouts, Girlguiding and National Landscapes Association and building on the success of Generation Green. Over 50 young people visited farms, over 800 had a day visit, over 200 had a night under the stars and over 150 had a one-night residential. A key outcome was to foster nature connection and improve the wellbeing of participants.

The Youth Social Action project has created pathways for young people to engage with nature, develop green skills, and take on leadership roles within the National Park. Youth Voice now has 19 members and is represented on the Equality and Diversity group, Conservation and Climate Change Members' forum (co-opted) and the Management Plan stakeholder forum.

North York Moors Trust's Birds on the Edge project, through the NYMNPA's Outdoor Learning Team engaged with 10 primary schools (293 young people) in the National Park in the 'Harry Spotter Bird Watch Challenge'. These education sessions included learning skills and knowledge to identify and record birds visiting school grounds and to take action to protect wildlife. The same 10 primary schools were revisited 3 months later to take part in the second phase called the geocache flyway challenge, engaging 307 young people. Geocoins are 'released' into geocaches with the mission to follow the Turtle Dove migratory route. This was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. In July 2024, the Birds on the Edge exhibition showcased skateboard designs by students from the Scarborough Pupil Referral Service. In October and November 2025 young people from Bridlington Spotlight Theatre took part in developing a theatre performance. In collaboration with the North York Moors Trust and ARCADE (a community producing company). The North York Moors National Park Outdoor Learning Team support ARCADE by providing nature connection day visits and residential.

Objective 15: Ensure that all members of the public are able to enjoy the National Park using easy-to-use, well-marked rights of way and open access land.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- 85% of promoted public rights of way that are 'easy to use'
- 70% of other public rights of way that are 'easy to use'

2024/25 monitoring statement

87% of rights of way were 'easy to use', for promoted routes, reported from sample surveys completed by March 2025. Promoted route surveys are undertaken annually.

76% of rights of way were 'easy to use' for other rights of way, based on 2023 Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) Survey results. The BVPI Survey is undertaken every two years in May and November, with help from Scarborough and Cleveland Ramblers. The last survey was undertaken 2023. Results for the 2025 survey are expected in December 2025.

The NYMNPA carried out 42 accessibility improvements and made over 6 kilometres of surface improvements to rights of way. By March 2025, the NYMNPA had surfaced over

8 kilometres of path to National Trail Standards and had completed all signage on the Coast to Coast national trail.

A new tramper route was installed by the NYMNPA at Danby Lodge National Park Centre, in August 2024. Additionally, a new partnership is developing with English Heritage to join the tramper route at Mount Grace Priory to the developing network.

The NYMNPA and the National Trust are working together to restore ten footpaths on Roseberry Topping. The first path was completed in December 2024, which is the main walking route from Newton under Roseberry, from the edge of Newton Woods to the summit (416 metres). This was the highest priority footpath due to the level of damage, a scar of almost 15 metres in places. Through the materials used and changes to the incline, the path should provide a more accessible surface.

A new exercise has been commissioned, looking at Guisborough's potential as a 'Northern Gateway' to the National Park. This includes investigating the potential for creating or improving trails and walking routes and involves Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Forestry England and the NYMNPA.

Objective 16: Promote the North York Moors National Park as the premier recreational/family cycling destination in the north of England.

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Visitor survey: percentage change in cycling and those using cycling for active travel/recreation around the National Park
- Case studies: cycling events held

2024/25 monitoring statement

In the 2021 visitors survey, cycling and mountain biking activities showed the strongest growth (200% since the last survey in 2016). In 2021, 12% of visitors participated in cycling/mountain biking during their visit. More data will be available next year.

The National Park's own cycling event, Minds and Miles, took place, supported by North York Moors Trust and run by Struggle Events, with 135 participants taking part. Other National Park-wide cycling events supported included a new gravel event hosted at Duncombe Park called Gravel Rocks, run by Focal events. Twilight gravel events also took place at North Yorkshire Water Park and Sutton Bank National Park Centre, with an estimated 40 participants at each. Sutton Bank Bikes continue to deliver their 'Rippers and Shredders' time trial events, with around 80 riders per event, and now putting on an enduro-style event to engage with young people.

The NYMNPA continued the promotion of cycling in the National Park, with event presence in Utrecht and Ghent for the annual cycling and walking festival, Fiets & Wandelbeurs, in partnership with VisitEngland/VisitBritain.

NYMNPA supported the return of the Tour of Britain Men's race in collaboration with Tees Valley Combined Authority, in September 2024. The race passed through the North

York Moors National Park to the east coast, before heading north at Whitby and skirting the coast to the finish line in Redcar.

There are now six e-bike charging stations across the National Park, funded by the Local Business Tourism contribution grant. Sections of the [Paradise 'red' trail](#) at Sutton Bank have been upgraded, as well as resurfacing sections of the bike skills area.

A new exercise has been commissioned, looking at Guisborough's potential as a 'Northern Gateway' to the National Park. This includes looking the potential for improvements to cycling routes and involves Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Forestry England and the NYMNPA.

Objective 17: Work with businesses to establish regenerative tourism as a guiding principle and encourage visitors to make a positive contribution to the National Park

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

Work with 12 tourism businesses to become champions for sustainable practice (by 2024).

2024/25 monitoring statement

The North York Moors National Park Champions initiative continued to expand, with 32 champions recruited plus a [Champions webpage](#) and social media programme developed to highlight individual businesses. The Champions initiative is run by the [North York Moors Tourism Network](#). The network has three [sustainable tourism pathways](#), for three different levels of engagement with sustainability. Champions are recognised as the most active and committed businesses for partnership working.

Aligning with the [UK National Parks vision for Regenerative Tourism](#), the NYMNPA developed a [Regenerative Tourism Framework](#) to steer and guide future work, which outlines key considerations and recommendations, and an internal action plan detailing short and long term actions. NYMNPA became a founding member of the Green Destinations [Good Travel Alliance](#).

North Yorkshire Council published its [Destination Management Plan 2024-2034](#) to manage and co-ordinate the visitor experience and grow the visitor economy. [Visit North Yorkshire](#) was launched in October 2024, to manage and market the visitor offer and is part of North Yorkshire Council.

The North York Moors Dark Skies Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2025 with 100 events, involving 27 local businesses and attracting thousands of participants. Highlights included a launch event with Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock, anniversary celebrations at Sutton Bank and Danby Lodge, and a new Dark Skies Film. The festival saw a huge boost in engagement, with over 1 million social media impressions in total, 4,000+ competition entries, and 130+ pieces of media coverage. 95% of events sold out, with estimated spending exceeding £105,000 and 80% of attendees eager to return.

The North York Moors activity friendly schemes continued to develop during 2024/25, with 70 new applications through the four schemes, walking, cycling, nature and dark skies friendly.

21 tourism businesses or schemes were supported with grant funding enabled by the Woodsmith Mine compensation and mitigation scheme (Section 106).

The NYMNPA launched "Experience life, unplugged" campaign. Highlights included more than 19 million impressions on digital channels, 3.2 million impressions on Heart FM, and 59 million plays of the adverts across Northern Rail's network. 84% of those evaluated said it "made them more aware of the North York Moors" with relaxing and destressing the main drivers for a visit. The campaign will continue into a second year.

Outcome 5: A place that supports a diverse and innovative low carbon economy

Objective 18: Provide opportunities that attract, upskill and retain a local workforce in high-value, knowledge-intensive jobs and the 'green' or 'landscape' economy

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Job numbers by industrial sector
- New employment floorspace created

2024/25 monitoring statement

The Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) is used by the Office for National Statistics to estimate the number of units of registered businesses by industry and size, within National Park boundaries (Office for National Statistics, 2024). Statistics for the National Park have been provided by Defra for 2022/2023 (Source: Natural England). Please note that the figures are rounded to the nearest five businesses and values of less than five are suppressed, so the figures for National Parks are an estimate. The percentages here have been calculated from the sum of all sectors to provide a proportion, whereas the actual total figure for the National Park may be slightly different.

Data for 2022/23 shows that there were 2,120 registered businesses in the National Park and the most common size of registered business in the National Park is 1-9 employees (1,215) (Source: Natural England). The highest proportion of registered businesses in the National Park are in agriculture, forestry and fishing (805); followed by accommodation and food service activities (230); wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (220); professional, scientific and technical services (160) and construction (150) (Source: Natural England).

Apprenticeships continue to be available within the National Park. Forestry England had two Level 3 apprentice craftspersons in 2024/25. The NYMNPA remains committed to developing future talent through a robust apprenticeship programme. Currently, approximately 6% of the NYMNPA's workforce are apprentices, with this figure expected to rise to 8.2% once the three current apprenticeship vacancies are filled. The

NYMNPA offers apprenticeships at Levels 2, 4, and 7, supported by a range of funding sources including Section 106, National Trails and Defra.

An additional 1,022 square metres of industrial floorspace created, however this was through a change of use of Sui Generis use to B2. An additional 549 square metres of Class E uses (commercial, business and services) was also created.

Objective 19: Maintain a strong and viable farming and landscape community that delivers more for climate, nature, people and place

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Farming in Protected Landscapes/Environmental Land Management scheme funding – projects delivered
- Case studies – NYMNPA contacts/advice with farming community
- National Indicator 5: Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

2024/25 monitoring statement

The NYMNPA successfully delivered another year of Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) in 2024/25, bringing total number of projects approved since launch in July 2021 to 238. The FiPL project spend during 2024/25 was over £1.4 million, 90 projects were supported and over 300 farmers were engaged.

The NYMNPA submitted two proposals for Raisdale and Bransdale to Defra's Environmental Land Management Scheme tests and trials in 2024. Defra postponed decisions on Test and Trials projects until after the UK Government spending review. Both proposals have subsequently been submitted to the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's 'Carbon Negative Challenge' fund, with Bransdale incorporated into a wider project proposal.

Two rounds of the Royal Countryside fund's Farm for the Future programme were completed by the NYMNPA in 2024/25. The first round concluded in June 2024 and the second concluded in March 2025. During the programme, 44 farm businesses accessed a series of workshops and meetings (14 events in total) on topics such as accounts, environmental schemes, planning in the National Park, succession planning, the implications of inheritance tax changes and soil health. One-to-one consultancy sessions on a topic of choice were also offered. In total, over 250 farmers attended the workshops/meetings and 35 consultancy sessions were delivered.

From 2022-2024, employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing has stayed at a consistent level at around 3,700 (3,680; 3755 and 3,688 respectively). This is the highest level of employment in this sector since 2016, the first year of available data. There is currently an overall upwards trend in employment from 2016-2024; data in future years will show whether this is sustained or not.

Data is awaited from Natural England for National Indicator 5, it is currently due in spring 2026.

Objective 20: Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

- Passenger data for the Esk Valley line
- Case studies – sustainable transport projects

2024/25 monitoring statement:

Estimates of station usage are provided by the Office of Rail and Road. Data has been reported annually from 1997/98; figures are reported from the year starting in April and finishing the following March. 2020/21 figures were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Esk Valley Line stations within the National Park boundary are Battersby, Castleton Moor, Commondale, Danby, Egton, Glaisdale, Grosmont, Kildale, Lealholm and Sleights. At many stations, usage has not yet recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels (2019/20). However, there are signs of recovery in that station usage increased at many stations from April 2021 to March 2024 and all apart from one station showed an increase in usage from 2022/23 to 2023/24 (see Table 2).

Table 2. Percentage change in annual entries and exits on the main Esk Valley line, 2022/23 - 2023/24

Station name	% change 22/23 to 23/24
Battersby	5%
Castleton Moor	20%
Commondale	-3%
Danby	32%
Egton	22%
Glaisdale	2%
Grosmont	10%
Kildale	6%
Lealholm	7%
Sleights	36%

Source: Office of Rail and Road, 2024: Estimates of station usage | ORR Data Portal

Official UK Protected Landscapes greenhouse gas emissions statistics for territorial transport emissions are currently available for Protected Landscapes from 2005 to 2023 (Department for Energy and Net Zero). Over this time period, the National Park has had a slight overall decrease (16%) in transport emissions from 118.9 to 99.7 ktCO₂e.

In August 2024, the UK National Parks launched a new vision for regenerative tourism, which includes supporting and promoting low carbon and carbon-free travel. Linked to this, the NYMNPA has a Regenerative Tourism Framework and is integrating cycling,

wheeling, walking, and public transport into marketing campaigns. Several new electric vehicle chargers were installed throughout the National Park in 2024/25; these are located at Danby Lodge National Park Centre and Newton under Roseberry. The installation of electric vehicle chargers at Thornton le Dale car park is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

North Yorkshire Council provided financial support to Moorsbus in August 2024 as part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan to enable it to run additional Sunday and Bank holiday services in 2024/25.

In March 2025, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority agreed the Strategic Transport Framework, which sets out transport priorities for the region. The framework is a step towards a regional Local Transport Plan, which is scheduled for public consultation in 2026.

NYMNPA was awarded £100k in funding from Active Travel England to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan (LCWIP). The aim is to develop four priority corridors in the National Park for walking, wheeling, and cycling and to create safe, attractive routes which link urban areas with destinations within the National Park. The plan will link to neighbouring Authority plans and aims to deliver high-quality, traffic-free paths and quiet lanes suited to the National Park setting.

A new exercise has been commissioned, looking at Guisborough's potential as a 'Northern Gateway' to the National Park. This includes looking at the potential for improving public transport to the National Park and involves Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Forestry England and the NYMNPA.

Outcome 6: A place of great beauty where local communities thrive

Objective 21: Increase the delivery of affordable housing above 2010-2020 levels to build at least 100 affordable homes in villages across the National Park by 2027; and press for changes to control the conversion of existing housing to second or holiday homes

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

- Affordable Housing Strategy completed
- Number of affordable units built

2024/25 monitoring statement

No affordable homes were completed in the National Park in 2024/25. The NYMNPA continues to actively engage with Rural Housing Enablers, Registered Providers and Parish Councils on a regular basis to help facilitate the delivery of affordable housing across the National Park. There are several schemes in the pipeline which should come forward within the next 5 years. Planning approval for 9 affordable homes was granted at West Ayton in February 2024 (decision awaiting Section 106). Two planning applications for affordable housing schemes are expected to be received in 2025.

North Yorkshire Council has published its [Housing Strategy for 2024-29](#), which includes growing the supply of affordable housing and addressing the rural housing crisis.

This year's annual Management Plan Stakeholder Forum was held in September which brought together a wide range of partners and stakeholders involved in delivering affordable housing. The event helped identify existing barriers to increasing affordable housing delivery and measures to improve collaboration to meet the Management plan target moving forward.

Objective 22: Work to establish the North York Moors National Park as a leader in low-cost, low-carbon, housing design through the development of at least one new-build exemplar scheme; and promote the deployment of sustainable materials and responsible retrofitting measures in historic buildings to secure their long-term future.

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

- Design guide / code published and promoted by March 2023
- Case study – Delivery of an exemplar scheme

2024/25 monitoring statement

The Design Code scoping phase went to public consultation in June 2024. The draft Design Code is now expected to be published later in 2025.

North Yorkshire Council's Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) funded home improvements such as insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps and smart heating controls. Applications for the grant closed 30 September 2024. The NYMNPA addressed over 30 enquiries relating to HUG2 applications.

The NYMNPA was involved in two projects delivering a repair approach to improve the energy efficiency of the building, one where the original multi-glazed windows were overhauled (rather than their full replacement) and another where the reinstatement of a non-hydraulic quicklime mortar will improve the functionality of the building and improve energy efficiency.

Official [UK Protected Landscapes greenhouse gas emissions statistics](#) for territorial domestic emissions are currently available for Protected Landscapes from 2005 to 2023 (Department for Energy and Net Zero). Total domestic emissions (gas, electricity and other) have decreased by 54% from 80.4 ktCO₂e in 2005 to 37.3 ktCO₂e in 2023.

A Passivhaus hotel is currently under construction at Runswick Bay, with the opening date expected in summer 2027.

Objective 23: Enable resilient communities where residents are able to meet their basic needs, by identifying any existing gaps in provision and developing community hubs to service a wider catchment or areas where services can be shared

Status

Underway but behind target

How is this objective measured?

Village Facilities Survey

2024/25 monitoring statement

The Village Facilities Survey will be carried out in 2025/26.

Objective 24: Facilitate local solutions to ensure superfast broadband and/or mobile phone coverage is available to 100 percent of households in the National Park by 2030

Status

Underway and on target

How is this objective measured?

% of households and businesses opportunity of access to broadband

2024/25 monitoring statement

Broadband data within the National Park boundary is not yet available, so progress is currently measured using data for the North Yorkshire Local Authority area.

The Connected Nations Update: Spring 2025 report from Ofcom reports that 95% of all premises in the North Yorkshire local authority area have superfast broadband available as of January 2025 (Ofcom, 2025).

Broadband in hard-to-reach communities is being addressed by the UK Government's Project Gigabit programme. In June 2024, Building Digital UK (BDUK) awarded Quickline a contract to provide around 36,300 hard-to reach premises with gigabit-capable broadband in North Yorkshire. A map of the areas due to be upgraded as part of this contract has been provided by the UK Government. The current government target is for nationwide coverage of gigabit broadband to be achieved by 2030 ('nationwide' is defined as at least 99% of premises).

Data on mobile coverage within the National Park boundary is not yet available so progress is currently measured using data for the North Yorkshire Local Authority area. The Connected Nations Update: Spring 2025 report from Ofcom states that as of January 2025, 96.1% of premises in the North Yorkshire local authority area have access to outdoor 4G coverage from 4 operators (74.9% for indoor), with 0.6 % having no outdoor access to any operators (1.4% for indoor). In terms of geographic area of the local authority, there is no access to 4G in 4.8% of the area whereas 77.0% of the area has access to more than four operators.

5G coverage is much lower, with the largest proportion of premises in the area (38%) having access to 2 operators outdoors and 18% with no access (very high confidence figures, Connected Nations Update: Spring 2025). In terms of geographical area, 50.0% of the local authority area has no access to 5G, whereas 30.2% has access to one operator (very high confidence figures, Connected Nations Update: Spring 2025).

North York Moors National Park Stakeholder Forum

*Somewhere to Live – Completing the Affordable
Housing Jigsaw*

Discussion Workshop Report



10:00 – 15:30
Tuesday 16 September 2025
Helmsley Town Hall



North York Moors
National Park

Facilitated by Pete Spriggs
Clearer Thinking
E: pete.spriggs@clearerthinking.co.uk
www.clearerthinking.co.uk

Clearer 
Thinking
Independent Facilitation

Workshop Objectives

By the end of the workshop, we will have:

- A deeper understanding of the different organisations involved in delivering affordable housing across the North York Moors National Park.
- Strengthened the connections between partners and stakeholders working in this area.
- Recognised the multiple benefits that can flow from affordable housing delivery.
- Drawn out the current barriers which are limiting the delivery of affordable housing.
- Developed ideas for strengthening, speeding up and simplifying affordable housing delivery within the National Park.

Agenda

10.00

Welcome & Introductions

Patrick James, North York Moors National Park Authority Member and Chair of Management Plan Working Group & Pete Spriggs, Facilitator, Clearer Thinking

Management Plan – the wider context

Tom Hind, Chief Executive, North York Moors National Park Authority

Jigsaw Piece 1 – the local authority perspective

Sharon Graham, York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority & Matt Lewer, North Yorkshire Council

Jigsaw Piece 2 – the Rural Housing Enabler perspective

Katrina Carver, Rural Housing Enablers, North Yorkshire Council

Jigsaw Piece 3 – the local / parish perspective

Fylingdales and Osmotherley Parish Councils and local residents of Osmotherley

11.20

Break

Jigsaw Piece 4 – the National Park Authority perspective

Chris France, Director of Planning, North York Moors National Park Authority

What's getting in the way?

Session to draw out the current barriers which are limiting the delivery of affordable housing.

12.45

Lunch

Overcoming the barriers

Group discussion

Sharing our thinking

Plenary discussion

Closing remarks

15.30 **Depart**

A full list of attendees can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Welcome

The workshop began with a few words of introduction from Patrick James, Chair of the National Park Management Plan Working Group. Patrick emphasised the importance of the National Park playing its part in supporting the delivery of affordable homes.

Management Plan – the wider context

Tom Hind, North York Moors National Park Authority CEO, shared some of the work that had taken over the past year in pursuit of the Management Plan outcomes. He drew out the areas where progress was being made against the Plan targets, as well as the objectives which were currently behind target.

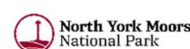
Tom explained that the workshop would focus on Outcomes 6 (A place of great beauty where local communities thrive), and specifically Objective 21 (Increase the delivery of affordable housing above 2010-2020 levels to build at least 100 affordable homes in villages across the National Park by 2027; and press for changes to control the conversion of housing to second or holiday homes). See Appendix 2.



Objective 21 had been particularly hard to make progress against, so he welcomed the opportunity to tap into the ideas and experience from those in the room to generate actions on how to increase momentum around this important area of work.

About the Management Plan

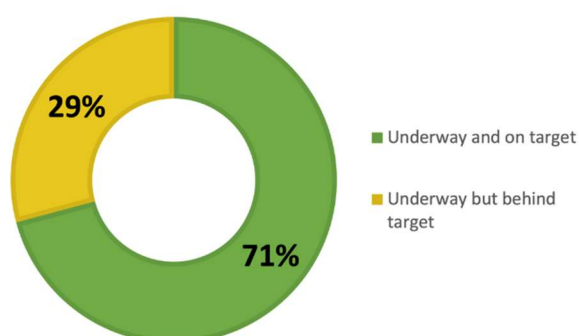
Annual Monitoring Statement 2024/25



Every year we publish a monitoring statement explaining how we are collectively getting along

(Due December – provisional data)

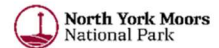
17 objectives (71%) are underway and on target whereas 7 are underway but behind target (19%)



[https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/management-plan/management-plan-annual-monitoring-statement-2324 -](https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/management-plan/management-plan-annual-monitoring-statement-2324-)



Objective 21: Increase the delivery of affordable housing above 2010-2020 levels to build at least 100 affordable homes in villages across the National Park by 2027



Outcome

06

A place of great beauty where local communities thrive.

Underway but behind target

Planning permission for **9** affordable homes granted

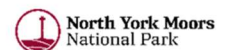


NYC Housing Strategy 2024-2029 published

No affordable homes completed yet



Affordable housing



We carry out a residents' survey, most recently in 2023:

Second home ownership and lack of affordable housing were key issues for many residents:



Outcome

06

A place of great beauty where local communities thrive.

the number of homes devoted to tourism has been unsustainable for a long time. It is now untenable

in last 3-4 years a large proportion of houses in our village has been bought for speculative holiday lets. Most now stand empty for most of the year

which led to a feeling that:

our villages are becoming ghost villages.



For a full set of Tom's slides please see Appendix 3.

The jigsaw pieces

A series of presentations followed to share the various perspectives / pieces of the jigsaw when looking to deliver affordable housing in the National Park. The slides shared can be viewed in the accompanying slide deck (Appendix 3).



What's getting in the way?

The purpose of this session was to draw out the current barriers which were limiting the delivery of affordable housing.

The list of barriers shared by the four presenters was put up on the screen. Working in small groups each were asked to discuss what they considered to be their top three *additional* barriers to those shared in the presentations

The barriers were then fed back and any duplication removed in order to generate a 'Master' list at the front.

Individually participants then voted for what they considered to be the three barriers, currently limiting the delivery of affordable housing within the National Park, it would be most *useful to discuss* in the post-lunch session. The content generated was as follows:



#	Barrier to delivering affordable housing	Vote total
1	Community opposition / stigma of affordable housing	36
2	A shortage of local champions	27
3	Availability of sites / landowner's expectations	26
4	Lack of collaborative / creative thinking	16
5	Community perception & understanding	13
6	Construction costs - topography & infrastructure (inc. upgrade costs)	8
7	Critical mass (unattractive for the effort)	6

#	Barrier to delivering affordable housing	Vote total
7	Competing priorities	6
9	Communication - internal teams / services; external communities; external partners	5
9	Lack of alignment across LA partners including NPA / NYC / MCA	5
11	Risk	4
12	Geography / resources – big area for one RHE to cover	3
13	Grant rate – rural premium	2
13	Risk appetite from the Registered Housing Providers	2
13	Lack of a Champion, clarity of roles – it's a complex Jigsaw	2
16	Time - it takes ages to get schemes delivered	1
17	Bureaucracy	0
17	All the factors we've not talked about - we are looking at silos.	0
17	RP financial capacity (competing demands)	0
17	More homes (not just affordable housing) - more people create sustainable communities	0
17	Complicated 'patchwork' funding	0
17	Planning / regs for holiday lets, Air BnBs	0
17	Knock on effect of housing numbers / targets	0

Overcoming the barriers

This session provided an opportunity to develop ideas for strengthening, speeding up and simplifying affordable housing delivery within the National Park.

Working in table groups each chose one of the top-ranking barriers they were interested to explore. The group then discussed ideas on ways to avoid or mitigate the barrier. Prompts asked what do we need to: Keep the same; Do more of; Do less of; Try that's different or new?

Groups then highlighted the top three most impactful actions, along with who would need to be involved in taking the action forward, that had emerged from their discussions.



The output generated was as follows:

Group 1

Barrier: *Lack of collaborative / creative thinking*

Comments:

- So many different organisations at every level.
 - Projects take up to 10 years (people / posts / priorities / policies change over this long-time scale).
- Not a consistent framework.
- Affordable housing is one part of everything else that body does.
- RHE is the link between all the players



More

- Communications – conversations with community leaders e.g., employers, head teachers (RHEs are good at this).
- More collaboration: what forums are available, like today.
- More RHEs.
- Knock on benefits e.g., local construction / suppliers, materials etc.

Less

- Weight of noisy minority.
- Hand wringing – get on with it!
- Less meaningless 'consultation' (consultation fatigue).
- We know there is a housing need.

Same

- RHE – crucial.
- Supportive planning policies.

Different or new

- Same old approach – housing needs surveys.
- Think how maybe this approach could be changed.
- Role for a NP. Socio-economic forum?
- Better / more effective conversation with fewer people.
- Amplify the voice of those in need – 'how'?
- Site acquisition by e.g., Homes England.

Most impactful actions

- Homes England acquiring sites.
- Different conversation – key community stakeholders.
- Need for a forum. NYNPA.

Barrier: *Community opposition / stigma of affordable housing*

Comments:

- How significant is this? Does it matter? Are they planning related (it is not a show of hands).
- Politically challenging though – imposing a development on a community that doesn't want it.
- Difficult for the landowner too.

Different

- Do community 'events' differently.
- Local champion – conservation between locals.
- Showcase existing schemes (get residents to talk to other parishes).
- Different conversations – start with the problems: shops / pubs / schools / facilities / services (but affordable housing is not a silver bullet).

Group 2

Barrier: Community opposition / stigma of affordable housing

Comments:

- Constant / consistent engagement with communities.
- Providing positive case studies / examples.
- Persuade the community of the positives of affordable housing (demographics / closures of services / local schools).
- Use s.106 to empower local community (possibly via Parish Council) and original landowner / site provider that PERPETUITY means perpetuity and rules won't change to sell off later as council houses were.
- Use temporary structures) (statics, cabins, lodges) to solve problem for some 40 years.
 - Chance to deliver, not using a 200-year-old solution for a short-term need.
 - More temporary structures will also be available to meet demand of visitor community, reducing demand on built houses.
- Deliver better solutions to infrastructure / services delivery (sewage, water, buses, electricity etc).
- Need local advocates per community. Need locals who will occupy housing to speak up.
- Ask Parish Councils to identify all sites in their community that should be considered for affordable housing.
 - Then ask owners of sites to engage with those, or vice versa, or both.
- Shorten the process. Do away with Housing Needs Survey or reduce to generalised surveys to say 1-4 to cover whole National Park.

More

- None listed

Less

- None listed

Same

- None listed

Different or new

- None listed

Most impactful actions

- Identify and recruit local advocates per community, and per wider area.
- Enhance / deploy / develop TOOL KITS to use in communities.
 - How close is your local school to closure?
 - How many houses have been created in your community in last 10 years; 20 years; 30 years?
 - How has the population of your community changed over recent decades, number, age profile?
 - Positive case studies.
 - Stock answers to the usual fears.
- Trust and collaborative environment to discuss – facilitation.

Group 3

Barrier: *Community opposition / stigma of affordable housing*

Comments:

What's the problem?

- Communities don't recognise there's a problem.
- Self-diagnosis.
- Identifying community stakeholders.
- Parish Councils are not representative.
- Going on 'the journey'.

More

- Community First Yorkshire / NYC
- RHEs / NP.
- Clerk resources.
- Robust challenge (80%/20% effort on people).

Less

- Imbalanced voices (self-interest).
- Bureaucracy (meetings / surveys).

Same

- None listed.

Different or new

- Community needs (as opposed to housing needs) assessment.
- Problems now? And in 5 / 10 years?
- Community champions.
- Storytelling.

Most impactful actions

What?	Who?
Community needs (not housing) assessment (problems now / 5 years).	NP? NYC? (who will get the sack?) Tom or Richard Flinton.
Operation 'hearts and minds' -> story telling (personal touch). Success stories and needs stories.	RHEs (rebrand RCEs) and local communities / anchors.
Community champions (advocates). Internal and other communities. Myth busting.	RHEs

Diagnosis – 'being done by you not to you'.

Group 4

Barrier: *Community opposition / stigma of affordable housing*

Comments:

- None listed.

More

- Use of elected members to champion your cause.
- Parish Plan.
- Collaboration between Parish Councils who have successful schemes.
- Understanding of local occupancy criteria.
- Increase marketing and comms.
- Use of secondary data.

Less

- Banging head against a brick wall.
- Housing Needs Surveys.

Same

- None listed.

Different or new

- 'Forms of continuous engagement with potential residents of affordable housing.
- Different forms of engagement - businesses/schools.

Most impactful actions

- Create network of champions to promote successful schemes to others (Parish Council).
- Better use of secondary evidence to demonstrate need.
- Different forms of engagement – businesses / school.

Barrier: Availability of sites / landowner expectations

Comments:

- None listed

More

- Incentivising a landowner / thinking outside the box.
- Use of surplus public land.
- Work with estates better.

Different or new

- Change of thinking from National Park.

Group 5

Barrier: Community opposition / stigma of affordable housing

Comments:

- Note: ACRE – has employed consultants to work with the RHEs on 'hearts and minds' campaigning using different media – next national RHE event will kick this off.

More

- Parish Plans – Neighbourhood Statements.
- Evidence of needs / com sustainability.
- Community-led development.
- Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs).
- Identify and support local champions by officers / RHE.
- More effective, early proactive community engagement.

Less

- None listed.

Same

- RHEs / CLH support.
- Level of collaboration with stakeholders – RHEs / RPs / LAs / YDNPA.
- Arc 4 evidence – housing needs and sustainability of community.
- Local leaders.

Different or new

- Use of 2nd homes Council Tax for CLD, including CLH technical support.
- Funding for sustainability of CLH developments / organisations.
- SPD: statement of community engagement – see E. Cambs.
- Peer learning network.
- Braver NPA pushing through scheme where evidence shows need – need to give planners clarity when scheme should proceed.

- 'Concept statements' – how can we make the scheme 'work' / address concerns of opponents e.g., allotments / orchards?

Most impactful actions

- Building an existing collaboration by creating affordable housing; a proactive task force including LA, RHE, NYNPA, local politicians, CFY, with action plan.
- Ensure and keep updated evidence base – ARC 4.
- Build trust and confidence of range of / more inclusive engagement with rural residents.

Wrap up

Malcolm Bowes, Deputy Chair of the North York Moors National Park Authority drew the workshop to a close with the following reflections and thanks.

One of the main concerns had been related to local opposition. It may not be a lot of people, but the noise generated can be substantial. To help overcome this there needs to be better communication from the outset around the benefits that come with building affordable housing. Those Parish's which have built affordable housing have found that it can be a positive contribution to the community, and opposition has fallen away.

Malcom thanked the various speakers for sharing their insights and experience, plus the rich conversations and contributions from all those who attended.

Appendix 1 – Attendees

First name	Surname	Org
Malcolm	Bowes	North York Moors National Park Authority Member
Katrina	Carver	Rural Housing Enabler, North Yorkshire Council
Donna	Cotterill	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Mark	Dutton	Broadacres
Paul	Fellows	North York Moors National Park Authority
Chris	France	North York Moors National Park Authority
Sharon	Graham	York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority
James	Hare	Duncombe Park Estate
Clare	Harrigan	Beyond Housing
Sarah	Hart	Community First Yorkshire
Tom	Hind	North York Moors National Park Authority
Patrick	James	North York Moors National Park Authority Member
David	Jeffels	North York Moors National Park Authority Member
Michael	Jones	Broadacres
Jo	Lavis	Rural Housing Solutions
Matt	Lewer	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Ed	Mangles	Egton Parish Council
Callum	McKeon	North Yorkshire Council
Richard	Panter	Homes England
Clive	Pearson	North York Moors National Park Authority Member
John	Ritchie	North York Moors National Park Authority Member

First name	Surname	Org
Victoria	Russell	Community First Yorkshire
Judith	Seaton	North York Moors National Park Authority
Clair	Shields	North York Moors National Park Authority
Tim	Swales	Formerly Osmotherley Parish Council & North Yorkshire Council Councillor
Rachel	Tait	Rural Housing Enabler, North Yorkshire Council
Angela	Walmsley	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Carolyn	Watkinson	Fylingdales Parish Council
Colin	Williamson	North York Moors National Park Authority Member
Steve	Wilson	North Yorkshire Council
George	Winn-Darley	North Yorkshire Moors Association

Appendix 2 – National Park Management Plan Outcome 6

Outcome 6: A place of great beauty where local communities thrive.

Objective 21 – Increase the delivery of affordable housing above 2010-2020 levels to build at least 100 affordable homes in villages across the National Park by 2027; and press for changes to control the conversion of housing to second or holiday homes.

Objective 22 – Work to establish the North York Moors National Park as a leader in low-cost, low-carbon, housing design through the development of at least one new-build exemplar scheme; and promote the deployment of sustainable materials and responsible retrofitting measures in historic buildings to secure their long-term future.

Objective 23 – Enable resilient communities where residents can meet their basic needs, by identifying any existing gaps in provision and developing community hubs to service a wider catchment or areas where services can be shared.

Objective 24 – Facilitate local solutions to ensure superfast broadband and/or mobile phone coverage is available to 100 percent of households in the National Park by 2030.

Appendix 3 – Presenter slides

Please see accompanying PDF.

National Park Authority Committee

15 December 2025

Item 12, Medium Term Financial Strategy

1. Purpose of the report

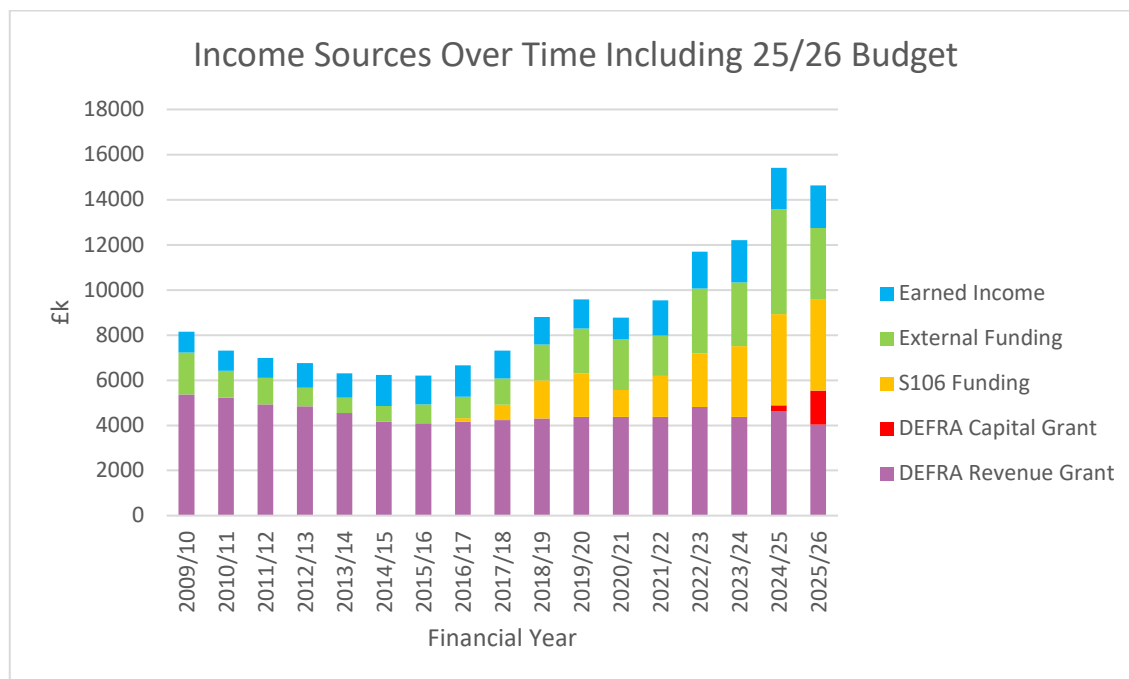
- 1.1 To provide Members with an update to the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) which underpins the Authority's Strategy and Business Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 The MTFS is an annual report that provides a five-year financial forecast. It includes any changes in assumptions ahead of the Business Plan milestones for 2026/27 which are presented in a separate paper to this meeting and the setting of the 2026/27 detailed budget in March 2026.
- 2.2 The MTFS is updated to reflect a number of assumptions and highlight risks. The Strategy, Business Plan and MTFS are documents which go hand in hand and are updated annually to ensure that business planning is reflective of the financial position and vice versa. The report also details the potential risks in the sector and includes sensitivity analysis where appropriate.
- 2.3 At all times, the Strategy and Business Plan need to be financially sustainable. To fund revenue budgets from reserves is not sustainable.
- 2.4 Last year's MTFS highlighted the growing deficit from 2025/26 onwards as illustrated in the table below.

MTFS	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Total income	6,264	6,248	6,289	6,394	6,500
Total expenditure	-10,929	-11,016	-11,195	-11,423	-11,643
Defra core grant	4,382	4,382	4,382	4,382	4,382
Surplus/ (deficit)	(283)	(386)	(524)	(647)	(761)

- 2.5 The chart below helps to illustrate the funding changes over the last 15 years and how income from alternative sources is helping to mitigate the loss of Defra income.



3. The financial approach to the Strategy and Business Plan

- 3.1 The financial strategy remains the same: to grow the Authority by becoming a project-based organisation, reducing exposure to core grant funding and delivering more through alternative income sources. The economic picture remains uncertain, and whilst inflation has reduced from the post covid peaks, the economy still faces the challenges of low growth and inflation remaining stubborn around the 3-4% mark, putting intense pressure on public expenditure. Defra's departmental expenditure limit is not immune from these pressures and a cut of almost 3% will be seen over the 3-year period of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) from 2026-29. The resulting pressure on core grant confirms that the strategic approach to diversify income sources for delivery is the only way to ensure that the Authority can continue to deliver the maximum outcomes possible for the National Park. The MTFS is a tool to help us prepare and address any future issues proactively.
- 3.2 Our strategy is built around four key elements: our brand profile and reputation, partnership working, investing in our people, property and systems and maintaining good customer service. Officers believe our strategy continues to be fit for purpose recognising that the primary motivation for income growth is to maximise the delivery of outcomes.
- 3.3 We are maximising use of all our income streams to optimise the delivery of key services. Thus far we have been broadly able to deliver our business plan milestones with front-line delivery increasingly funded through a combination of external project funding and s106 allocations.
- 3.4 Our core funding increasingly supports our corporate and statutory services, which cannot easily be funded from other sources. As these costs increase whilst the Defra grant remains frozen, the proportion of the grant that funds these services is increasing. To address this, we need to ensure tight control of costs, optimise earned income generation and ensure the maximum amount of cost-

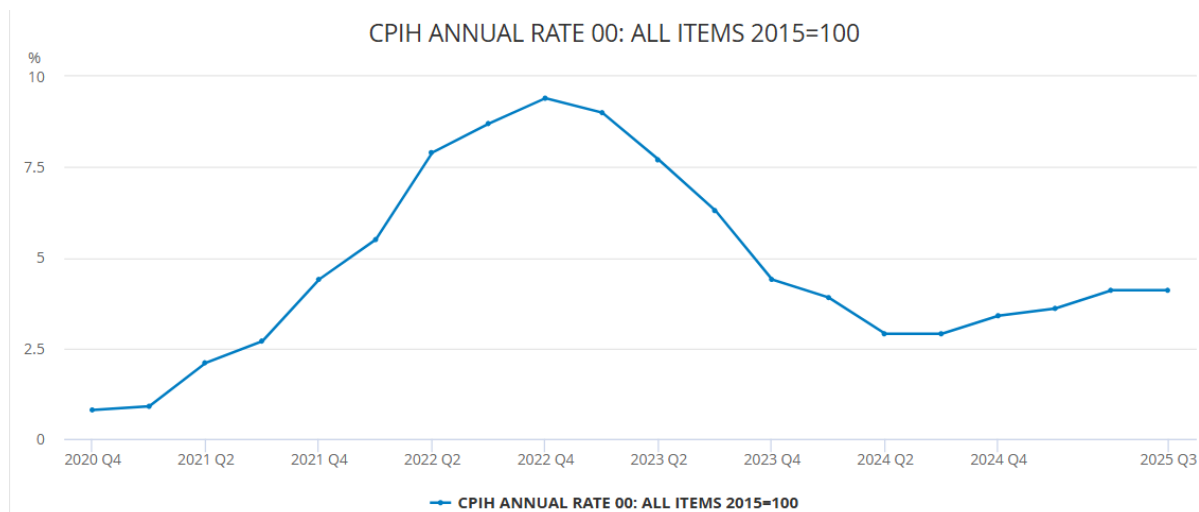
recovery via externally funded projects. There are increasing pressures and challenges in parts of the organisation which will need addressing if the growth strategy continues.

- 3.5 In optimising the growth of earned income it is essential to focus on generation of profit over gross income. This is highlighted by the retail review that has taken place which focusses on turning this service from loss making to profit. We also need to take a more commercial approach in deciding whether to invest or divest of earned income services which are a net cost to the Authority.
- 3.6 The Authority sees multi-year, landscape projects delivering on multiple objectives as the future of delivery. The recent Moor Connected bid which was not successful at its first attempt is an illustration of how the Authority envisages delivery. This approach helps to maximise delivery and efficiency as well as securing long-term assurances of funding. It is essential to ensure that funding bids are purposeful and not chasing the money for the sake of income and an assessment with each opportunity is conducted to ensure value for money in delivery and effective outcomes for resources expended.
- 3.7 If we don't or can't maximise opportunities to defray core-funded activities, then it is likely that we will need to consider the future of some services that we currently provide. Increasing pressures on the core grant means that there will undoubtedly be tough decisions to take in the future.

4. Key financial risks

4.1 Inflation and interest

- 4.1.1 Whilst below recent peaks in 2022, inflation remains stubborn. The rate had been lowering from a peak of 11.1% CPI in October 2022 to 2.9% in 2024 Q3 but this year it has risen slowly and returning to the Government target of 2% is proving challenging.
- 4.1.2 The Government target is based on what is considered an ideal level to promote growth in the economy and forecasts still indicate a return to that level in the future. However, currently inflation provides the greatest risk to our expenditure levels in the medium-term, with it being a factor in pay award setting as well as overhead costs. We continue to increase all applicable overhead budgets by inflation. The assumption taken last year for 25/26 in the MTFS was 2% and this has now been adjusted this year to 3% to reflect current levels of inflation. The latest OBR forecasts for CPI still expect a return to 2% by the end of next year. The MTFS assumes that overhead inflation will be 3% in 2025/26 and 2% thereafter. However, we have seen how external factors can influence inflation, so we continue to review this ahead of setting the budget in March 2026.



- 4.1.3 Pay inflation in 25/26 was estimated at 3% for the Authority which was close to the 3.2% actual pay award which was agreed in July 2025. The 3.2% increase equated to c.£134k additional pressure on core grant funded budgets plus an additional £125k impact from the increase in National Insurance. Pay awards from 2026/27 were assumed at 2% last year, but the higher inflation combined with Unions indicating that they will want a higher settlement mean that an assumption of 3% for 2026/27 is more prudent – an impact of c.£135k per annum on core budgets if the grant does not increase. This is consistent with the approach of most National Park Authorities.
- 4.1.4 With pay being a substantial proportion of the Authority's finances and core budgets in particular, any increase in pay has a considerable impact and results in the need to find additional income or savings where funding does not keep up with the level of pay award. This is noted as an area of risk as currently we don't have any information on what the local government pay offer will be for 2026/27. In recent years we have seen very late agreements on pay awards due to a combination of late offers and consequent union responses. This means that any award higher than the budget assumption may require short-term in year action to mitigate the impact.
- 4.1.5 Whilst inflation increases pressure on costs, relatively higher rates of Bank interest work in the Authority's favour, since we have cash investments but no borrowing. After a series of increases in recent years, the Bank of England has now begun to decrease interest rates from a high of 5.5% to a current rate of 4% at September 2025. The Bank of England states that forecasting interest rates is a challenge due to the uncertainties of inflation, but if the inflation rate was to return to 2% then it would be expected that interest rates will continue to lower. At present, the Authority benefits from higher interest rates with c.£7-8m of cash invested. But the increasing rates could impact adversely if future borrowing was required. The MTFS takes a prudent approach to including investment interest income in the budgets. This is because this money is predicated on favourable interest rates and cash balances with the former being unpredictable and cash balances that will reduce as reserves are spent. External funding projects with retrospective claims will also reduce the level of cash in the bank on a day-to-day basis. Future long-term plans should not be based on investment returns. Therefore, we recommend continuing the current policy of capping interest at

2.0% into 2026/27. With caution taken on cash balances at £4m, this will mean that £80k of interest is included in revenue budgets next financial year.

4.2 Funding sources

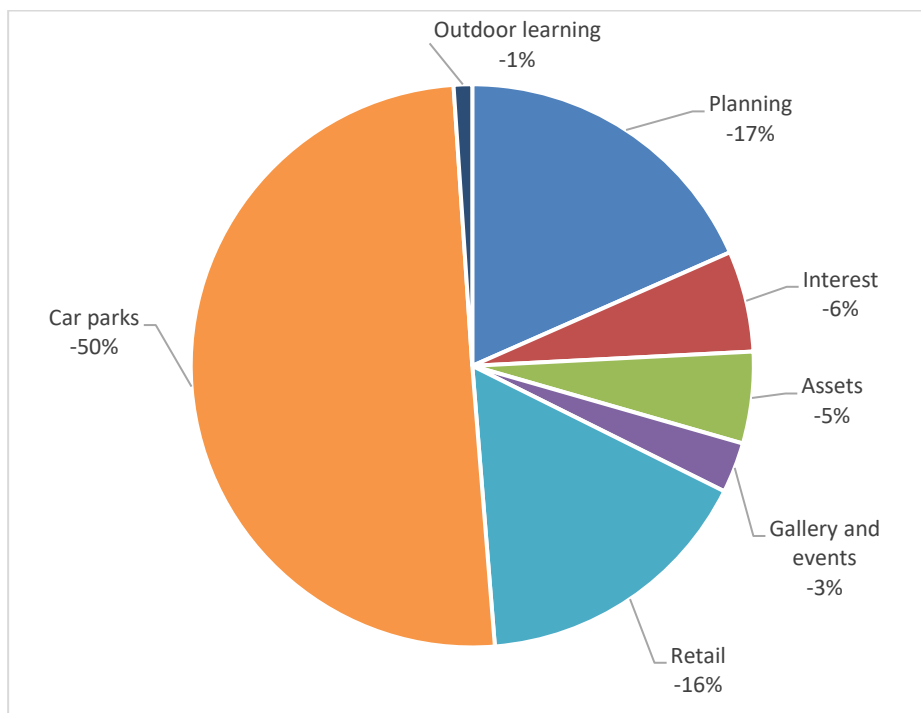
4.2.1 The Authority has four key areas of income, all of which are key to the MTFS and delivering the Strategy and Business Plan.

4.2.2 **Defra funding.** In June's comprehensive spending review, Defra saw a real terms cut of 2.7% to day-to-day spending. Discussions within Defra relating to departmental business planning (which includes the National Park grant settlement) are currently underway with no indication of what the settlement will be, other than it will be awarded against a backdrop of significant ongoing pressure across the Department.

One thing that has changed in recent years is the use of capital funding by Defra. It is anticipated that any settlement for 2026/27 is likely to have both revenue (RDEL) and capital (CDEL) components.

For now, without further information available, the MTFS assumes a flat cash revenue settlement and a capital grant of £367k (equivalent to the revenue funding cut of 8.2% in 2025/26). There still remains substantial risk in this assumption should there be any further revenue cuts or previous capital funding is not retained.

4.2.3 **Earned income.** Car parking, planning and visitor centre income are at challenging levels. Car parking and visitor centre income are on target in 25/26 but planning income continues to rely on ad-hoc larger application income as the trend of lower small application numbers continues and remains an area that needs to be kept under close review. The budgets have benefitted from developments at visitor centres as well as investment at car parks such as Newton-Under-Roseberry and Cawthorn Camps. The retail operation has been subject to review with an improvement in margins evident in the first half of 25/26 as part of a drive to make the retail function profitable. Some developments such as concessions have been more challenging and the camper van overnight sites have not been developed yet. Focus on enforcement on the highest non-compliance targets has resulted in the decision to trial an ANPR solution at Newton-Under-Roseberry which should help with revenue loss at that site. The MTFS does not include any notional targets that are not attached to specific delivery. No additional income outside of annual inflation increase is included at this stage. Growing income and margin is one way of increasing our overall funding position. New initiatives will continue to be sought, with margin the key focus rather than just income. Earned income is considered one of the areas of in-year risk that needs to be monitored through quarterly reporting and forecasts. The chart below indicates where our earned income currently comes from.



4.2.4 External funding. The Business Plan and MTFS include a target to grow external income to at least £2,500k of expenditure per annum by 2026/27. We are consistently exceeding this target. External funding enables us to deliver far more outcomes for the National Park and growth in this area is essential to reducing dependency of services on core revenue funding. To this end, the Authority has set targets for reduction of core expenditure in several areas such as Outdoor Learning and Volunteering. One of the limiting factors to further growth is the core resources required to develop long-term project proposals and then to support their delivery through the corporate functions which are stretched. Some external funding partners are unwilling to meet overhead costs in funding bids from public bodies. However, we are beginning to see more funders willing to fund corporate time on projects which is a development that will hopefully continue.

4.2.5 S106 funding. This funding is for compensation and mitigation for the residual impacts of the harm caused to the Special Qualities of the National Park from major development. Whilst there are restrictions on how this can be spent, it is treated as an integrated income stream within services to assist with delivery of Business Plan objectives whilst continuing to be accounted for separately as compensatory spend against the development. The Authority continues to receive approximately £3 million of s106 funding per annum from Anglo-American in relation to the development of the Woodsmith project. The agreement includes a rolling 10 years of future contributions being secured in an escrow account providing at 10 years of security. We also have a s106 agreement relating to the Boulby mine with a contribution of approximately £1 million per annum for the next 2 years and around £600k per annum for the following 19 years. This funding is for the residual impacts of the harm caused as a result of the continuing development at Boulby Mine beyond its previously approved timescale. These funds also have inflation-linked rises each year which provide protection against cost pressures. The Authority does not commit money on these funds beyond the level of security which is deemed to be 10 years for the Woodsmith agreement and 1 year for Boulby.

4.3 **Property**

- 4.3.1 The Authority needs to make substantial capital investments in its property assets in the coming years to address long-term liabilities, create an appropriate working environment and meet its carbon reduction commitments. The Southern depot is being built in 2025/26 which is 100% funded from Defra capital grant. A final decision is yet to be taken on a new headquarters but under any scenario, the Authority will need to make substantial investments in office accommodation that may involve borrowing, which will result in interest or a minimum revenue provision (MRP) charge depending on whether this is internal or external. Based on current cash levels and forecasts for the medium-term, it is anticipated that this will be funded from internal borrowing during the period of this strategy. No provision has been made within the MTFS for these costs at this stage until a decision is made, but it is expected that it will put further pressure on budgets. In addition to work on our offices and ranger depots, we also have a number of car parks, two key visitor centres and a number of toilet facilities which require ongoing maintenance. A key area of work is development of a comprehensive 10-year property maintenance programme to ensure that this is fully funded.
- 4.3.2 To ensure the sustainability of future property capital requirements, there has been a smoothing reserve. In 2025/26 this was amended due to the change in funding from Defra. The move from revenue to capital in the grant has meant that the smoothing reserve contributions which are revenue have had to be switched to spending as capital in year. This is sub-optimal but is the only way to be able to ensure that we can maintain levels of spend on capital. The next grant settlement may help to indicate the direction of travel on this so that we can plan more comprehensively. More details on how these programmes will be managed will be in the budget papers in early 2026 when hopefully details of the settlement are known.

4.4 **Large capital projects**

- 4.4.1 Substantial multi-year capital projects are expected to be delivered through the rest of this Business Plan period including many through external funding where overspend risk sits with the Authority. Cost overrun risk is mitigated through close project management, but it continues to be a risk factor in the Authority's budgets which can be managed through quality forecasting and review. Project contingencies should always be considered for all financial projections on large projects and an annual assessment of levels of contingency reserves carried out as part of the budget process, including assessment of potential risk from up-and-coming large-scale projects.
- 4.4.2 Some externally funded projects also require a long-term legacy plan to sustain the work once the initial grant funded phase is completed. This adds an additional demand on both financial and staff resource. For each individual project this element is usually a relatively small proportion of the overall project spend but, cumulatively, this can start to have a significant impact on our longer-term resource requirement.

5. Key assumptions and sensitivity analysis

5.1 Defra Grant

- 5.1.1 The core grant is fundamental to ensuring that the National Park can continue to deliver its objectives, it being crucial to funding corporate and planning costs as well as the costs required to enable the Authority to leverage additional external funding. The recent changes in revenue and capital funding make predicting a settlement very challenging. Our working assumption for planning purposes at this stage is that the core revenue grant will remain the same as 2025/26 whilst capital funding would offset the 8.3% cut in revenue this financial year. This scenario would result in an additional £132k to find in 26/27 driven by grant not keeping up with inflation. Each 1% further cut in revenue funding would equate to another £44k to find.
- 5.1.2 Should Defra opt to retain the revenue grant cut from 25/26 but not provide any capital funding, this would necessitate a fundamental review of Authority finances, with an additional £360k of savings required. Reductions in revenue grant funding cannot be ruled out on, noting that all National Park Authorities have already experienced an 8.2% reduction this financial year. For illustrative purposes we have assessed the impact on deficits were further cuts of between 2.5 and 5% to be implemented. Revenue cuts of this scale would require significant changes to our work programmes.
- 5.1.3 In 2025/26, Defra capital grant was £1.5 million. Whilst an element of this is essential to help offset some of the revenue grant reduction, we have critically been able to invest this into a number of capital initiatives as well, including the development of the Southern depot. The MTFS does not cater for any scenarios of higher capital investment beyond that required to mitigate the revenue reduction, but any higher injections of capital funding would be very welcome with a number of schemes including property and car parking which could be developed.

5.2 Pay

- 5.2.1 Employee costs are the Authority's single largest item of expenditure.
- 5.2.2 The current MTFS includes a pay award assumption of 3% per annum for 2026/27 and 2027/28 decreasing thereafter to 2% in line with inflation. Each 1% higher than assumptions equates to an additional c.£44k from core grant funding. Projects also need to use contingencies or re-engineer to ensure increases can be funded. So, any increase over assumptions represents a significant risk. On the basis of a frozen grant position, this means that by 2030/31, an additional £528k needs to be found for pay to sustain the current levels being funded from earned income and core grant.
- 5.2.3 Two years ago, a vacancy factor was added into budgets to reflect the natural level of vacancy savings that was occurring each year creating an in-year saving. This reflected historical gaps in between recruitment and was calculated at 2% of total pay costs. The last two years have seen a greatly reduced turnover of core staff, and as such for two years in succession this has represented a shortfall to

find in year. The vacancy factor was reduced to 1.25% in 25/26 and this level is retained.

- 5.2.4 The net triennial valuation of our pensions liability is due for the year commencing 2026/27. Each valuation can present a risk of material change to the annual pension payments of the Authority and can depend on a number of factors such as investments, life expectancy and workforce age. Indications are that the next valuation will result in savings in pension costs, with the scheme moving further into a surplus position. This draft contains a conservative pension saving of £55k.

5.3 Overhead inflation

- 5.3.1 In this business plan period budgets are being inflated by levels approximate to inflation in the economy. Current inflation rates mean that this is adding extra pressure to budgets. Each 1% increase in general overhead inflation equates to approximately £17k of additional cost to the Authority. The current MTFS assumes 3% from 2026/27 which aligns with inflation forecasts. This means that over the five-year MTFS there will be an additional £204k to find to cover overhead inflation.
- 5.3.2 Utility costs have been volatile in recent years. However, the new agreement which was signed in October 2025 will result in £40k of savings which has been included in the MTFS position. Insurance is another area that has seen substantial increases, something which is expected to be an area of risk again in 2026/27. These costs will be confirmed in Q4 this year – and therefore the final budget.
- 5.3.3 It is assumed that any inflation, whether pay or overhead, in external funding projects is covered from within the funding, either through use of contingencies and cautious inflationary estimates in applications – or from project re-engineering if required.

5.4 Key income streams

- 5.4.1 Car parking income is budgeted at £914k in 2026/27. The target is challenging, so nothing is included for developments such as the ANPR trial at this stage until the results can be assessed. There is no assumption for any new car parks in 2026/27. The MTFS currently does not include forecast a tariff increase, but officers will recommend an inflation-linked increase in the budget proposal in March 26.
- 5.4.2 Whilst overall car parking remains at similar levels year-on-year, conversion to retail sales is lower as is spend per head. We also know that the weather can be an impacting factor in high season periods. Nothing is factored in for this, but it does add an increased risk to volume of tickets sold. The table below illustrates the value of any shortfall in income with every 1% resulting in £9,140 less income.

24/25 MTFS income	Decrease of 1%	Decrease of 5%	Decrease of 10%
£914,000	-£9,140	-£45,700	-£91,400

- 5.4.3 The DM planning service budget indicates a net cost of c.£410k in 2026/27. The nature of planning in the National Park area means that most income is made up

of small household applications which have been reducing and few large applications. This makes judgements on resource levels challenging and means that the service is run at a net cost position. The MTFS assumes that budgets remain the same in 2026/27 with the exception of an inflation increase of 3% which can now be applied to fees annually.

- 5.4.4 The table below illustrates the potential impacts of a reduction in planning income, should there lower volumes of applications.

22/23 MTFS income	Decrease of 1%	Decrease of 5%	Decrease of 10%
£314,356	-£3,143	-£15,717	-£31,435

- 5.4.5 Visitor centres, gallery and events income streams remain are increased for inflation but remain at broadly the same levels with the exception of retail income which is aligned to the new outcomes of the strategy and café rentals which are aligned to the new agreement which has higher concession payments and lower rent.
- 5.4.6 Outdoor learning income has reduced as more education delivery is linked into external funding. There is more work required in this service to achieve the external funding target set in 25/26. This target and trajectory may need to accelerate to further decrease the reliance of our outdoor learning and education activities on core revenue budgets. In addition, the volunteer service is currently funded from core funding and is an area for further work to generate additional external funding for the administration of volunteers.
- 5.4.7 There is a pipeline of initiatives for income generation which are expected to help to mitigate part of future deficits. These are being included at the point they crystallize into projects with realistic savings projects, rather than including generic targets that are not linked to any specific delivery.

5.5 Reserves

- 5.5.1 Most of the £6.7 million reserves balance at the end of the 2024/25 financial year is either restricted or already earmarked. It is expected that most of the committee-approved reserves will spend over the period of the MTFS. The smoothing reserves will be discontinued if the Defra grant is confirmed as a split between revenue and capital, but this will be addressed in more detail in the budget paper once the settlement is known. The preference is that they be retained as the most optimal way to invest, but the nature of the funding may dictate the approach to capital spend. The balances of income in advance for S106 and external funding will remain in reserves.

Reserve Summary	2024/25 closing position (£k)
General working balance	535
Contingency	291
Risk Reserves	826
Woodsmith Section 106	2983
Boulby Section 106	986
Birds on Edge income	22

Reserve Summary	2024/25 closing position (£k)
Restricted and committed reserves	3,991
Capital: vehicle replacements	225
Capital: IT replacements	154
Capital: property reserve	1109
Earmarked projects	408
Committee approved reserves	1,896
Total reserve balance	6,713

5.5.2 Reserves to manage risk are reviewed each year as part of the budget process. The policy is to build total risk reserves to 10% of gross expenditure excluding S106. Current balances of £535k in the general working balance reserve and £291k in the contingency reserve indicate an c8.26% risk reserve level on the basis of a £10m non-S106 budget, a shortfall on the 10% target of c.£174k. As the level of external funding can vary year on year, a set percentage can be challenging to work towards. Therefore, it is considered that a target of £1m risk reserves should be adopted rather than a percentage, to remove the potential for year-on-year variation. The detailed budget paper will consider the level of the risk reserves, in particular noting the risk levels of the different types of funding streams. It is also worth noting that available surplus funds are currently going to the property reserve to help to reduce the potential borrowing that will be required for major capital investment which presents a risk to reaching the £1m mark in the short term.

6. Key financial indicators

6.1 Performance management framework includes a number of key performance indicators (KPI) tracked through a quarterly scorecard. The financial KPIs are:

- External income of £2.5m by 2026/27 and in each year thereafter.
- Non-core grant income to be a minimum of 55% of total income.
- Corporate and democratic core costs after recharges to be less than 5% of total spend.

6.2 These indicators will be reviewed as part of the detailed budget process to ensure they remain both relevant and challenging enough.

7. MTFS update and deficit mitigation

7.1 The table below illustrates the expected bottom line for the next five years incorporating all of the assumptions as laid out in the report. The key assumption and main risk variable is the Defra grant. Therefore, the table illustrates the mid-case scenario of flat cash revenue grant and retaining capital to the level of the 8.3% cut in revenue in 2025/26. The scenarios reflect the deficit based on cuts to revenue and whether the capital grant is retained.

MTFS Summary Incl Defra Grant scenarios	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Income	8,870	8882	8906	8930	8978
Expenditure	-13,394	-13,557	-13,696	-13,839	-13,989
Before Defra Grant	-4,524	-4,675	-4,790	-4,909	-5,011
Defra Capital Grant	367	367	367	367	367
Defra Revenue Grant	4,022	4,022	4,022	4,022	4,022
Mid-Case Scenario	-135	-286	-401	-520	-622
Potential cut-scenario deficits	-	-	-	-	-
Deficit if revenue cut by 2.5% but capital retained	-235	-386	-501	-620	-722
Deficit if revenue cut by 5% but capital retained	-336	-487	-602	-721	-823
Deficit if revenue cut by 10% but capital retained	-537	-689	-804	-922	-1,057
Deficit if revenue flat cash but no capital	-502	-653	-768	-887	-989
Deficit if revenue cut by 2.5% but no capital	-602	-753	-868	-987	-1,089
Deficit if revenue cut by 5% but no capital	-703	-854	-969	-1,088	-1,190
Deficit if revenue cut by 10% but no capital	-904	-1,056	-1,171	-1,289	-1,424

- 7.2 The main movements from the balanced budget in 2025/26 to the mid-case deficit of £135k above in 2026/27 is illustrated in the table below:

Movements	£k	Comment
Pay inflation	-132	Pay award @ 3%
Interest	-40	Assumption of fall in interest rates
Overhead inflation	-51	Overheads
Power	40	Reduction in utilities
Pension costs	55	Expected reduction in pension contributions

- 7.3 Directors have held an initial meetings to look at scenarios and consider mitigation for the 2025/26 deficit position. This is in the early stages currently. It may be possible to find further efficiencies to offset most of a £135k deficit, but larger deficit positions will require a strategic review of services and how they are delivered.

- 7.4 The budget process will provide a more detailed review of the 2026/27 proposals.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The economic environment continues to be extremely challenging and unpredictable with pressures on the public sector continuing. External factors continue to influence the economy although high inflation levels have now settled but remain stubborn to reduce below current levels and to the government target of 2%. Pay inflation and Defra settlements continue to be unknown making forward planning difficult, but they are both major factors in the continuing increasing deficits.

- 8.2 The MTFS forecasts a deficit position in 2026/27 of £135k in a mid-case scenario rising to £622k deficit by 2030/31 assuming no increase in core revenue grant and retention of capital equivalent to the 25/26 cut in revenue. Defra grant remains the largest risk and scenarios are laid out up to a worst-case scenario of 10% revenue grant cut and no capital provided – which would result in a deficit of £904k in 26/27 rising to £1,424k. We should be prepared for all scenarios.
- 8.3 In 25/26 there was a capital injection of £1,500k. Scenarios above cater for capital to help replace the reduction in revenue grant, but any higher grant in capital would be very welcome and will help to fund the ongoing property review outcomes.
- 8.4 The mitigation of the deficit in anything worse than the mid-case scenario above could impact on business plan ambitions in 2026/27. Further measures may need to be taken which may compromise the ability to deliver some services.
- 8.5 The Authority reserves are expected to reduce over the period to a level made up mostly of ring-fenced and risk reserves. There are insufficient reserves to fund ongoing deficits beyond one year, so increase income or reduced cost will be necessary to ensure balanced budgets are set.

9. Next steps

- 9.1 The formal process for the development and approval of the 2025/26 budget at member level is as follow:

Draft detailed 2025/26 budget	FRASC	February 2026
Final detailed 2025/26 budget	NPA	March 2026

10. Financial and staffing implications

- 10.1 There are no staffing implications as a result of this report.

11. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 11.1 A medium-term financial strategy based on reasoned assumptions is critical to ensure the financial sustainability of the management plan and the business plan ambitions. A balanced budget is a statutory duty of the Authority.

12. Legal and sustainability implications

- 12.1 There are no legal issues as a result of this report.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 That Members approve the Medium - Term Financial Strategy.

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Item 13, North York Moors Trust – presentation and update from Rebecca Buckley and James Metcalfe

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2025

Item 14, Feedback from Lead Members on Committees and Forums

1. Heather Moorhouse will give a verbal report from FRASC on 17 November 2025.
2. The Recreation and Wellbeing Forum took place on 4 November 2025 the papers and draft notes/actions are available on Members' SharePoint. Janet Waggott will give a verbal report at this meeting.
3. The Conservation and Climate Change Forum met on 2 October, and all the papers are on the Members' SharePoint. Patrick James will give a verbal update at this meeting.
4. The Local Access Forum AGM was held on 2 December 2025. David Hugill will give a verbal update at this meeting.
5. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group – the meeting on 17 September 2025 was a site visit to Sutton Bank National Park Centre. The meeting on 11 December 2025 was too late to be included in this Agenda. A verbal update will be given at this meeting.

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2025

Item 15, Reports from Members on outside bodies

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To consider reports from Members attending meetings on outside bodies as representatives of the Authority.

2. Background

- 2.1 It has been agreed that Members attending meetings of bodies where they are representing the Authority should present a report, either verbal or written.

3. North York Moors Trust

- 3.1 The last NYM Trust meeting took place on 11 December 2025. Rebecca Buckley (Chair) and James Metcalfe (Executive Director) from the Trust are providing an update at this meeting.

4. Campaign for National Parks

- 4.1 David Jeffels, CNP Representative, provided a report sent to Members by email. This is copied at **appendix 1**. The next CNP Council meeting is scheduled for January 2026.

5. Financial and staffing implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

6. Legal and sustainability implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the report be noted by Members.

Contact Officer:

Judith Seaton

Executive Support Team Leader

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Appendix 1

Campaign for National Parks

CNP has successfully campaigned with NPE and National Landscapes Association against a government move to abolish the protected landscape duty. Such a move, said CNP, would weaken nature recovery.

One issue expected to be debated at the CNP's council meeting in January will be a plan to reform National Park governance which would likely see a reduction in the number of members of NP Authorities, but to encourage younger members to serve on the authorities.

CNP has achieved considerable national publicity recently in its quest to improve the quality of rivers and water courses in the England and Wales NPs, saying that many of them are "at risk" including some in NYM.

CNP has officially welcomed the decision by Government not to weaken the protection of NPs in its new Planning and Infrastructure Bill. More than 200 charities, businesses and organisations signed an open letter to PM Keir Starmer asking him not to weaken the laws which protect NPs.

CNP is calling for a new era of open access outdoors to encourage more use of their landscapes. It follows Dartmoor NP achieving the right to camp being upheld.

If any member of NYMNPA wants further information, please contact me and if anyone wishes me to raise an item at the January meeting of the CNP do let me know.

David Jeffels

NYMNPA representative on CNP

29 October 2025

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2025

Item 16, Chief Executive Officer's report

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the CEO's activities since the last NPA and to identify key and emerging issues for Members to be aware of.

2. National issues and developments

- 2.1 Members should be aware that I am continuing to provide additional leadership support to National Parks England (NPE) in the absence of an Executive Director. NPE acts as the collective voice of all ten English National Park Authorities and is our primary interface with government and key national stakeholders such as Campaign for National Parks (CNP) and the National Landscapes Association (NLA). The North York Moors has always been a strong supporter of NPE recognising the power of speaking with a single voice to government. This period has, however, highlighted the gap in awareness and knowledge that many Members and officers have with regard to our national working arrangements. We intend to devote a forthcoming Member update to set this out in more detail.
- 2.2 A big area of focus in recent months has been defending the benefits of the Protected Landscapes Duty. Members will recall that the new, enhanced Duty was introduced via the Levelling up and Regeneration Act of 2023 and requires all 'relevant authorities' to seek to further the statutory purposes of National Parks and National Landscapes. Extensive and reliable rumours circulating in late September indicated that the Government may seek to significantly amend or repeal the Duty. Working closely with NLA and CNP we were able to obtain written assurances from MHCLG Ministers that the government did not intend to make changes to the Duty. However, the pressure remains. In the November Budget statement Government indicated that it accepted the recommendations of the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce, which included a recommendation to curtail or repeal the Duty.
- 2.3 Government has launched a [refreshed Environmental Improvement Plan](#) (EIP), its flagship policy for the environment and nature. The new EIP simplifies the previous 2023 document into 5 overarching themes: restored nature, environmental quality, circular economy, environmental security and access to nature. The refresh puts much more emphasis on the role of protected landscape organisations as enablers to the delivery of the EIP, particularly the need to go further and faster in National Parks and National Landscapes to achieve targets for nature, including the important 30 by 30 target. The Plan includes a commitment to enable protected landscapes to become "greener, wilder and more accessible to all". It also makes reference to strengthening legislation to give protected landscapes a clear mandate to widen public access to nature. Overall, through NPE we've given the EIP a positive endorsement as a recognition

of our important role in delivering the plan and enabling partnership working at landscape-scale.

- 2.4 Our initial assessment of the 2026/27 Budget does not appear to indicate major changes or implications for the NPA, with commitments made via the Comprehensive Spending Review seemingly remaining intact. It is hoped that Defra will now be in a position to confirm core grant funding for National Parks for next year, along with indicative settlements for 2027-29.
- 2.5 On the day of the Budget, MHCLG confirmed plans to allow Mayoral Authorities to be granted new powers to raise a levy on overnight stays in order to invest in transport, infrastructure and the local visitor economy. The announcement has been welcomed by York and North Yorkshire Mayor, David Skaith and comes alongside research undertaken for YNYCA that indicates such a levy could raise over £50m annually to invest locally. The proposals, that have been set out in a [consultation document](#) would apply to visitors at accommodation providers including hotels, holiday lets, bed and breakfasts, and guesthouses. The consultation runs for 12 weeks to 18 February and seeks views on how revenues should be used, the types of accommodation included and how rates are calculated. The Authority will need to consider its position on the introduction of a levy and respond to the consultation formally. We are also co-ordinating with other NPAs to submit a joint response from National Parks England. At this stage, whilst we have yet to take a stance on whether a levy should be introduced, we have made clear that the benefits should be ring-fenced so that benefits can be shared with communities, the environment and landscapes that do so much to contribute to the local visitor economy.

3. Authority updates

- 3.1 The effects of the Fylingdales Moor wildfire continue to have a significant impact on our workload and priorities. Our focus has been on the environmental restoration of the land affected as well as public access, as part of the multi-agency recovery effort led by the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum. A major limiting factor in progressing restoration plans and reinstating public access has been the risks associated with unexploded ordnance on the site. In mid-November, however, NPA officers were able to support an MoD visit to the site which has concluded that, with appropriate signage, the risks appear no greater than previously across the site area. As a result, open access restrictions and rights of way closures were lifted on 4 December. We have also been aggregating funds from a variety of sources to assess and put in place restoration measures across the site, with funds committed from the YNY Combined Authority, Historic England, Natural England and the EA. We are also exploring further funding for restoration and species recovery with NE and Defra. At all stages, through the Recovery Co-ordination Group, we have worked closely with local stakeholders, including farmers and landowners. We also supported a recent visit from Officers from MHCLG to assess damage and discuss opportunities for appropriate reinstatement of firebreaks.
- 3.2 Progress on the reconstruction of the Old Print Works as a new depot for the Authority's staff and volunteers has been rapid with partial demolition, reroofing

and cladding all complete at the time of writing and expected to complete on schedule. A special Authority meeting to consider a final business case relating to the Authority's office requirements has been rearranged for Monday 19 January 2026. The Property Working Group has met to provide some initial feedback on the draft business case which will be shared with Members early in the New Year.

4. Stakeholder engagement

- 4.1 This has been a particularly busy period for the North York Moors. In late September NYM hosted sustainable tourism officers and in November, Health, Wellbeing, Learning and Engagement officers from across the 15 UK National Parks attended a 5-day series of events in our National Park. There are more than 25 National Park professional officer groups that act as communities of practice for officers in like disciplines across the National Park family. They provide valuable vehicles for shared learning, ideas generation and policy consultation.
- 4.2 The NPA has hosted two important visits from Defra in November. Members of the Access for All team visited the National Park to consider how Defra funding had been used to enhance access for all through improved surfacing, facilities and tramper access. The NPA also hosted a visit from the new Defra Permanent Secretary to showcase how National Parks and protected landscapes generally convene partnerships and engage with farmers and landowners to enable delivery of outcomes for nature and habitats.
- 4.3 After nearly 2 years in development, the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) pre-publication draft documentation and local habitat map has been reviewed by Officers and Members. On behalf of Members, I have formally written to NYC to confirm our agreement that the strategy produced adequately reflects our priorities when set within the broader regional context and we are happy to approve it. This process fulfils our requirement as a Supporting Authority and enables the LNRS to move forward to publication, which is expected by the end of March 2026.

5. Financial and staffing implications

- 5.1 None.

6. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 6.1 N/A.

7. Legal and sustainability implications

- 7.1 None.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That Members note the content of the report.

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