

North York Moors National Park Authority

28 September 2026

Item 11, 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 National Park Trust

- 3.1 Colin Williamson, Trust Board Member, attended the last meeting on 10 September 2026, report attached at **appendix 1**.

4. Campaign for National Parks

- 4.1 David Jeffels, CNP representative, report attached at **appendix 2**.

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 and sustainability implications.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the report be noted by Members.

Contact officer:

Perry Perrott

Executive and Democratic Services Team Leader

01439 771015

Appendix 1, Trust Board meeting update, 10 September 2026

Annual accounts: Asquith Accountants of Whitby completed the annual examination of accounts for the financial year December 2024 – November 2025. The accounts were reviewed and approved by Trustees and submitted to Companies House and the Charity Commission. The Trust received £130,628 income, including £117,777 in grant funding, and expenditure was £146,464, predominantly relating to grant-funded project delivery and staffing. The Trust has moved closer to its objective of eliminating its annual deficit, although the deficit is expected to increase in the coming year as the Trust invests in additional fundraising capacity.

Investment in fundraising: In line with the Trust's strategy and business plan, the Trust is recruiting a Corporate Fundraising Manager to maximise opportunities for corporate income. This builds on relationships already being developed and aims to increase the Trust's ability to secure larger-scale and potentially national business partnerships.

Business Plan: Trustees reviewed an updated business plan setting out the Trust's objectives through to 2030. Priorities include securing larger-scale funding for existing programmes, including Stepping Stones to Nature and the Natural Health Service, while also developing new projects and diversifying the Trust's income base to support longer-term financial sustainability.

Project: Trustees received an update on the Trust's current projects and programmes. Notably, Birds on the Edge will end in October. It has delivered against or exceed its target outcomes including: including 6 hectares of nesting and feeding habitat created, 8 historic dew ponds restored, 11 new ponds created and 778 children and young people engaged through practical activities, music, art and summer schools. The project has worked with 28 schools across the North York Moors and Howardian Hills, delivered an exhibition at Danby which attracted 14,000 visitors, and undertook additional targeted conservation activity including turtle dove GPS tagging and the installation of 24 supplementary bird feeders across 12 farms through additional FiPL funding.

Governance and organisational development: Trustees also considered options for moving the Trust's current investment portfolio, given poor performance under the current investment management.

Appendix 2, Campaign for National Parks

The latest meeting of the CNP's council and observers was probably the most challenging and successful for a long time.

Making the case for National Parks

This was led by a panel from Rural Scotland, York St John University, British Mountaineering Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Questions raised included: How can CNP make a compelling case for greater investment, improving public health, thriving nature, climate resilience, stronger rural communities and in general, places that people can value.

The feeling of the meeting was that renewal investment should be grounded in the uniqueness NPs can play and deliver public benefits, focussing on outcomes and solutions rather than the problems they face.

NPs should demonstrate how they can help deliver economic growth and to be seen by Government as an investment in health improvement, climate change, biodiversity and rural development and to promote what NPs already deliver.

It was also suggested that CNP should engage high profile advocates to speak up and, among other things, outreach to young people.

If any NYMNPA Member has any queries let me know.

Welsh NPs:

A new NP is being promoted and designated to cover the Clwydian Range and the Dee Valley, emphasising its benefit to climate change mitigation and nature restoration. CNP officers emphasised that NPs in Wales have a "huge amount of room for improvement" mainly as a result of them being the lowest funded in the UK

David Jeffels

NYMNPA representative on Campaign for National Parks