

Biodiversity Duty Statement

About this document

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

They must:

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

Section 1: Our policies, objectives and actions

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

| Work area | Relevant Policies/strategies already in place | Notes | Future development |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><u>The North York Moors Management Plan (2022).</u></p> | <p>The Management Plan is a plan for the place and was prepared with the help of key partners who will also contribute to its delivery. highlights the key priorities for action over the next twenty years in order to address the challenges that the National Park will face.</p> <p>The Plan contains:</p> <p>A vision that includes supporting biodiversity and nature recovery.</p> <p>Specific outcomes:</p> <p><u>Outcome 1 – A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery.</u></p> <p><u>Outcome 2 - A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape.</u></p> <p>These Outcomes are being delivered by objectives relevant to furthering biodiversity:</p> <p>Objective 1 - The National Park should play a significant part in achieving the regional ambition of being a carbon negative economy by 2040.</p> <p>Objective 2 - Capture and store carbon by creating at least 2,500 hectares of additional wooded habitat by 2032.</p> | <p>Creation of the Management Plan was subject to <u>Habitats Regulation Assessment Sustainability Appraisal</u> which includes a scoping exercise to appraise relationship with other strategies and plans. A <u>report on progress against objectives</u> is prepared annually.</p> | <p>the National Park Purposes. This supports the strengthened Biodiversity Duty.</p> <p>The Plan will be reviewed within five years of its adoption – summer 2027. The next plan will need to demonstrate how it supports the Environment Act (through its influence on Environmental Outcomes as set out in the 2021 Environment Act).</p> |

| Work area | Relevant Policies/strategies already in place | Notes | Future development |
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| | <p>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.</p> <p>Objective 4 - Protect, restore and improve soils across the National Park.</p> <p>Objective 5 – Achieve good ecological status for all water bodies by 2027 and support the improvement of the marine and coastal habitat.</p> <p>Objective 6 - Create bigger, better and more joined-up habitats, with nature-rich wildlife corridors extending beyond the National Park boundaries.</p> <p>Objective 7 - Restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems on at least 2,000 hectares in the National Park.</p> <p>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.</p> | | |
| <p><u>The North York Moors Authority Strategy and Business Plan 2022-27.</u></p> | <p>The Strategy and Business Plan sets out how the Authority will contribute to meeting Management Plan Objectives as well as including objectives around corporate performance. It sets out two outcomes relevant to the biodiversity duty:</p> | <p>Performance against the 22 Business Plan objectives is <u>reported to Authority Members every six months.</u></p> | <p>The next Business Plan will need to be aligned as above</p> |

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|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | <p>Outcome 1 – A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery</p> <p>Outcome 2 - A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape</p> | | |
| <p>Planning Policy</p> | <p><u>The Local Plan – July 2020.</u></p> <p>Policies meeting the first purpose of the National Park:</p> <p>Strategic Policies</p> <p>Strategic Policy A - Achieving National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Strategic Policy E - The Natural Environment</p> <p>Strategic Policy F - Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p> <p>Strategic Policy H - Habitats, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Geodiversity. This policy requires biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Policies</p> <p>Policy ENV1 - Trees, Woodlands, Traditional Orchards and Hedgerows</p> <p>Policy ENV2 – Tranquillity</p> <p>Policy ENV3 - Remote Areas</p> <p>Policy ENV4 - Dark Night Skies</p> <p>Policy ENV7 - Environmental Protection</p> <p>Policy ENV8 - Renewable Energy</p> | <p>Creation of the Local Plan was subject to:</p> <p>Habitats Regulation Assessment</p> <p><u>Sustainability Appraisal</u> – which includes a scoping exercise to appraise relationship with other strategies and plans.</p> <p><u>An Annual Monitoring Report is prepared.</u></p> <p>The Authority has also prepared a <u>Supplementary Planning Document</u> covering policy on dark skies</p> <p>It has published a <u>Planning Advice Note</u> on biodiversity.</p> | <p>Review of the Plan, which will need to be prepared to support the National Park first purpose will begin at the end of 2024.</p> <p>It is currently preparing a Design Code which will have a specific section on landscape, nature and dark skies.</p> <p>The Authority is updating the Planning Advice Note on biodiversity and is preparing one for Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> |
| <p>Development Management</p> | <p>Determination of planning applications is made in accordance with the local plan, other material</p> | <p>Planning conditions and informatives are routinely applied to permissions to</p> | <p>Continual process. Decisions will need to be made in accordance with the next iteration of the Local Pan.</p> |

| Work area | Relevant Policies/strategies already in place | Notes | Future development |
|---|---|---|---|
| | planning considerations and current wildlife legislation and policy. | control factors relevant to preserving and enhancing biodiversity – for example, lighting, operating hours, use of bat boxes, swift bricks etc. | |
| Local nature recovery strategies | 2 relevant LNRS's in preparation York & North Yorkshire Tees Valley Yorkshire Marine Nature Recovery Strategy | NYMNPA is a Supporting Authority for the development of both Y&NY and TV strategies. The Authority is advising the YMNRS | Continue to work closely with Responsible Authorities to finalise, deliver and subsequently review and update LNRS's. The NYMNPA is also preparing a Local Nature Recovery Plan specific to the National Park, which will incorporate the findings of consultation and feedback for all strategies and plans and set out a vision for nature recovery in the National Park. This Plan will supplement and support the LNRS's, providing additional detail and clarity for the National Park area. |
| Biodiversity net gain (BNG) | Biodiversity Net Gain is to become mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) . | As a Local Planning Authority, BNG will be required on all non-exempt planning applications in the National Park from the date of enactment of the new regulations. | Delivery, monitoring and enforcement will be undertaken in line with the regulations and other planning policies and regulations. |
| Authority landholdings | Authority owned land is managed in line with our Statutory Purpose, Management Plan and Business Plan (see above). | | The NYMNPA has adopted a Decarbonisation Plan that considers the current carbon sequestration capacity of our landholdings and will seek to |

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|-----------|--|-------|---|
| | Land eligible for agri-environment schemes are enrolled (by the Authority or its tenants or relevant commoners) in CS/HLS to support beneficial management in line with Natural England objectives for designated sites. | | support the optimal management of our land for reducing the effects of climate change and increasing resilience to its effects. Linking Levisham is a new Landscape Recovery Scheme covering the Authority's landholding at Levisham, in addition to land owned and managed by Forestry England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and North Yorkshire Moors Railway. Between 2024 and 2026 this scheme will work up options for improving the management of the land for biodiversity, natural capital and carbon sequestration interests. |

Section 2: How you have considered other strategies

The Authority is developing a Local Nature Recovery Plan to feed into the Local Nature Recovery Strategies for North Yorkshire and for Tees Valley. The Authority is a Supporting Authority for both of these LNRS's and sit on the advisory boards and working groups.

The Local Nature Recovery Plan identifies priorities for habitats and species that will contribute to delivering our Management Plan outcomes of:

- A resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change and nature recovery
- A nature rich, more biodiverse landscape

And our business plan priorities

- Achieve good ecological status for all water bodies by 2027 and support the improvement of marine and coastal habitat.
- Create bigger, better and more joined up habitats, with nature rich wildlife corridors extending beyond the National Park boundaries
- Restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems on at least 2,000 hectares in the National Park.

- 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
- Maintain a strong and viable farming and land management community that delivers more for climate, nature, people and place.

Much of the Authorities work is directed towards the delivery of these outcomes and objectives as the First Purpose of the National Park.

Protected Sites Strategies, once developed, will be a crucial tool for delivering the nature recovery ambitions set out in our Management Plan, as well as our Local Nature Recovery Plan. The Authority will be proactive in engaging with Natural England colleagues about approaches and actions for protected sites within the National Park and can play a crucial role in engaging local stakeholders with the development and review of these strategies. Once developed, it is anticipated that the Protected Sites Strategies will inform future National Park Management Plan and LNRS reviews and updates to ensure that these are delivering optimally for our Protected Sites, as well as being incorporated where applicable into our Local Nature Recovery Plan.

Where Species Conservation Strategies have been drawn up which are relevant to the National Park, these will be fully considered within the National Park's Management Plan and Local Nature Recovery Plan review cycles, with appropriate actions incorporated. The Authority will also work with Responsible Authorities to review and update Local Nature Recovery Strategies to incorporate Species Conservation Strategies where applicable.

Section 3: Your future actions

As the First Purpose of the National Park, undertaking activity to enhance biodiversity and bio abundance is an intrinsic remit for the Authority. The Authority will prepare an annual Business Plan outlining the range of projects and programmes that will contribute to the delivery of our Management Plan objectives and report progress on this annually. Future projects and programmes will be directed and prioritised in accordance with the priorities of the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies. See current Business Plan here; [NPA-Strategy-and-Business-Plan-2022-27.pdf \(northyorkmoors.org.uk\)](https://northyorkmoors.org.uk/NPA-Strategy-and-Business-Plan-2022-27.pdf).

Further information will be added to this section once Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and the NPA's Local Nature Recover Plan are finalised, in advance of the first reporting deadline.

Biodiversity Net Gain information

The Authority will comply with all new legislation and regulations regarding the roll out and implementation of BNG from 2024. More information in this section will be added after the roll out commences and BNG obligations are secured from applicants.

Optional information

Section 4: Info about your authority

Further information in this section will be added prior to the first reporting deadline of 1 January 2026.

Section 5: Your top achievements

Further information in this section will be added prior to the first reporting deadline of 1 January 2026.

Section 6: How your policies and actions have helped

Further information in this section will be added prior to the first reporting deadline of 1 January 2026.

Section 7: How you've raised awareness and educated the community

Further information in this section will be added prior to the first reporting deadline of 1 January 2026.

Section 8: Monitoring and evaluating your actions

Further information in this section will be added prior to the first reporting deadline of 1 January 2026.

Section 9: Biodiversity highlights and challenges

Further information in this section will be added prior to the first reporting deadline of 1 January 2026.