



North York Moors  
National Park

# North York Moors 2040

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

### **Sustainability Appraisal Statement**

This document is the final stage in carrying out a 'Sustainability Appraisal' of the next Management Plan. The first - 'The Scoping Report' - was published in September/November 2021. A Sustainability Appraisal of the draft Management Plan was subsequently published in November 2021 alongside the draft Management Plan. Sustainability Appraisal aims to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation of plans. This statement confirms that the statutory process has been followed throughout preparation of the Plan.

May 2022

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# The Sustainability Appraisal Statement

## 1. About This Document

- 1.1 The North York Moors National Park Authority will adopt its new Management Plan at its National Park Authority meeting on 19 May 2022. It can be found on the [Authority's website](#).
- 1.2 Throughout its preparation the Plan has been subject to 'Sustainability Appraisal' (SA) at various stages. SA is a way of checking the Plan against a series of economic, social and environmental criteria to see if its outcomes and objectives are capable of delivering the most sustainable forms of development. SA considers the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and the reasonable alternatives considered during the plan-making process in terms of key sustainability issues. Sustainability Appraisal is what is known as an 'iterative' process, in other words it is reapplied at each stage of plan-making to make sure that our plans are heading in the right direction.
- 1.3 Production of an SA is a legal requirement. The Plan must be prepared in line with the requirements of [Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#) which transpose into national law European Union Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>1</sup> 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. A wider 'Sustainability Appraisal' covering non-environmental issues is also required through Government planning guidance<sup>2</sup>. Our appraisal process therefore considers the social and economic effects of the Management Plan in addition to environmental matters.
- 1.4 This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Statement forms the final output from the SA. Under the terms of Section 16(4) of the regulations quoted above, when a plan is adopted, a statement must be produced summarising:
  - How environmental / sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
  - How the SA report has been taken into account;
  - How opinions expressed in response to consultation on the SA report have been taken into account;

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<sup>1</sup> European Union, Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Communities and Local Government, Online National Planning Policy Practice Guidance Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 11-005-20140306, 2012.

- How the Local Authority made the relevant documents available;
  - The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternative options dealt with; and
  - The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.
- 1.5 The remainder of this documents details how the Authority has complied with these requirements. Generally, the Sustainability Appraisal has helped to confirm that the Plan as a whole is aiming towards delivering the sustainability objectives.

## **2. How sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Plan**

- 2.1 The SA (incorporating SEA) has been carried out as an iterative and ongoing process to inform decision making for the developing Management Plan. The SA framework was devised/applied and consulted upon at the following stages:

### **The Scoping Stage (Stage 1)**

- 2.2 The first stage, known as the ‘Scoping Stage’ was published in October 2021. The Scoping Report:
- Reviewed other relevant policies, plans, programmes to establish whether their contents will need to inform the North York Moors National Park Management Plan;
  - Looked at what we know about the North York Moors National Park at the moment to see what issues need to be addressed. In sustainability appraisal terms this is known as ‘baseline information’. It included ‘baseline’ information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in the Park which the Management Plan must address.
  - Set out the objectives we used to carry out this sustainability appraisal and how the appraisal will be carried out;
  - Set out how we will start to monitor our eventual Plan to see if it is working.
- 2.3 In accordance with the statutory requirements the three Strategic Environmental Assessment bodies (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) were asked for their views, with a deadline of 19 November 2021. Responses were received from Historic England and Natural England.

## **SA at the Public Consultation Stage (Stage 2)**

- 2.4 As this was the first full draft of the Plan this was the first version of the SA. This full SA Report was produced in November 2021 and was subject to a consultation period which ended of 21 January 2022. In accordance with the statutory requirements the three Strategic Environmental Assessment bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) were again consulted at this stage and asked for their views. A response was received from Natural England.
- 2.5 This version of the document:
- Explained what sustainability appraisal is and provided detail about the preparation process
  - Set out the twelve environmental, social and economic objectives that were to be used to appraise the draft plan
  - Assessed whether the separate objectives set out in the draft Management Plan performed well in sustainability terms by assessing those objectives against the objectives used by the sustainability appraisal
  - Carried out an appraisal of the Vision and Outcomes in the draft Plan
  - The appraisal then moved on look at individual objectives. Full appraisal tables were included at Appendix G of the Report.
  - A summary of whether the preferred option included in the draft plan was the most sustainable when compared to alternative options was then included.
- 2.6 The draft Plan and accompanying SA were placed on the Authority's website.
- 2.7 Appendix F of the SA at this stage included any comments from the three statutory consultees consulted at the earlier scoping stage.

## **Amendments to the Management Plan (Stage 3)**

- 2.8 Following consultation, a number of amendments were made to the draft Management Plan. Many of these were relatively minor amendments for the purposes of clarification of points in the Plan. More significant amendments have been made in respect of the sections set out in the table below. The table below 'screens' these changes to help identify changes that are significant enough to warrant additional assessment.

Section	Proposed Change	Implication for the Sustainability Appraisal
Vision	<p>“By 2040 the North York Moors National Park will be a resilient landscape at the forefront of addressing climate change <u>and nature recovery</u>. It will be a biodiverse, beautiful and varied place, <u>proud of its cultural heritage</u>, which <u>all</u> helps enrich the nation’s health and well-being. It will be a place with a diverse, innovative, <del>net-zero</del> <u>low</u> carbon economy, and home to thriving, <u>welcoming</u> local communities.”</p>	<p>No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning of the vision</p>
Special Qualities	<p>The special qualities have been slightly edited. As they are descriptive and the changes are minor there are no implications for the sustainability appraisal</p>	<p>No change to SA findings,</p>
Objective 3	<p>Objective 3 - <u>Capture and store carbon by ensuring</u> <del>Place</del> all degraded blanket bogs and peat habitats in the National Park <u>are</u> under active restoration by 2032.</p>	<p>No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning or intention of this objective.</p>
Outcome 1 – supporting text	<p><u>Adapting to and mitigating</u> accelerating climate change is clearly a priority, if not <u>the</u> priority for this plan. <u>The climate and nature emergencies cannot be solved in isolation. Restoring and protecting nature boosts biodiversity and the ecosystems that can absorb carbon.</u> Warmer, wetter winters, hotter, drier summers, more extreme weather events and increased risk of wildfire, <u>pest and disease impacts, drought and floods, declining soil health and loss of critical habitats and species</u> are all a consequence of a warming planet.</p> <p><u>Addressing climate change concerns not only stopping greenhouse emissions, but also by adapting</u></p>	<p>No change to SA findings – background/descriptive text.</p>

Section	Proposed Change	Implication for the Sustainability Appraisal
	<p><u>natural landscapes and land uses to the changing weather and climate that is already underway. Two key points from the Climate Change Committee are particularly pertinent to the North York Moors National Park: that biodiversity is one of the eight top priorities requiring urgent measures to address climate impacts.</u></p>	
Outcome 2	Outcome 2 - A <u>nature-rich, more biodiverse landscape</u>	No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning or intention of this objective.
Outcome 2 – Supporting text	Some areas are where new habitat can be created, others are where there are opportunities to link habitats, <u>including coastal habitats,</u>	No change to SA findings – background/descriptive text.
Objective 5	Achieve good <u>ecological</u> status <del>on at least 40%</del> <u>for all water bodies</u> by 2027 and support the improvement of the marine and coastal habitat.	No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning or intention of this objective.
Objective 7	<p><u>Restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems on at least 2,000 hectares in the National Park.</u></p> <p><del>Support low-intervention management on at least 2,000 hectares of high-quality habitat to restore a wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystem through two landscape recovery schemes from 2023.</del></p>	No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning or intention of this objective.
Objective 8	Objective 8 - Work with our moorland community to support the sustainable management of moorland to ensure it retains <u>its intrinsic character</u> <del>and</del> <u>which supports a greater variety and abundance</u> of species and habitats.	No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning or intention of this objective.

Section	Proposed Change	Implication for the Sustainability Appraisal
Outcome 2 – supporting text. New paragraph.	<p><u>The North York Moors is also home to one of the largest areas of continuous heather moorland in England, which can help contribute to the achievement of this outcome. Most of this moorland is managed to support grouse populations, with game shooting contributing to the economy and communities of the National Park. This Plan seeks to ensure the moorland is managed in a more sustainable way, including finding ways of reducing and finding alternatives to burning, so that the moorland can be managed to not only support existing species but also help introduce new ones. All stakeholders involved in the Management Plan support and promote a zero-tolerance approach to raptor persecution and wildlife crime.</u></p>	
Outcome 3	<p>Outcome 3: A <u>landscape rich in heritage and highly valued for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity where our Special Qualities are conserved and enhanced</u></p>	<p><b>New objective – to be appraised</b></p>
New Objective 10	<p><u>Objective 10 – Work to maintain and improve the sense of peace and tranquillity, including through the protection of its remotest areas.</u></p>	
Objective 11	<p><u>Objective 11 – Ensure that our historic environment is the best examples of heritage are better understood, conserved, explained and under appropriate management, and work with partners to reduce the number of and improve the condition of at least 25 identified Designated Heritage Assets at Risk by 2027.</u></p>	<p>No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning or intention of this objective.</p>
Objective 13	<p>Increase awareness of, and access to, the National Park among underserved</p>	<p>No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not</p>

Section	Proposed Change	Implication for the Sustainability Appraisal
	communities, <u>particularly those in the surrounding area.</u>	change the meaning or intention of this objective.
Outcome 4 – Supporting text	Extensive research has shown that engaging with the natural environment has positive outcomes for well-being for both people and communities, <u>helping to prevent ill health. Involvement in arts and culture supports these outcomes and improve well-being generally.</u> A 2021 report commissioned by Defra...	No change to SA findings – background/descriptive text.
Outcomes 5 & 6	Swapped round.	
New transport objective (new 20) & supporting text	<p><u>Objective 20 - Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park'.</u></p> <p><u>Further opportunities exist to improve access to the National Park in ways that reduce car use. The North York Moors already benefits from rail access to ten villages using the Esk Valley line which runs from Middlesbrough and Whitby. New services on this line have been created in recent years and there remains further potential to use the line for both commuting and recreational travel. The National Park also benefits from regular, efficient bus network, including a regular service along the coast</u></p>	<p><b>New objective – to be appraised</b></p>
Objective 21	Increase the delivery of affordable housing <sup>10</sup> above 2010-2020 levels to build at least 100 affordable homes in villages across the National Park by 2027; and <del>lobby central government to introduce a mechanism to press for</del>	No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning or intention of this objective.

Section	Proposed Change	Implication for the Sustainability Appraisal
	<u>changes to control the conversion of housing to second or holiday homes.</u>	
Objective 22	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 <u>responsible</u> retrofitting measures in historic buildings to secure their long-term future.	No change to SA findings – the amended wording does not change the meaning or intention of this objective.

**Table 1 – Screening of Proposed Changes**

- 2.9 Whilst it is considered that these changes have not resulted in a change in direction of policy, it is nevertheless considered sensible to undertake sustainability appraisal on the new elements to ensure that there are no unintended significant potential sustainability implications that should be mitigated against.

#### **SA at the Adoption Stage (Stage 4)**

- 2.10 This report forms this stage. Table 1 above ‘screens’ the changes made at this stage in terms of the significance of the changes. Where changes are deemed potentially significant in SA terms these are then (re)appraised. Appendix A includes a (re)assessment of cumulative effects of management plan objectives against each other, including the two additional objectives included in the final plan.
- 2.11 These two new objectives are then put through the appraisal process and tested against the SA objectives. The results of the exercise are set out at Appendix B. At the request of Natural England the objectives have also been appraised against an additional objective around ‘net gain.’ This appraisal is at Appendix C, which also includes additional information on air quality, as requested by Natural England. Appendix D then details how the requirements of the Strategic Environment Assessment have been met.
- 2.12 The final Plan and accompanying SA have been placed on the Authority’s website. The statutory agencies will be notified of the Plan’s adoption, along with other consultees.

### **3. Compliance with Regulations**

- 3.1 The SA process has been carried out iteratively and informed the development of the Management Plan at each key stage.
- 3.2 Section 16(4) of the regulations state that when a plan is adopted a statement must be produced summarising:
- 1) How environmental / sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
  - 2) How the SA report has been taken into account;
  - 3) How opinions expressed in response to consultation on the SA report have been taken into account;
  - 4) How the Local Authority made the relevant documents available;
  - 5) The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternative options dealt with; and

- 6) The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.
- 3.3 Section 2 of this Statement details the stages of the SA prior to this one (The final Sustainability Statement), and contains links to the documents produced at the time. The Authority has consistently set out an ‘audit trail’ of how the SA had influenced policies and an and explanation of how alternatives had been considered in its SA documents (see Section 5 of the consultation version of the SA (Stage 2). Section 5 of the draft SA (Stage 2) sets out how ‘reasonable alternative options’ were dealt with. **The Authority therefore considers that the requirements of (1) and (2) above have been met.**
- 3.4 Statutory agencies (including the three Strategic Environmental Assessment bodies (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) were consulted at the first Scoping Stage (their responses are in Appendix F of the SA Report published at the Consultation Stage (Stage 2), and when they were again consulted on the draft plan. **The Authority therefore considers that the requirements of (3) above have been met.**
- 3.5 The draft Plan and accompanying SA at the consultation stage (Stage 2) were placed on the Authority’s website. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic copies of draft Reports could not be made available for public inspection at the Authority’s offices in Helmsley and at local libraries, however this final SA statement will be published on the Authority’s websites and will be made available for inspection at these locations. **The Authority therefore considers that the requirements of (4) above have been met.**
- 3.6 The SEA Regulations also require that: *‘The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action.’* The Regulations also state that the SA Adoption Statement should set out *‘...the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.’* A full monitoring framework is included alongside the adopted Management Plan. **The Authority therefore considers that the requirements of (6) above have been met.**

## 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This SA statement details the iterations of the SA that have been applied to various versions of policies within consultation versions of the North York Moors Management Plan. It fulfils the requirement to produce a statement detailing how Section 16(4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans Regulations. For the reasons set out in Section 3 of this Report the Authority concludes that the requirements of these Regulations have been met.

4.2 **This report therefore concludes that the framework set out in the Management Plan represents the most sustainable in light of the information available.**

## **Appendix A – Final Plan – Sustainability Appraisal**

### **Assessment of cumulative effects of management plan objectives against each other.**

To help meet the SA requirement to assess cumulative effects each of the Management Plan objectives are assessed for their impact against each other. Two additional objectives have been added to the plan following the consultation stage. This final SA statement includes an appraisal of how the objectives perform in SA terms when applied together i.e. whether there are reinforcing effects or possible tensions. The following table sets out an appraisal on the additional two objectives against the other 22 original objectives. In summary, the new objectives were considered to reinforce other objectives or there was uncertain or no links.

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

		Objective 10 – Work to maintain and improve the sense of peace and tranquillity, including through the protection of its remotest areas.	Objective 20 - Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park'.	Notes
<b>New Management Plan Objectives</b>	<b>1</b>	✓	✓	<b>No direct link</b>
	<b>2</b>	✓	□	Mutually reinforcing objectives. Objective 2 directly supports objective 1.
	<b>3</b>	□	□	Mutually reinforcing objectives or no direct link. Objective 3 directly supports objective 1.
	<b>4</b>	□	□	Mutually reinforcing objectives or no direct link. Objective 4 directly supports objective 1, 4 supports 3.

	Objective 10 – Work to maintain and improve the sense of peace and tranquillity, including through the protection of its remotest areas.	Objective 20 - Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park'.	Notes
<b>5</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No direct link for both objectives.
<b>6</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No direct link for both objectives.
<b>7</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No direct link for both objectives.
<b>8</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive impact recorded as Objective 8 on moorland management supports objective 10 on tranquillity – moorland offers many of the remotest areas and sustainable land management helps protect their natural beauty. No direct link between objectives 10 and 20.
<b>9</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Links between objectives 10 and 9 recorded as positive as dark night skies enhance a sense of tranquillity. No direct link between objectives 9 and 10.
<b>10</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive impact recorded as Objective 20 on sustainable travel and Objective 10 on tranquillity as travel via non-fossil fuel vehicles will help reduce noise.
<b>11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No direct link for both objectives.
<b>12</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive impact recorded as Objective 10 on tranquillity helps connect people with nature.
<b>13</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Uncertain impact between Objectives 10 and 13 as increasing access by underserved communities could increase numbers of visitors, however there is no certainty over whether this could reduce tranquillity. Positive link between Objective 13 and 20 as sustainable travel access could encourage more underserved communities to visit the National Park.

	Objective 10 – Work to maintain and improve the sense of peace and tranquillity, including through the protection of its remotest areas.	Objective 20 - Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park'.	Notes
14	?	✓	Uncertain impact between Objectives 10 and 14 as increasing access by younger people could increase numbers of visitors, however there is no certainty over whether this could reduce tranquillity. Positive link between Objective 14 and 20 as sustainable travel access could encourage more young people to visit the National Park.
15	✓	✓	Positive relationships recorded – good rights of way allow people to experience tranquillity in the National Park, as well as encouraging sustainable travel by bike, horse, and on foot.
16	?	✓	Uncertain impact between Objectives 10 and 16 as increasing access for cyclists could increase numbers of visitors, however there is no certainty over whether this could reduce tranquillity. Positive link between Objective 16 and 20 as cycling is a more sustainable form of travel and can help access the National Park.
17	?	✓	Uncertain impact between Objectives 10 and 17 as increasing the regenerative tourism offer could increase numbers of visitors, however there is no certainty over whether this could reduce tranquillity. Positive link between Objective 17 and 20 as regenerative tourism could be achieved by relying more on more sustainable forms of travel.
18	?	□	Uncertain impact between Objectives 10 and 18 as increasing the number of jobs could bring more people into the National Park. However, there is no certainty over whether this could reduce tranquillity. No direct link between Objectives 10 and 18.
19	?	□	Uncertain impact between Objectives 10 and 19. Farming activity could undermine tranquillity and takes place in remote areas, however the effect is negligible and there is no reason to suggest this objective will lessen tranquillity and remoteness compared to current levels. No direct link between Objectives 10 and 19.
20	✓		Positive link – vehicles using non fossil fuel transport modes helps reduce noise.

	Objective 10 – Work to maintain and improve the sense of peace and tranquillity, including through the protection of its remotest areas.	Objective 20 - Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park'.	Notes
21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No direct link for both objectives.
22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No direct link for both objectives.
23	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No direct link between Objectives 10 and 23. Positive link recorded between Objectives 20 and 23 – improved access by a greater variety of modes can help access local services.
24	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No direct link between Objectives 10 and 24. Positive link recorded between Objectives 20 and 24 – broadband can help reduce travel.

**Table 2 – Assessment of cumulative impact of objectives when assessed against each other**

## Appendix B - Sustainability Appraisals for New Objectives

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

### Audit Trail

This is a new objective, created following consultation on the draft Management Plan and this Sustainability Appraisal

### Recommendations, including mitigation:

No changes recommended.

Key	Positive impact	X No direct link	Neutral link	Uncertain impacts	Negative impacts	Significant Negative Impact
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SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
E1- To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape of the North York Moors, including the special qualities of remoteness and tranquillity	<p>Will the National Park landscape and special qualities be protected and enhanced?</p> <p>Will landscape character improve?</p> <p>Will tranquillity improve or deteriorate?</p>	Positive impact	This objective directly supports the SA objective, hence the relationship between these two objectives is positive.

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
<p>E2 - To protect water, soil and air quality, and reduce pollution, and improve efficiency of water use.</p>	<p>Will the policy/ option have an adverse impact on Groundwater Source Protection Zones or cause discharge into a river?  Will best and most versatile Agricultural Land be protected?  Would the policy option result in the re-use and clean-up of contaminated land?  Would the option lead to the worsening of air quality?</p>	<p><b>X No direct link</b></p>	<p>No direct impact.</p>
<p>E3 - To reduce the causes of climate change and ensure future development is resilient to climate change, including reducing the impact of flooding and avoiding flood risk.</p>	<p>Will the option/policy increase the resilience of habitats to climate change?  Will the policy option/policy increase resilience to climate change risks such as lower water availability, increased subsidence or heatwaves?  Will the option/policy increase surface or fluvial flooding or will</p>	<p><b>X No direct link</b></p>	<p>No direct impact.</p>

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
	development be vulnerable to flooding? Will greenhouse gasses be reduced?		
E4 - To maintain and enhance conditions for biodiversity and avoid irreversible losses or damage to designated nature conservation sites protected species and geological assets.	Will the option/policy protect and enhance internationally and locally designated biodiversity/geodiversity sites? (including SPAs, SACs, Ramsar Sites, SSSIs, SINC, LNRs and RIGs) Will important habitats and species outside of protected sites be affected? Will the option/policy protect and enhance established tree cover or hedgerows which would be impossible to replace in the short to medium term? Will the objective help to deliver net gain?	Positive impact	Recorded as positive as tranquillity and remote areas can increase the health and resilience of key species – disturbance can affect breeding cycles.
E5 - To conserve and enhance the historic environment,	Will historic features of interest (Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, SAM, Areas of Archaeological	X No direct link	No direct impact.

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
heritage assets and their settings and to help facilitate opportunities for greater access to and understanding of the historic environment.	<p>importance and Registered Parks and Gardens) be protected?</p> <p>Will non-designated heritage assets be protected?</p> <p>Will historic character be enhanced?</p> <p>Will the option/policy lead to a greater understanding of the historic environment?</p>		
S1 - To foster and maintain vibrant local communities and encourage a sense of community and belonging.	Will the option/policy protect and enhance facilities that are important to local communities?	<b>X No direct link</b>	No direct impact.
S2 To provide affordable, decent housing in accessible locations to meet the needs of local people, including the young.	<p>Will affordable housing be supported by the option/policy?</p> <p>Will affordable housing increase in line with demand in accessible locations?</p>	<b>X No direct link</b>	No direct impact.

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
S3 - To protect and enhance access to community facilities, leisure and recreation opportunities and access to the countryside.	Will the option/policy increase or decrease access to health/wellbeing and recreational facilities? Will the option/policy increase opportunities for access to the countryside?	Positive impact	This objective can help encourage people to come to the National Park experience peace and calm through tranquillity, hence there is a positive relationship between these objectives.
S4 - To make sure new development is easily accessible to essential services, to help reduce the need to travel and minimise the environmental impact of transport.	Will the option/policy result in shorter journeys to local services? Will the option/policy encourage development in locations where public transport is available? Will the policy encourage active travel such as walking/cycling on nearby PROW? Could the policy improve air quality by minimising the need to travel?	Positive impact	The objective to promote tranquillity can help achieve minimising the environmental impact of transport as non-fossil fuel modes of transport can produce lower levels of noise.
EC1 - To strengthen and diversify the local economy by supporting a range of	Will the option/policy support local services and businesses? Will the option/policy create new jobs?	Positive impact	There is a (slight) positive relationship between these objectives as tranquillity can help attract visitors into the national park which may help support jobs in the tourism economy.

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
opportunities for employment and training particularly in sustainable locations.	Will the option/policy increase access to jobs?		
EC2 - To support tourism and recreation industry by ensuring that development contributes to the local economy and provides opportunities for enjoying the Park's special qualities.	<p>Will new tourism proposals be supported by the option/policy?</p> <p>Will the option/policy support the retention of existing tourism related businesses?</p> <p>Will the option/policy support tourism businesses that provide a greater understanding of the special qualities of the National Park?</p>	Positive impact	There is a positive relationship between these objectives as tranquillity can attract visitors into the national park which supports the tourism economy.

### Conclusions

The objective will have only positive impacts when measured through the sustainability objectives.

## Objective 20 - Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park.

### Audit Trail

This is a new policy inserted after consultation on the draft Plan.

### Recommendations, including mitigation:

No changes recommended.

Key	Positive impact	X No direct link	Neutral link	Uncertain impacts	Negative impacts	Significant Negative Impact
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SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
E1- To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape of the North York Moors, including the special qualities of remoteness and tranquillity	<p>Will the National Park landscape and special qualities be protected and enhanced?</p> <p>Will landscape character improve?</p> <p>Will tranquillity improve or deteriorate?</p>	Positive impact	Positive link – the objective encourages the use of more sustainable travel - in practice a renewed emphasis on using non-car modes (which helps reduce traffic) or shifting to vehicles using non-fossil fuels, which are quieter. Successful delivery of this objective will help reduce impact on remoteness and tranquillity.

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
<p>E2 - To protect water, soil and air quality, and reduce pollution, and improve efficiency of water use.</p>	<p>Will the policy/ option have an adverse impact on Groundwater Source Protection Zones or cause discharge into a river?  Will best and most versatile Agricultural Land be protected?  Would the policy option result in the re-use and clean-up of contaminated land?  Would the option lead to the worsening of air quality?</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b></p>	<p>Positive link – the objective encourages the use of more sustainable travel - in practice a renewed emphasis on using non-car modes (which helps reduce traffic) or shifting to vehicles using non-fossil fuels. Both would help air quality and reduce pollution.</p>
<p>E3 - To reduce the causes of climate change and ensure future development is resilient to climate change, including reducing the impact of flooding and avoiding flood risk.</p>	<p>Will the option/policy increase the resilience of habitats to climate change?  Will the policy option/policy increase resilience to climate change risks such as lower water availability, increased subsidence or heatwaves?  Will the option/policy increase surface or fluvial flooding or will</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b></p>	<p>Positive link – the objective encourages the use of more sustainable travel - in practice a renewed emphasis on using non-car modes (which helps reduce traffic) or shifting to vehicles using non-fossil fuels. Both would help reduce CO2 and other emissions.</p>

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
	development be vulnerable to flooding? Will greenhouse gasses be reduced?		
E4 - To maintain and enhance conditions for biodiversity and avoid irreversible losses or damage to designated nature conservation sites protected species and geological assets.	Will the option/policy protect and enhance internationally and locally designated biodiversity/geodiversity sites? (including SPAs, SACs, Ramsar Sites, SSSIs, SINC, LNRs and RIGs) Will important habitats and species outside of protected sites be affected? Will the option/policy protect and enhance established tree cover or hedgerows which would be impossible to replace in the short to medium term? Will the objective help to deliver net gain?	Positive impact	Positive link – the objective encourages the use of more sustainable travel - in practice a renewed emphasis on using non-car modes (which helps reduce traffic) or shifting to vehicles using non-fossil fuels. Both would help reduce emissions which can be damaging to habitats and species.
E5 - To conserve and enhance the historic environment,	Will historic features of interest (Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, SAM, Areas of Archaeological	X No direct link	No direct link.

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
heritage assets and their settings and to help facilitate opportunities for greater access to and understanding of the historic environment.	importance and Registered Parks and Gardens) be protected? Will non-designated heritage assets be protected? Will historic character be enhanced? Will the option/policy lead to a greater understanding of the historic environment?		
S1 - To foster and maintain vibrant local communities and encourage a sense of community and belonging.	Will the option/policy protect and enhance facilities that are important to local communities?	<b>X No direct link</b>	No direct link.
S2 To provide affordable, decent housing in accessible locations to meet the needs of local people, including the young.	Will affordable housing be supported by the option/policy? Will affordable housing increase in line with demand in accessible locations?	<b>X No direct link</b>	No direct link.
S3 - To protect and enhance	Will the option/policy increase or decrease	<b>Positive impact</b>	This is a positive relationship – a better choice of transport modes, plus additional charging infrastructure can help increase access to the countryside.

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
access to community facilities, leisure and recreation opportunities and access to the countryside.	access to health/wellbeing and recreational facilities? Will the option/policy increase opportunities for access to the countryside?		
S4 - To make sure new development is easily accessible to essential services, to help reduce the need to travel and minimise the environmental impact of transport.	Will the option/policy result in shorter journeys to local services? Will the option/policy encourage development in locations where public transport is available? Will the policy encourage active travel such as walking/cycling on nearby PROW? Could the policy improve air quality by minimising the need to travel?	Positive impact	This is a strongly positive relationship – a better choice of transport modes, plus additional charging infrastructure can help increase access to services as well as minimising the environmental impact of transport..
EC1 - To strengthen and diversify the local economy by supporting a range of opportunities for	Will the option/policy support local services and businesses? Will the option/policy create new jobs? Will the option/policy increase access to jobs?	Positive impact	The objectives are mutually reinforcing - a better choice of transport modes, can help increase access to jobs in the local economy.

SA Objective	Prompts	Impact on Objective	Effects and Mitigation
employment and training particularly in sustainable locations.			
EC2 - To support tourism and recreation industry by ensuring that development contributes to the local economy and provides opportunities for enjoying the Park's special qualities.	<p>Will new tourism proposals be supported by the option/policy?</p> <p>Will the option/policy support the retention of existing tourism related businesses?</p> <p>Will the option/policy support tourism businesses that provide a greater understanding of the special qualities of the National Park?</p>	Positive impact	The objectives are mutually reinforcing - a better choice of transport modes, can help increase access to jobs in the local economy, including jobs in the tourism and recreation sector.

### Conclusions

The objective will have a positive impact on most SA objectives.

## Appendix C - Sustainability Appraisal Against a New Net Gain Objective

As part of the scoping report consultation Natural England were consulted in accordance with Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations. In its response they requested that a prompt question was added to Objective E4 to help understand the implications of the objectives on 'net gain.' Net gain is the requirement for new development to enhance the biodiversity value of a site by 10 percent, as introduced the 2021 Environment Act. A question was added to the appraisal that was published for public consultation. Natural England also requested that an additional objective was added specifically for net gain. At the time this was not added as it was felt that as net gain is made in connection with new development such an appraisal would be more suited to the appraisal if a development plan. Natural England reiterated this request in its response to the draft plan, hence the following table includes a new appraisal objective on net gain and how the Management Plan performs against it. The response did not detail whether the appraisal should assess whether net gain would be further delivered in terms of the process (as part of the planning system) or whether the 'effect' of net gain i.e. additional habitat should be appraised. The table below attempts to cover both options.

The Natural England response to the consultation draft also requested that "For objective E2, and it would be helpful to provide some explanatory text around air quality, which currently states there are "sufficient and local pieces of legislation and policy that cover air quality" this is important as there will be no air quality policy in the plan." This section was within the discussion of realistic alternative options, where the effects of having a plan/having no plan was assessed.

A conscious decision was made to produce a short Management Plan covering 24 objectives only which focussed on the main priorities only, and consequently air quality is not directly covered. The same is true for other areas such as noise pollution, road safety, geodiversity etc. Objective 8 on sustainable moorland management is intended to be an objective aimed in part to reducing burning of heather moorland, and this is now directly referenced in supporting text, which now states: "Most of this moorland is managed to support grouse populations, with game shooting contributing to the economy and communities of the National Park. This Plan seeks to ensure the moorland is managed in a more sustainable way, including finding ways of reducing and finding alternatives to burning, so that the moorland can be managed to not only support existing species but also help introduce new ones."

The issue is picked up in other policies and plans such as the Local Plan whose Policy ENV7 (Environmental Protection) states that development will only be permitted where it does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on air quality. There is one small 'Air

Quality Management Area' (AQMA) designated, cover the area of Staithes which was declared due to air pollution arising from domestic heating. A plan of action to deal with this issue has therefore been produced by Scarborough Borough Council.<sup>3</sup>

### Audit Trail

These objectives have been appraised for the first time at this stage against a new 'net gain' objective. No changes, including possible mitigation are recommended.

Key	Positive impact	X No direct link	Neutral link	Uncertain impacts	Negative impacts	Significant Negative Impact
<b>Management Plan Objective</b>	<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Prompt question</b>	<b>Impact on Objective</b>	<b>Effects and Mitigation</b>		
Objective 1 - The National Park should play a significant part in achieving the regional ambition of being a carbon negative economy by 2040.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	Positive impact	A move to a low carbon economy will require additional habitats to help reduce CO2 emissions which could be delivered through net gain on new development. This objective Therefore directly supports the SA objective, hence the relationship between these two objectives is positive.		
Objective 2 - Capture and store carbon by creating at least 2,500 hectares of additional wooded habitat by 2032.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link or positive impact.	Tree planting will not trigger net gain, however additional wooded habitat will contribute to additional biodiversity.		

<sup>3</sup> [https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la\\_id=223](https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=223)

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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link or positive impact.	Peat restoration will not trigger net gain, however improved peat habitats will contribute to additional biodiversity.
Objective 4 - Protect, restore and improve soils across the National Park.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link or positive impact.	Management of soils will not trigger net gain, however improved soil health will contribute to additional biodiversity.
Objective 5 – Achieve good ecological status for all water bodies by 2027 and support the improvement of the marine and coastal habitat.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link or positive impact.	Measures to improve water quality will not trigger net gain, however improved soil health will contribute to additional biodiversity.
Objective 6 - Create bigger, better and more joined-up habitats, with nature-rich wildlife corridors extending beyond the National Park boundaries.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	<b>Positive impact</b>	Net gain will directly support this objective.
Objective 7 - Restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems on at least 2,000 hectares in the National Park.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	<b>Positive impact</b>	Net gain will directly support this objective.
Objective 8 - Work with our moorland community to support the sustainable management of moorland to ensure it retains a natural remoteness	E6- To increase biodiversity	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat	X No direct link or positive impact.	Measures to sustainably manage moorland will not trigger net gain, however

which supports a greater variety of species and habitats.	through pursuit of 'net gain	being generated through new development?		sustainable moorland management will contribute to additional biodiversity.
Objective 9 - Increase the intrinsic darkness of the National Park International Dark Sky Reserve by expanding the current dark sky core zone <sup>4</sup> by twenty percent by 2027.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
Objective 10 – Work to maintain and improve the sense of peace and tranquillity, including through the protection of its remotest areas.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
Objective 12 - Create specific, targeted opportunities to improve mental and physical health and well-being by connecting people with nature.	E6- To increase biodiversity through	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated	X No direct link	No direct link

<sup>4</sup> As set out in the Authority's successful application for International Dark Sky Reserve status - <https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/discover/dark-skies/North-York-Moors-National-Park-International-Dark-Sky-Reserve-Application.pdf>

	pursuit of 'net gain	through new development?		
Objective 13 - Increase awareness of, and access to, the National Park among underserved communities, particularly those in the surrounding area.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
Objective 16 - Promote the North York Moors National Park as the premier recreational/family cycling destination in the north of England.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link. Net gain will be delivered through the planning system.

Objective 18 - Provide opportunities that attract, upskill and retain a local workforce working in high-value, knowledge-intensive jobs and the 'green' or 'landscape' economy.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	<b>Positive impact</b>	Net gain will directly support this objective.
Objective 19 - Maintain a strong and viable farming and land management community that delivers more for climate, nature, people and place.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	<b>Positive impact</b>	Net gain will directly support this objective should 'offsetting be needed and net gain is delivered on farmland.
Objective 20 - Increase opportunities for residents and visitors to travel sustainably in the National Park.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
Objective 21 - Increase the delivery of affordable housing <sup>5</sup> 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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	<b>Positive impact</b>	Net gain will be required on new development including affordable homes, and the ambition to increase supply will deliver additional net gain.
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	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	<b>Positive impact</b>	Net gain will be required on new development including an exemplar scheme, and the ambition to increase supply will deliver additional net gain.

<sup>5</sup> As defined in the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework (Glossary).

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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link
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.	E6- To increase biodiversity through pursuit of 'net gain	Will biodiversity improve through additional habitat being generated through new development?	X No direct link	No direct link

## Appendix D - Sustainability Appraisal – Requirements Checklist

The following table shows how the contents of these three documents will meet the requirements of the SEA Directive:

<b>SEA Directive Requirements</b>	<b>Reported in...</b>
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Scoping Report/ Sustainability Report Chapter 4 and Appendix B.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Scoping Report/Sustainability Report Appendix C
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Scoping Report (baseline, and summarised in Sustainability Report Chapter 3 and Appendix C)
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Scoping Report (summarised in Sustainability Report Chapter 4 and Appendix B)
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Scoping Report (summarised in Sustainability Report)
The likely significant effects on the environment, such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.	Sustainability Report Appendix E and Sustainability Statement Appendix A. The scoping report establishes the baseline information.

The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and (as fully as possible) offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Sustainability Report
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Sustainability Report Chapter 5.
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	Appendix D of the Sustainability Report.
Where an environmental assessment is required...an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.	Sustainability Report and Statement.
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Sustainability Report Chapter 1.
The (environmental) authorities...shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report.	Consultation on the Scoping Report, Appendix F of the Sustainability Report.
The (environmental) authorities...and the public...shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the of the plan or programme or its submission to the legislative procedure.	Sustainability Report and Management Plan consultation.
The report shall include: the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment.	Sustainability Report and Statement
The environmental report (and) the opinions expressed (through the consultation) shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.	Sustainability Statement (this report).

