

Consultation Report - Draft Management Plan (November 2021)

98 organisations or individuals responded to the draft plan. The consultation period ran from 26 November 2021 to 21 January 2022.

Comments have been summarised in this report; and are included where changes are requested or where a response is required. For this reason supporting comments are not included in this document.

The main changes made between the November 2021 draft plan and the May 2022 final plan are:

- A new objective on transport (20) and supporting text have been included.
- A new objective on tranquillity and remote areas (10) has been included.
- New paragraph on climate change in supporting text to outcome 1: “Addressing climate change...”
- A reference to pests/invasive species is included in supporting text to Outcome 1.
- Outcome 2 is amended to refer to ‘nature-rich,’ more biodiverse landscapes.
- Objective 3 on peat has been altered to include reference to capturing and storing carbon.
- Objective 5 on water quality now seeks 100% good ecological quality (previously 40% good status overall).
- A reference to raptor persecution and wildlife crime (that a zero-tolerance approach will be taken by all stakeholders) has been added to the supporting text of Outcome 2.
- A reference to the importance of moorland and seeking alternatives to burning is included in the supporting text of Outcome 2.
- Outcome 3 has been reworded – previous versions referred to special qualities, the new version states which special qualities are addressed within the outcome.
- Outcomes 4 & 5 (and associated objectives) are swapped round so farming is mentioned earlier on in the Plan.
- A reference to the surrounding area is included in Objective 13, covering underserved communities.
- A reference to the importance of arts and culture is included in supporting text to Outcome 4.
- Various amendments to Special Qualities text have been made – for readability, conciseness. Reference to tranquillity has been added. Reference to welcoming communities has been added. SQ 3 no longer refers to the past, and instead refers to cultural heritage.

- The vision has been amended to better reflect the outcomes and to include cultural heritage and nature recovery.
- A Delivery and Monitoring Plan has been produced.

Special Qualities

We asked: Do you have any views on the Special Qualities of the National Park set out in this Plan? Have we missed something that is important to you?

16 organisations and 18 members of the public commented on the Special Qualities.

Language has been revised in places, particularly SQ5 & 6 to simplify/ make language less 'promotional' or 'ornate'. The multi-purpose nature of forests is now included in SQ1 at suggestion of Forestry England. SQ3 has been altered to cover 'cultural heritage' rather than 'the past' to address a comment from the Ryedale Folk Museum that SQs should not just look to the past. Welcoming communities are now mentioned in SQ4 following comments from Community First Yorkshire and tranquillity is now included in SQ5 as it is Special Quality in the previous version but not covered here; and following strong public feedback that it is a valued asset.

There were other comments that ice age landforms should be included. They were not added as other northern National Parks include such features. The RSPB commented that section does not fit in with the rest of the plan and implies that everything is fine, and nothing needs to change. SQs are intended to explain what is special and be promotional in nature – the Plan is clear elsewhere about the challenges the National Park faces. Other comments suggested including flood prevention, the omission of sporting activities, particular forms of archaeology, footpaths/bridleways and bird species.

The Vision

We asked: To what extent does the future vision for the National Park align with your own vision?

11 organisations and 25 members of the public commented on the vision.

Nature recovery has been included to stress the link with combatting climate change to address comments by the Forestry Commission, RSPB and Yorkshire Marine Partnership. Cultural heritage is now mentioned at the suggestion of Historic England. Net zero is changed to 'low carbon,' and nature recovery and welcoming local communities are added at the suggestion of the North York Moors Tourism Network.

Outcome 1 -Climate Change

6 organisations and 6 members of the public commented on Outcome 1.

The Forestry Commission suggested referencing increasing threats from invasive species – a reference to pests & diseases now included in supporting text. The RSPB suggested paragraphs to insert on link between climate change restoration and nature recovery, plus more on mitigation and adaptation (also mentioned by a member of the public) and

suggested a new objective. A new paragraph covering adaptation has been added, and nature recovery is now mentioned in the outcome itself, as suggested by the RSPB. There were comments about being more ambitious (Bilsdale PC and a member of the public), and about including more detail on the effects and the need for education and outreach (Campaign for National Parks). The National Park Authority has commissioned work on carbon pathways which will set out the 'best' and quickest routes to meeting the target. On the education and outreach point the Plan is not just the Authority's plan and the Authority's outdoor learning team already carry out work in this area including school assembly visits. The lack of transport objectives was also mentioned – a new objective (20) has now been included.

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

2 organisations and 3 members of the public commented on Objective 1.

The objective has not been amended. The Campaign for National Parks wished to see an earlier date for the National Park to be carbon negative as a way of demonstrating leadership and said that the Plan should specify what achieving such a goal means in terms of the average annual reduction in emissions that will be required, and then set out the types of measures required to deliver this level of reduction. The Management Plan is intended as a short, high-level strategic plan setting out main priorities – carbon pathways/reduction work is being carried out separately. Climate Action Stokesley and Villages wished to see the built environment and transport need acknowledging. Built environment is covered in Objective 22 and transport is now included at Objective 20.

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

4 organisations and 4 members of the public commented on Objective 2.

The objective has not been amended. Historic England commented that whilst they do not object to an increase, it should be demonstrated as deliverable without harm to the National Park including its cultural heritage. In response, tree planting schemes will be subject to environmental/landscape assessment which will cover impact on cultural heritage. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB stated Objective 2 should be amended to reflect the importance of native (as opposed to non-native) forestry. This change has not been made as all trees can contribute to carbon storage/capture including commercial forestry. The RSPB considered that 2,500 hectares was under ambitious to achieve the desired aim. 2,500 hectares is a step change in the volume of planting and is considered ambitious.

Objective 3 - Place all degraded blanket bog and peat habitats in the National Park under active restoration by 2032

6 organisations and 3 members of the public commented on Objective 3.

The objective has been amended with ‘capture and store’ replacing ‘place’ following Yorkshire Wildlife Trust’s suggestion that it should be amended to emphasise the link to climate nature-based solutions. Both the Campaign for National Parks and the RSPB considered that Objective 3 should be amended to refer to all degraded peatlands being in restoration management by an earlier date, rather than 2034. This is however considered a challenging yet achievable target. The RSPB also wished to see an end to all peat burning. An objective on ending peat burning was not added as this is a matter for landowners. Burning remains a legal activity and the National Park Authority and other public sector bodies do not have the power to end or control burning, other than through licensing through Natural England on deep peat. Objective 8 also covers the sustainable management of moorland, with supporting text now mentioning that the stakeholders will actively seek to reduce or find alternatives to burning. Natural England suggested that it would be helpful to include a baseline extent/condition of the Parks key priority habitats/species in an appendix as well as threats/ risks that need to be addressed. This will be covered by the Nature Recovery Strategy. The Moorland Association stated that there is no consensus as to what active restoration action might be and that a target to restore shallow peat over 48,000 Ha should not be set when no mechanism exists either to define, enact or verify this restoration. A Peat Assessment and peat restoration plans for deep peat will be carried out to address this question. The reference to active restoration is considered appropriate and would enhance degraded peat.

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

2 organisations and 2 members of the public commented on Objective 4.

No amendments were made to this objective. The Campaign for National Parks felt that the objective needed to be made more specific, for example, through the inclusion of a deadline, and ideally milestones. A similar comment was made by the RSPB. This is agreed in principle but difficult in practice – much will depend on the take up of Environmental Land Management schemes which is unknown at present, although the intention of this objective is to support this. One member of the public wished to see reference to fire risk as it is the biggest threat to soils. This is risk included in supporting text to Outcome 1.

Objective 5 - Achieve good status on at least 40 percent of water bodies by 2027 and support the improvement of the marine and coastal habitat.

1 organisation and 1 member of the public commented on Objective 5.

This objective has been amended so the target is 100% of water bodies to be in good ecological status by 2027, as requested by the RSPB and a member of the public. It also reflects the Environment Agency’s own target.

Outcome 2 - Biodiversity, landscape and habitats

4 organisations and 3 members of the public commented on Outcome 2.

This outcome has been amended to include ‘nature-rich’ on suggestion of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust which also addresses a comment by Campaign for National Parks who felt the quantity of common species that is important, as well as the diversity of species.

The RSPB requested objectives were added on priority habitat management in the National Park so that they are effectively managed for biodiversity under the Local Nature Recovery or Landscape Recovery Environmental Land Management Schemes and on the uptake of nature-friendly farming. No changes were made, out of a desire to keep the Plan short and nature recovery and nature friendly farming are covered by objectives 6, 7 and 19. A member of the public wanted hedgerow creation and maintenance should be included. Hedgerows would be part of Objective 6 – The Authority also offers grants for traditional walls and hedging in the National Park.

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

13 organisations and 5 members of the public commented on Objective 6.

The objective has not been amended. Regarding the nature opportunities map, Natural England said that for protected areas it should be an obligation rather than an opportunity and the map should refer to core nature areas and opportunities for expanding these core nature areas (SSSI habitats) in accordance with Lawton principles. The North Yorkshire Moors Association/Environment Agency/Campaign for National Parks also requested a more detailed map. The map is illustrative, and detail will be worked up as part of the Nature Recovery Strategy. The Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership wished to include some reference to the coastal ecosystem or concept of ‘seascape.’ Objective 6 mentions ‘beyond the boundaries’ which will include seascape, and to confirm this, reference to coastal habitats has been added to supporting text. The RSPB requested references to the 2021 Environment Act: The intention is to keep the Plan short and as explanatory text covering national legislation text it is not specific to the North York Moors. The RSPB also asked for SMART targets or actions to achieve those targets. A Delivery and Monitoring Plan has been produced and targets have been made as ‘SMART’ as possible but will evolve over time as new information becomes available. They also asked additional text and for further clarity is needed on what the 20% of the government’s target for nature recovery. The 20% target is from the National Parks England ‘Delivery Plan for Wildlife in National Parks’. The Authority remains committed to this as with partners will explore potential to contribute through the North York Moors in its nature recovery strategy. They suggested breaking Objective 6 down into smaller, separate SMART objectives around the themes of bigger, better, more and joined up. They wished to see two further objectives for species: - to halt decline and increase abundance and to increase the population size and distribution of priority species. New objectives have not been included as the Management Plan is intended as a high-level strategic document. A more detailed programme of work will be detailed in the Nature Recovery Strategy.

Members of the public mentioned that the plan fails to set out clear targets or proposals for the decline in wader populations, the improvement in the ecological status of SSSIs, the importance of Ring Ouzels and reducing visual and environmental impact of shooting industry. Objectives 8 and 19 are included to cover land management and the Nature Recovery Strategy will provide further detail.

Objective 7 – Support low-intervention on at least 2,000 hectares of high-quality habitat to restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems through two landscape recovery schemes from 2023.

12 organisations and 1 member of the public commented on Objective 7.

This objective has been changed to “restore wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems on at least 2,000 hectares in the National Park,” for simplicity and to remove the term ‘low-intervention management’ as feedback was that this is not clear and implies this would be the approach for the entire area – in practice creation of wilder and more functioning ecosystems will involve varying degrees of management.

Rewilding Britain requested that the Plan support the creation of substantial core rewilding areas (at least 10% of the National Park). In response, the Management Plan intended as a high-level strategic plan setting out main priorities. The Plan does seek to deliver wilder and more naturally functioning ecosystems and the Authority’s Business Plan commits to 2 landscape recovery schemes at Bransdale and Newtondale. The RSPB and a member of the public also wanted to see a more ambitious target. The figure is considered to be ambitious, a minimum, and will be refined in more detail in the forthcoming Nature Recovery Network.

Objective 8 - Work with our moorland community to support the sustainable management of moorland to ensure it retains a natural remoteness which supports a greater variety of species and habitats.

5 organisations and 4 members of the public commented on Objective 8.

The objective has been amended to refer to intrinsic character rather than natural remoteness as this was felt to be a more precise in terms of what the objective is seeking to achieve. The word ‘abundance’ has been added in reference to species as it is not just about variety. West Ayton Parish Council said there needs to be a re-evaluation of how the heather moorland is managed and an extensive debate between the stakeholders to determine whether to allow the moorland to regenerate with natural vegetation. Hawnby Estate said shooting is important to local economy and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation mentioned that management and practical conservation should be backed up by credible scientific research including evidence around moorland management including burning, cutting, grazing and rewilding. Rewilding Britain wished to see specific objectives on reducing and eventually ending intensively managed grouse moors and driven grouse shooting and an end to burning on all peatland unless it can specifically be justified as essential for reducing wildfire risk. They also support the licensed shooting grouse at more natural densities and an end to the release of non-native species into the NP, such as pheasant, and noted that there is also no mention of raptor persecution in the Plan. The RSPB and two members of the public also specifically wished to see an end to burning. An objective on ending peat burning was not added as this is a matter for landowners. Burning remains a legal activity and the National Park Authority and other public sector bodies do not have the power to end or control burning, other than through licensing through Natural England on deep peat. Supporting text to Outcome 2 has been amended to make clear Objective 8 seeks to find alternatives to burning and

now states that there is a zero-tolerance approach to raptor persecution and wildlife crime.

Outcome 3 - Dark skies and heritage

4 organisations commented on Outcome 3.

The wording of Outcome 3 has been changed to refer to the specific Special Qualities rather than all of them, a point noticed the Yorkshire Marine Partnership. A new objective (10) has been added covering peace, tranquillity and remote areas at the suggestion of the Campaign for National Parks. The phrase ‘a landscape rich in heritage’ is now included in this outcome at the suggestion of Historic England.

Objective 9 - Increase the intrinsic darkness of the National Park International Dark Sky Reserve by expanding the current dark sky core zone[4] by twenty percent by 2027.

3 organisations and 2 members of the public commented on Objective 9.

The objective has not been amended. The Moorland Association and RSPB asked what in practice a 20% extension to the Dark Sky Core Zone meant. The current dark sky core area is 17,995 hectares, an expanded area would be 21,594 hectares – an additional 2.5% of the National Park – bringing the total core area up to or 15% of the National Park. The additional area will need to have a darkness based on an average measurement of the current core average – 21.33 magnitudes per square arc second.

Objective 10 - Ensure the best examples of heritage are conserved, explained and under appropriate management, and improve the condition of at least 25 identified Designated Heritage Assets at Risk by 2027.

3 organisations commented on Objective 10.

Objective 11 has been amended at the suggestion of Historic England to include reference to the better understanding of heritage and working with partners: “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 by 2027.” The Environment Agency questioned whether there an option to also increase & promote heritage? Supporting text now specifically refers to arts and culture supporting better health outcomes. Cropton Parish Council mentioned that Objective 10 is the only heritage-related objective and has been lumped into the ‘natural landscape’ outcome and is hence undervalued. Heritage is now included in the Outcome 3 title. The Authority’s own Business Plan includes more detail and a series of actions around cultural heritage, including improve the condition of at least 25 Heritage Assets at Risk, restoring the Rosedale Kilns, developing a major multi- stranded historic environment focused project seeking external funding, completing 10 Conservation Area appraisals/management plans, 5 heritage skills training workshops and delivering a historic building repair grant (focusing on energy efficiency).

Outcome 4- Tourism, health and wellbeing, public rights of way

5 organisations and 8 members of the public commented on Outcome 4.

The Disabled Advisory Group said they wished to see specific reference made to improving access for people with disabilities, in particular sensory disabilities. The Local Access Forum noted there is no mention recreational vehicular use, and this should be considered. The North Yorkshire Moors Association felt objectives 11-16 are laudable but are a wish-list and mentioned there used to be a Business Plan target for ethnic minority visitors. The RSPB wished to see additional objectives around increasing awareness of climate change, increase the ethnic diversity of visitors and volunteers and improving public transport links to the National Park from nearby urban areas. The Authority considers that suggestions strategic in nature with actions for National Park Authority Work included in its own Strategy and Business plan – which includes objectives around marketing and outreach for underserved communities. The Authority has also secured funding development phase funding for ‘Mosaic Championing National Parks for Everyone’ project to help better connect Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities with National Landscapes. Objective 15 refers to all members of the public being able to enjoy rights of way, which will include particular groups such as those with disabilities. The Authority’s Business Plan also includes an objective on developing an improved and accessible visitor offer in the north of the National Park and to increase the offer of ‘Miles Without Stiles.’ A new Objective 20 on transport is now included. Members of the public also expressed concerns over visitor numbers and the need for quiet enjoyment (covered by new Objective 10) and the lack of reference to the Moors Centre (now Danby Lodge) and Sutton Bank – enhancing the offer at the two visitors’ centres is included in the Authority’s Business Plan.

Objective 11 - Create specific, targeted opportunities to improve mental and physical health and well-being by connecting people with nature

There were no specific comments on this objective.

Objective 12 - Increase awareness of, and access to, the National Park among underserved communities

1 organisation and 2 members of the public commented on Objective 12.

The objective has been amended to refer to surrounding areas in particular. The Environment Agency mentioned to the need for public transport. A new Objective 20 on transport is now included. A member of the public stated that it would be good to see a stronger focus on inequity and links with public health work on reducing inequalities – this is the intention of this objective.

Objective 13 - 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

2 organisations and 1 member of the public commented on Objective 13.

The objective has not been amended. The Local Access Forum wished to see more education on rights of way and open access. The Yorkshire Marine Partnership recommended that the words 'responsible' or 'sustainably' are added to objectives 13 and 14. Objective 14 does refer to caring about the National Park which is considered to cover this point. A member of the public suggested targeting inner-city schools and offering free, loss-leader trips. The National Park Authority already runs a programme of education and outreach events which works with schools in nearby towns and will continue to do so.

Objective 14 - 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

2 organisations and 5 members of the public commented on Objective 14.

The objective has not been amended. Moorsbus noted that access into an around the National Park is dependent on routes other than rights of way, a point also made by a member of the public. Objective 20 on transport is now included. The Campaign for National Parks suggested the words 'and well-maintained' are added after 'well-marked.' The National Park Authority (and its volunteers) carry out maintenance. The Strategy and Business Plan (and Management Plan Delivery Plan includes a target to maintain promoted Rights of Way (including easy access paths) at 85% easy to use; and all other Rights of Way at 75%. Other members of the public argued by improvements to Rights of Way or mentioned issues over blocked paths.

Objective 15 - Promote the North York Moors National Park as the premier recreational/family cycling destination in the north of England

5 organisations and 2 members of the public commented on Objective 15.

The objective has not been amended. The main comments, from the Local Access Forum, Ryedale Bridleways Group, British Horse Society and Sport England, were around the treatment of cycling being favoured over other uses, particularly horse riding, and that this was discriminatory to those other uses. Objectives 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the final plan will all help promote all recreational activities that help people enjoy the North York Moors. Objective 15 (now 16) is included as the National Park Authority and its partners wish to build upon the excellent cycling facilities already on offer in the National Park such as the two trail centres and raise the profile of the National Park in people's mind as a place to explore and take exercise, in line with delivering the second statutory purpose of National Parks. It is also the case that any improvements to bridleways will also benefit horse riders who share these routes, which could include safe routes from nearby population centres. We accept that there can on occasion be conflict between users, however this should not negate the opportunity to provide additional facilities to recreational and family cyclists, which is a growing base and whom would benefit from all that the National Park has to offer.

Objective 16 - Work with businesses to establish regenerative tourism as a guiding principle and encourage visitors to make a positive contribution to the National Park

2 organisations and 1 member of the public commented on Objective 16.

The objective has not been amended. Ride Yorkshire said that there is insufficient focus on suppliers within the tourism economy, and too much focus on consumers / visitors, with current user-groups largely overlooked in favour of developing newer markets. The RSPB requested a cross reference in text to climate change and the nature emergency. In response the plan is to be read as a whole and Outcomes 1 & 2 address these issues.

Outcome 5 - Housing, communities and digital

4 organisations commented on Outcome 5.

The Moorland Association mentioned the Plan should seek to innovate to increase the supply of alternative residential accommodation, including high energy efficiency conversions of redundant buildings, changes of use, and using static caravans or similar cheaper, and temporary structures. These are matters for the Local Plan. The RSPB wanted a change to the outcome to read “a place of great beauty where local communities are thriving in harmony with nature.” The Yorkshire Marine Partnership stated there should be some reference to allowing local communities to thrive without negatively impacting the natural environment. Rewilding Britain wanted objectives extended to more explicitly support the establishment of nature-based economies, i.e., those which allow nature to heal and flourish while supporting prosperous communities. This is to an extent the intention of Objective 21 which covers the green or landscape economy.

Objective 17 - 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 lobby central government to agree to introduce a mechanism to control the conversion of existing housing to second or holiday homes

4 organisations and 3 members of the public commented on Objective 17.

North Yorkshire County Council asked if there could be a strengthened emphasis on more affordable housing interventions as there is mention of only a single pilot in the next 20 years. They supported the principle of restricting conversion to second homes and asked whether there an opportunity to include something promoting self-build opportunities. The 2030 date is considered ambitious as it doubles past delivery rates for affordable housing. Self-build is encouraged in national policy and mentioned in the local plan and local plan review will further consider the issue. The Campaign for National Parks asked for some information in the introductory paragraph about the impact of second homes on housing affordability. The supporting text does cover affordability, however there is no empirical local evidence that second homes are increasing house prices (although it could be the case). Nawton Tower Estate said other parts of the country are considering imposing limits on the numbers of houses which are permitted to be second homes. It is already the case that for the vast majority of new housing in the National Park some form of occupancy control is applied to prevent their use as second homes. The RSPB wished to see reference to ‘wildlife friendly’ affordable housing. Members of the public argued for a higher target, supported the objective or asked for greater use of static caravans or temporary accommodation.

Objective 18 - 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 retrofitting measures in existing historic buildings

1 organisation and 3 members of the public commented on Objective 18.

A reference to 'responsible retrofitting' has been added following a comment from Historic England. Members of the public asked for more to forward thinking eco architecture embracing old style cottages but using new eco technologies and that all types of buildings should be considered. The objective does not restrict retrofit to any particular use.

Objective 19 - 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

The objective has not been amended. 1 member of the public commented on Objective 19, stating it was understated and should refer to community services. The phrase 'basic needs' would refer to a range of community services.

Objective 20 - 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

1 organisation and 2 members of the public commented on Objective 20.

The objective has not been amended. The Moorland Association said that mobile phone coverage also needs to cover all areas not just households. Two members of the public said this objective should be a priority.

Outcome 6 - Farming and economy

3 organisations commented on Objective 20.

The Moorland Association and West Ayton Parish Council stated that farming must have an outcome category of its own as it will be important to support the farming community in the National Park through the agri-environment support changes. Objective 22 of the draft achieves this aim. The Campaign for National Parks requested and objective on transport should be added – a new objective (20) now covers this. The RSPB wished to see reference to a nature positive economy.

Objective 21 - Provide opportunities that attract, upskill and retain a local workforce working in high-value, knowledge-intensive jobs and the 'green' or 'landscape' economy

5 organisations commented on Objective 21.

The objective has not been amended. Historic England wished to see reference to traditional skills within this objective. Traditional building and retrofitting are now specifically mentioned in the supporting text. Natural England said more could be made of the potential value in the future and potential income of 'offset carbon' bringing in monies to the local and wider economy. North Yorkshire County Council felt greater thought given

to future economic activity, perhaps some reference to live / work, digital and creative industries, and transition to zero carbon and local energy generation. Supporting text now specifically refers to the digital economy. The RSPB wished to see reference to a nature positive economy. Supporting text refers to a richer nature world. The Countryside Landowners Association wanted more emphasis on thriving rural businesses within the park, and not just farming and tourism.

Objective 22 - Maintain a strong and viable farming and land management community that delivers more for climate, nature, people and place

3 organisations and 2 members of the public commented on Objective 22.

The objective has not been amended. Natural England mentioned the need to continue to have a 'working landscape' – this is covered by the previous objective. The North Yorkshire Moors Association noted that the farming objective was last in the Plan when it is so vital for the Special Qualities of the National Park. It was not the intention to 'rank' objectives, however outcomes 5 and 6 have been swapped round so farming is mentioned earlier in the plan. The RSPB wished to see the objective amended to refer to farming that does not harm public goods such as better air and water quality, thriving wildlife, soil health and carbon storage, and delivers for climate, nature, people and place. Members of the public mentioned the contribution to renewable energy generation that farming can make and a wish to see the Levisham Estate managed so that the heather moorland is maintained in healthy condition.

Other Comments

Transport

9 organisations and 9 members of the public noted that the plan did not mention transport. Comments came from North Yorkshire County Council, York City Council, North Yorkshire Moors Association, Moorsbus, the RSPB, the Local Access Forum, The Campaign for National Parks, Climate Action Stokesley and Villages and Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council

Comments were made concerning access from surrounding areas, vehicle charging, public transport, congestion and greater use of the Esk Valley line. In response, a separate transport objective (20) has been agreed with North Yorkshire County Council and included. Supporting text refers to the potential of the Esk Valley line.

Birds of Prey/Raptor Persecution/Wildlife Crime

The National Trust wished to see objectives referring to how you will attempt to address negative public attitudes and what steps will be taken to encourage the recovery of birds of prey. The RSPB and Northern England Raptor Forum wished to see more reference to birds of prey and wanted a series of objectives to deal with raptor persecution. The North York Moors Merlin Study Group & South Cleveland Ringing Group also noted there were no references to wildlife crime. Raptor persecution is illegal, and in response a clear statement that a zero-tolerance approach to raptor persecution and wildlife crime will be

taken is now included in supporting text to Outcome 2, which also makes clear that partners will collectively work to find alternatives to burning.

Shooting

There were various comments made both in support of and against the shooting industry.

Monitoring/Action Plans

The National Trust, Natural England, the RSPB, Bilsdale and Midcable Parish Council all noted that delivery and monitoring arrangements were absent. A Delivery and Monitoring Plan has been prepared.