

# 2021 State of the National Park Report

We can only look after something if we know whether what we are doing is working.

This State of the National Park report provides a ‘snapshot’ of the environmental, social, and economic ‘health’ of the North York Moors over time. It measures progress towards achieving policies and objectives set out in the North York Moors National Park Management Plan – the strategic document prepared by the National Park Authority and its partners that drives work to improve the National Park in the long term.

It reports on the indicators in the 2012 Management Plan, and in effect ‘draws a line’ underneath it as it has now been superseded by a new Plan, for 2022 onwards. Although this new Plan contains a different set of objectives to tackle new challenges facing the National Park, there is a heavy overlap between monitoring information measuring both plans. The next State of the National Park Report, to be prepared in five years’ time will monitor the progress of the 2022 Management Plan in delivering its objectives and will consider the need for plan review. An Annual Monitoring Statement will also be produced to measure to extent to which the new Plan is being implemented.

## Portrait of the North York Moors National Park

The North York Moors National Park lies mostly within the County of North Yorkshire (overlying parts of Scarborough Borough and Ryedale and Hambleton District Council areas) with a small northern part of its area (around 4%) lying within the Unitary Authority of Redcar & Cleveland. Its total area is 1,436 sq. km (143,608 hectares), which is 17% of the land area of North Yorkshire. The National Park is home to 23,135 residents<sup>1</sup> who continue to contribute to the culture, communities, economy and upkeep of the National Park. Another protected landscape (the 204 sq. km. Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) is joined to the National Park along the southern edge of the boundary, from Coxwold to Helmsley.

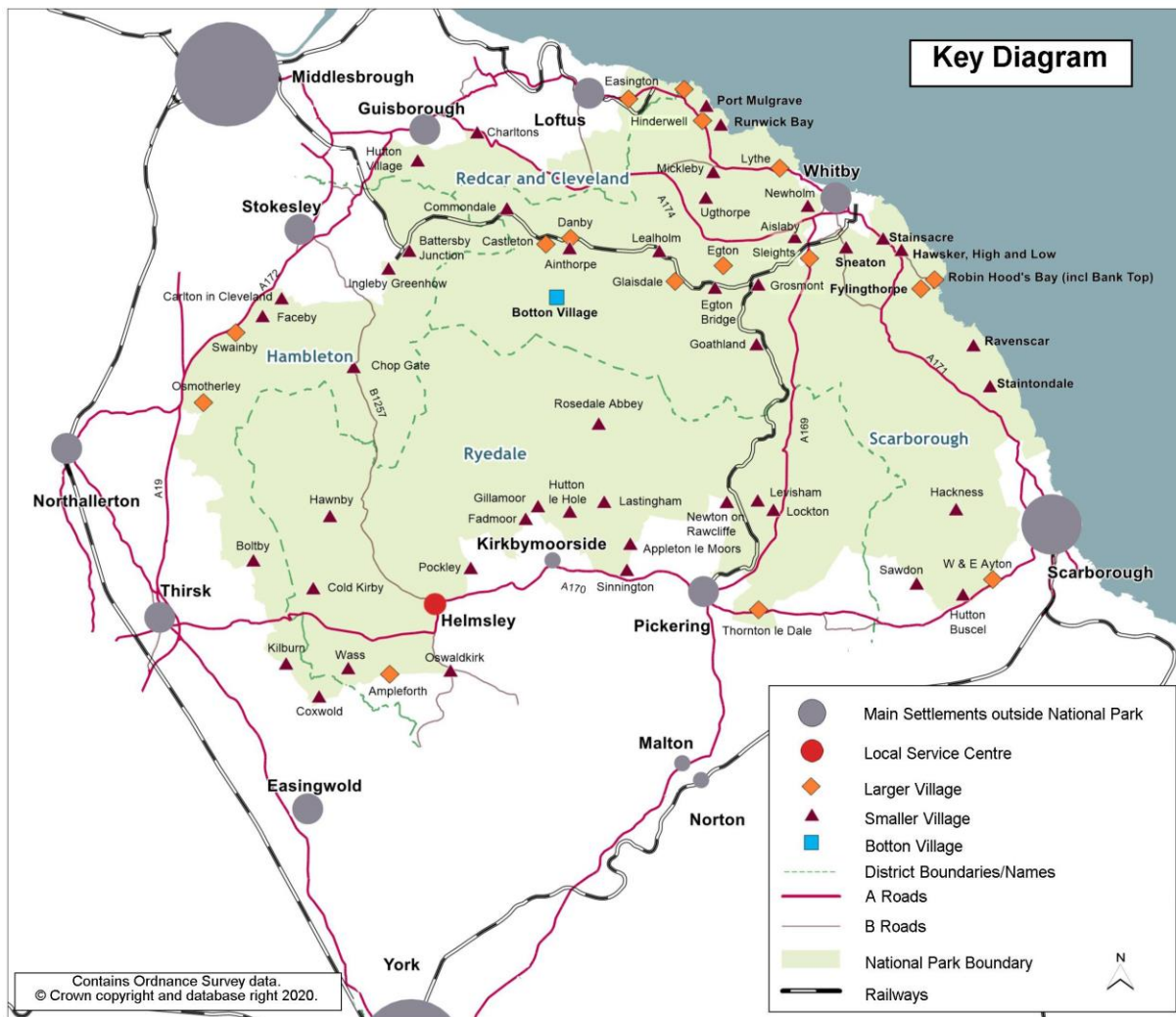
The National Park Authority is the planning authority for the National Park area, while the constituent Unitary and District Authorities retain responsibility for all other local government services within their areas of the National Park.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Percentage of National Park area</b>	<b>Percentage of National Park population</b>
Scarborough	43	56.7
Ryedale	38	26.3
Hambleton	15	11.6
Redcar and Cleveland	4	5.4

Source: Population - 2011 ONS Census Output Area analysis

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<sup>1</sup> 2020 mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics



The National Park is home to 23,135<sup>2</sup> residents who continue to contribute to the culture, community, economy and upkeep of the National Park. Overall, 8.4 million people a year come to the North York Moors National Park to enjoy this landscape.

The distinctive landscapes of the North York Moors result from a complex geological past and the shaping of landforms by ice and water. The upland moor plateau is divided by deep narrow dales. To the north, the edge of the Cleveland Hills drops down to the Tees lowlands. To the east, dramatic coastal scenery including tall cliffs dominates, with tight-knit historic fishing villages nestling into the coastline. To the south, the Tabular Hills punctuate the landscape and offer views over the Vale of Pickering. To the west, steep scarp slopes some 300 metres high afford a vantage point to enjoy expansive views and Vale of Mowbray, including a view from Sutton Bank described by author and local vet James Herriot (the pen name of Alf Wight) as “the finest view in England”.

The main characteristic of the National Park is its deeply rural nature and absence of development. At just 0.16 residents per hectare, the North York Moors is the fifth least densely populated local planning authority area in England and Wales, after four other National Parks – Northumberland, Exmoor, the Yorkshire Dales and Snowdonia. Most of its settlements lie on its edges, and the more central areas are often very remote. The

<sup>2</sup> Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates

North York Moors has only one small town – Helmsley, which lies at the south-western edge and is home to around 1,540 people.<sup>3</sup> Around half of the town lies outside the National Park boundary in the Ryedale local planning authority area.

This relative paucity of development is reflected in transport links. There are no major trunk roads in the National Park. Two ‘A’ roads run along the eastern and southern edges - the A171 coastal route runs down the eastern edge of the National Park, linking Scarborough, Whitby and Guisborough and the A170 runs along the southern boundary from Thirsk to Scarborough, linking Helmsley and the villages at the foot of the Tabular Hills. The A174 then links Staithes and Whitby along the coast. Two roads then cross the National Park – the A169 which links Whitby and Pickering and the B1257 which links Helmsley and Stokesley, running through Bilsdale and Chop Gate. A Middlesbrough – Whitby train line also links villages through the Esk Valley including Castleton, Grosmont and Sleights and connects with the North Yorkshire Moors Railway which runs steam trains from Pickering to Whitby.

## Indicators

The first statutory purpose of National Park designation is to conserve and enhance the National Parks “natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.” These include the visual landscape, biodiversity and the various aspects of culture, which are covered by the first set of indicators.

## Environment

It is difficult to identify suitable indicators to encapsulate the National Parks landscape and how it may be changing. Conservation practices however are vital in managing the land and cumulatively can indicate the wider health of the landscape.

### Area of land managed in line with conservation objectives (total ha)

<b>1992</b>	43,775ha	
<b>1997</b>	71,525ha	
<b>2003</b>	88,811ha	
<b>2004</b>	91,127ha	
<b>2006</b>	101,954ha	
<b>2009</b>	112,690ha	
<b>2012</b>	113,301ha	c.79%
<b>2013</b>	113,377ha	c.79%
<b>2014</b>	112,078ha	c.78%

Source: North York Moors National Park Authority

This indicator is a measure of the amount of farmland, moorland and woodland recorded as having an active management or ownership regimes intended to protect, enhance or create sites and features of conservation value. These management regimes include national agri-environment agreements.

<sup>3</sup> North Yorkshire County Council 2016 Mid-Year Estimate

More recent data showing the coverage of agri-environment schemes across the National Park fails to show HLS schemes which are in an ‘extension’ scheme following the end of their original agreements. Most farms which have reached the end of their original agreement have entered extension schemes, and therefore whilst not recorded, officers are confident to report that the overall area of land in management regimes remains stable from the 2014 figure.

### Areas designated for their environmental value

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2019</b>
SPA: 44,095	SPA: 44,095	SPA: 44,095	SPA: 44,095	SPA: 44,095
SAC: 44,440	SAC: 44,440	SAC: 44,440	SAC: 44,440	SAC: 44,440
SSSI: 47,259	SSSI: 47,259	SSSI: 47,259	SSSI: 47,259	SSSI: 47,379

Source: Natural England

The heather moorland is one of the North York Moors defining features and the 50,000ha moorland plateau is one of the largest continuous tract of heather moorland in England. Its importance for conservation is recognised by designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area for Conservation, and a Special Protection Area for breeding moorland birds. It is important that the extent of these areas is maintained.

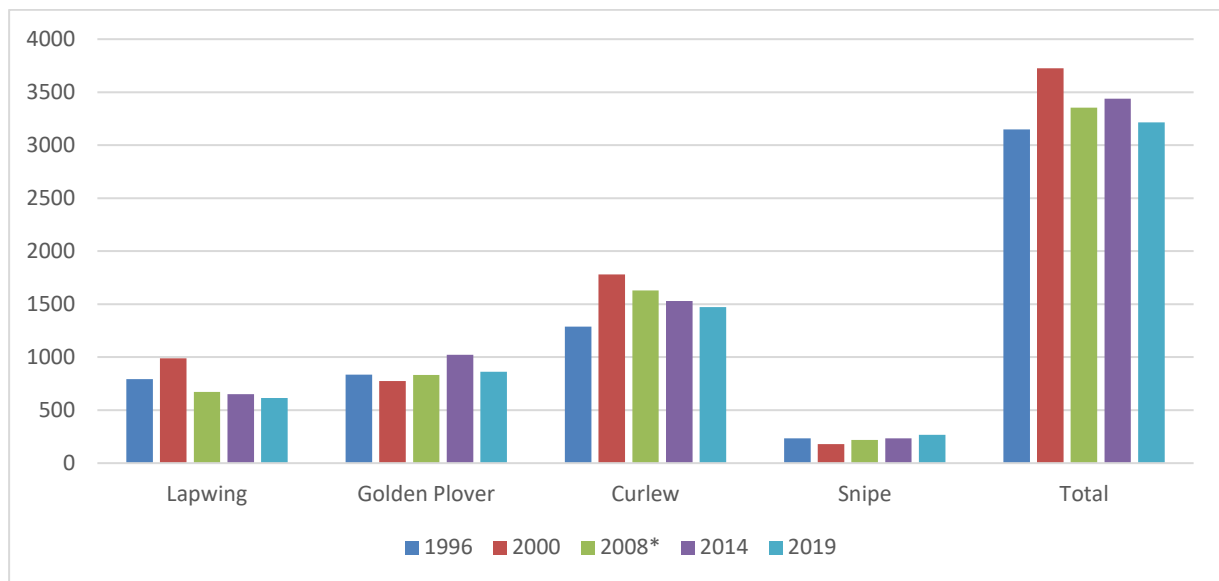
Although the area of land managed in line with conservation objectives looks to have reduced, the actual figure has remained relatively constant as the 2019 and 2020 data does not include ‘continuation’ schemes (i.e., those HLS schemes which have been extended).

### Percentage of SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific Interest) in favourable or recovering condition

	<b>Favourable</b>	<b>Unfavourable recovering</b>	<b>Total</b>
2006-07	15.5%	36.2%	51.7%
2007-08	16.8%	38.6%	55.4%
2008-09	17%	56%	73%
2011-12	12%	87%	99%
2014-15	11%	88%	99%
2017 -18	11%	88%	99%
2020-21	11%	88%	99%

Source: Natural England

## Number of pairs of breeding moorland wader birds



Source: North York Moors National Park Moorland Wader Survey

\*In 2008, 84 squares were surveyed, not 92 as in other years so is not directly comparable.

The extrapolated population estimates in different yearly reports was generally not consistently calculated, making them effectively non-comparable. The figures reported for 2019 are correct.

The Moorland Wader survey is based on an in-depth survey of 92 x 1km square areas of moorland, from which the figures are extrapolated to represent the full area of moorland. The purpose of the survey is to report on the breeding success of four wader species; Lapwing, Golden Plover, Curlew and Snipe which are notified features of the North York Moors SSSI and (for Golden Plover) also a notified feature of the North York Moors Special Protection Area. The figures present the number of estimated breeding pairs.

As this is a snapshot survey undertaken every four to five years, particular circumstances in any one year, such as unusual weather conditions, can mask any underlying trend whilst some level of natural fluctuation is expected. A particularly high number of Golden Plover were recorded in 2014, and so although the 2019 figures represent a decline on that year, when compared to previous surveys, the long-term trend shows a relatively stable population. Curlew and Lapwing numbers continue to show gradual but persistent declines from peak numbers in 2000, which is concerning. The number of lapwings reported in 2019 was the lowest of any survey. Snipe are not well detected by the survey method so although included for completeness, analysis of species-specific trends should not be drawn. The total moorland wader population is estimated to have fallen 14% since a peak in 2000, with a 6% fall in the last 5 years. The cause for the decline is uncertain, and while various causes have been hypothesised, further research is needed to draw any firm conclusions.

The National Park Authority commissioned a further survey of farmland breeding waders in 2021 and therefore the numbers will be updated once the outcomes of this survey are known.

## Overall status of water bodies identified as 'high' or 'good' under the Water Framework Directive (length (km) with each status)

	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad	Total length (km)	% Length with 'high' or 'good'
2016	0km	208km	455km	103km	14km	780km	26.7%
2021	0km	178km	458km	130km	14km	780km	23%

Source: Environment Agency

### Environment Trend: Uncertain

Overall, the trend is considered “uncertain” as while the areas of designation (SSSI, SPA (Special Protection Area) and SAC (Special Area for Conservation)) and the area of land in active conservation management has remained relatively constant, there are areas of concern around water quality and moorland bird breeding.

## Cultural Heritage

The North York Moors is exceptionally rich in archaeological and historic features, which contribute to the wider landscape character. For buildings, stone and pantile is most common construction material however Welsh and some Westmorland slate are still evident in small numbers. Some buildings are given legal protection by listing and in total there are over 3,000 listed buildings across the National Park when including curtilage listed buildings and structures. For reporting however, the actual number of list entries is used which amounts to 1,771 buildings (as of September 2021).

### Number of Listed Buildings (as of September 2021) **1,771**

Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II
32	57	1,682

Source: Historic England (requested September 2021)

The quality of the National Parks villages is also noteworthy. There are 42 Conservation Areas, which are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest for which the Authority has a duty to preserve or enhance their character and appearance through careful control of new development. Of these 42 Conservation Area, 38 of them are covered by Article 4 Directions, which restricts certain alterations to domestic properties which would normally be considered 'permitted development' meaning that planning permission is required. This approach helps to preserve architectural features and helps to maintain the character of these settlements.

In addition, there are four Registered Parks and Gardens because of their special interest.

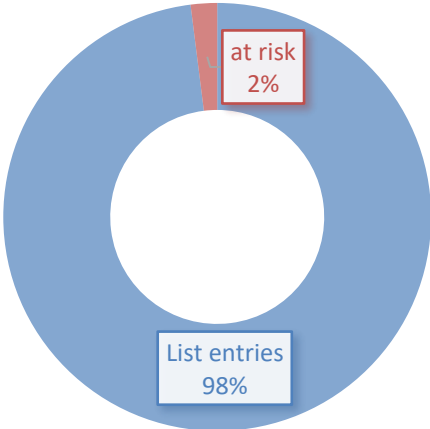
Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II
2	1	1

Source: Historic England (requested September 2021)

**Percentage of Listed Buildings ‘at risk’**

For the reporting year of 2020-21, 36 of the 1,771 buildings are classed as being ‘at risk’ (2%) which means they are suffering from neglect and decay or are particularly vulnerable to becoming so.

The Authority has a grant scheme specifically aimed at removing buildings from the ‘at risk’ register which can be used to help owners, but it also relies on other grant schemes as often the restoration of these buildings can be costly.



Source: North York Moors National Park Authority Buildings at Risk Survey, 2021

**Number of monuments ‘at risk’ (as of October 2021) 44**

The National Park contains thousands of archaeological sites representing human activity from the end of the last ice age (around 12,000 years ago) to important industrial and military remains from the 20th Century. Many sites survive as upstanding monuments where land management has been less intensive.

There are 844 scheduled monuments in the National Park which equate to 32% of all scheduled monuments in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

Historically the Authority has been able to target monuments classed as being at high or medium risk through the Historic England funded Monument Management and Monuments for the Future Schemes. These schemes have addressed many of the monuments at risk which reached 340 in 2010 (40%). While this funding has now ended the challenge is maintaining the current small number of monuments which remain as at risk.

**Cultural Heritage Trend: Positive**

The Authority has been proactive in this area of work, working with landowners to address the condition of buildings and monuments on the ‘at risk’ registers. Historic England has assisted with offering funding to address the monuments at risk which allowed the Authority to create a designated project (Monument Management Scheme/Monuments for the Future) while the Authority’s own grant budgets have been used for buildings.

## Tourism and Recreation

The second purpose of National Park designation is to “promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.”

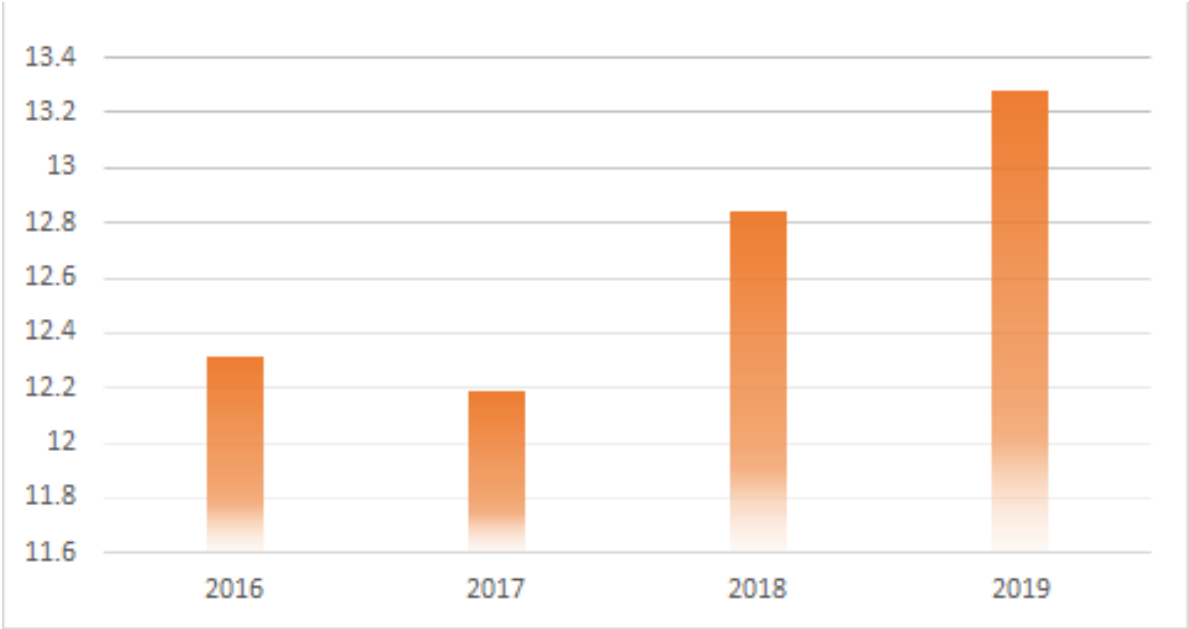
Raising the profile of the North York Moors is one of two strategic priorities for the National Park Authority with the development of tourism a key part of this. The Management Plan sought to increase the number of visitor days.

Much progress has been made in the last ten years, by local businesses, by the Authority and by its partners, to address previous weaknesses and deliver improvements.

The STEAM model was radically overhauled in 2017, which means we cannot make direct comparisons with any data from 2015 and earlier. The data was rolled back for one year to 2016 to allow a one-year comparison (and therefore with the 2019 data included, there is now a four-year trend). Although the STEAM data for 2020 is available, it was an untypical year with Covid-19 and lockdown measures and as such it is considered that 2019 remains the most up to date figure.

Tourism within the National Park is continuing to rise (except for 2020). 13.28 million visitor days were spent within the National Park and its influence area last year, which has an economic impact of £749 million and provides nearly 11,300 direct full time equivalent employees.

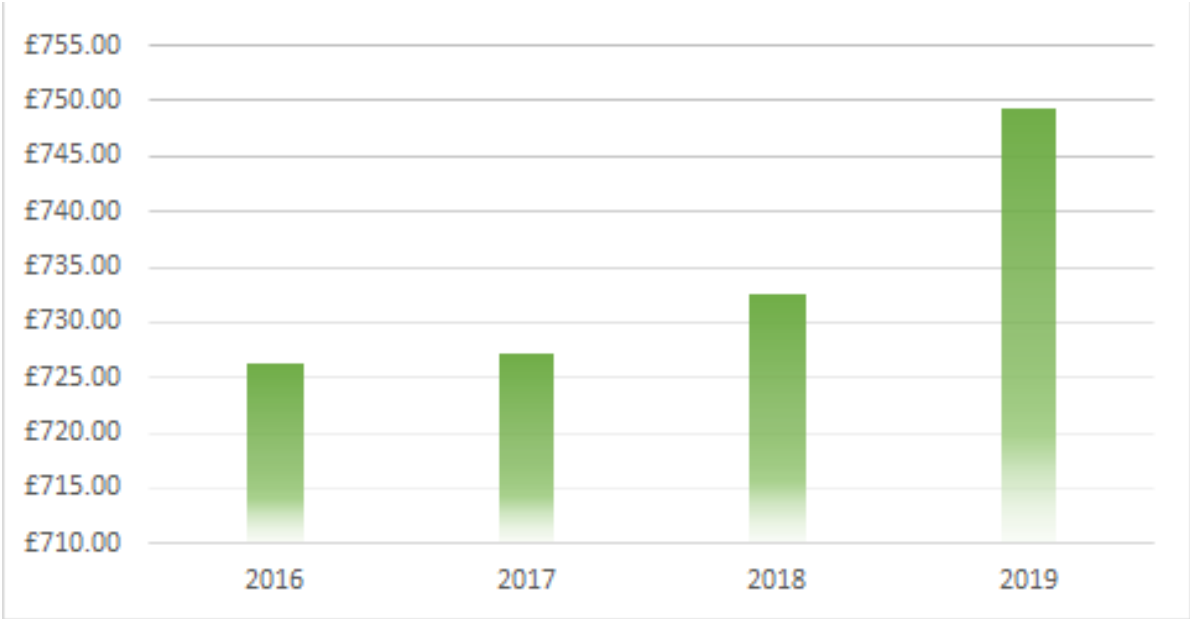
### Number of visitor days (millions)



Source: Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) annual reports

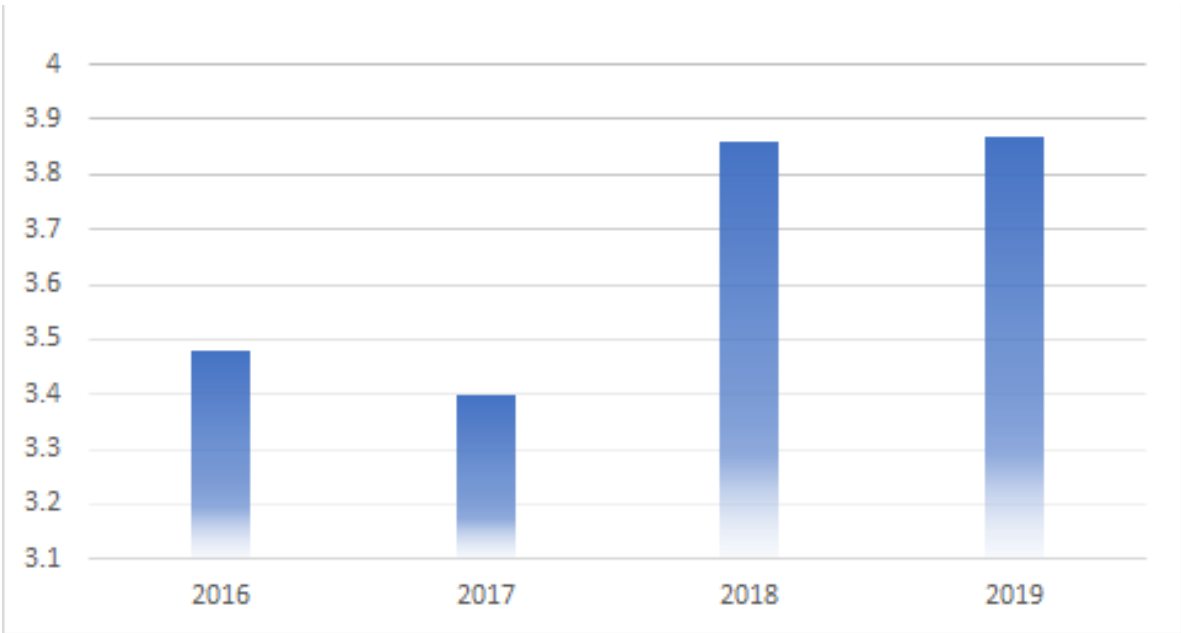


**Value of tourism to the National Park’s economy (£m)**



Source: Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) annual reports

**Average length of stay (all staying visitors) (days)**



Source: Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) annual reports

**Visitor profile**

Table 1 reveals a shift in the profile of visitors to the North York Moors. Previous surveys revealed the National Park appealed mainly to families with young children, and ‘post-families’ whereas in 2021, there are now slightly less ‘younger families’ and more in the ‘pre-family’ category.

Table 1: Visitor group profile by age (%)

-	Under 16	16-34	35-54	55-64	65+
<b>2021</b>	29	20	23	15	12
<b>2016</b>	28	14	29	17	13

Sample: 1,592 (based on interviewees' total party size)

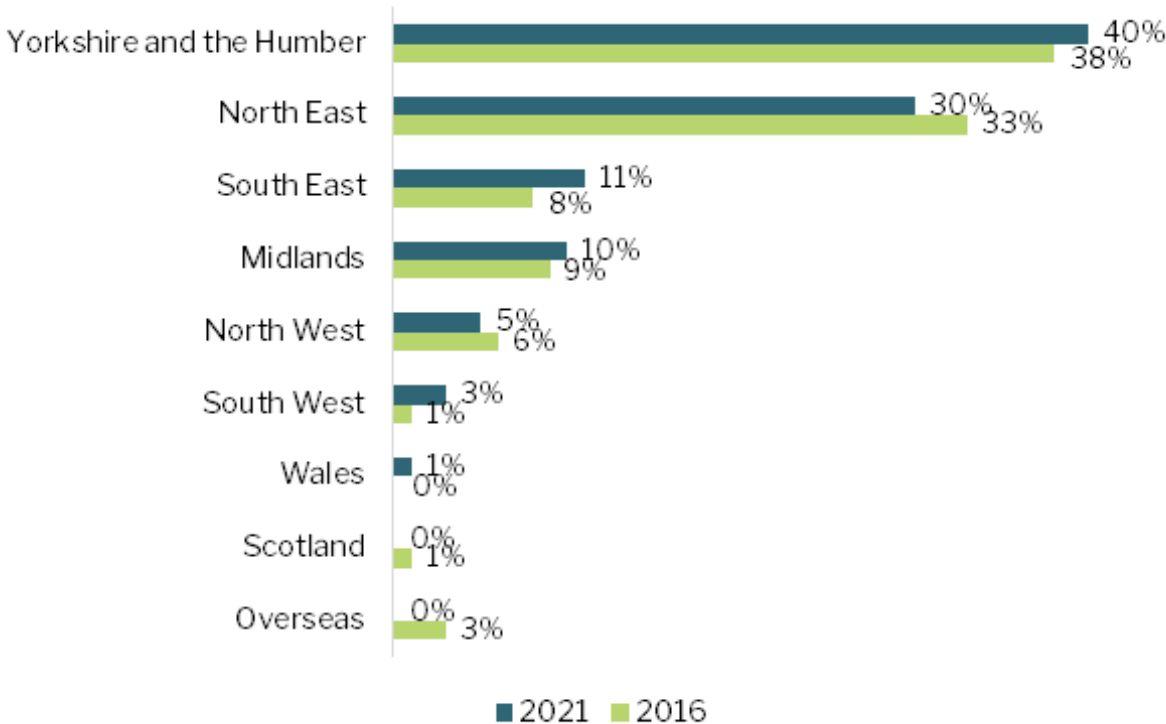
There is now an even split in age profile, with half of visitors now 34 years and under. Younger adults (16-34 category) account for 20% of visitors in a party, a 43% increase since 2016. This is likely to reflect national trends for 2021 with travel restrictions seeing a boom in domestic holidays coupled with a growing recognition of the health & wellbeing benefits of being outdoors and an increased connection to nature.

More than 40% of respondents visited with family. A slightly higher proportion were accompanied by a spouse/partner than in 2016 (42% compared to 37% in 2016). In 2021, the average party size was 2.43 people, a fall on 3.03 in 2016.

People from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds accounted for 5% of visitors in 2021, an improvement on 1% in 2016 but indicating that there is more we can do to enable everyone to enjoy the benefits that access to a National Park can bring.

The main audience for the National Park tends to be from Yorkshire and the North East. Visitors from the South East have increased by 37.5%, albeit from a small base (see Chart 1).

**Origin of visitors**

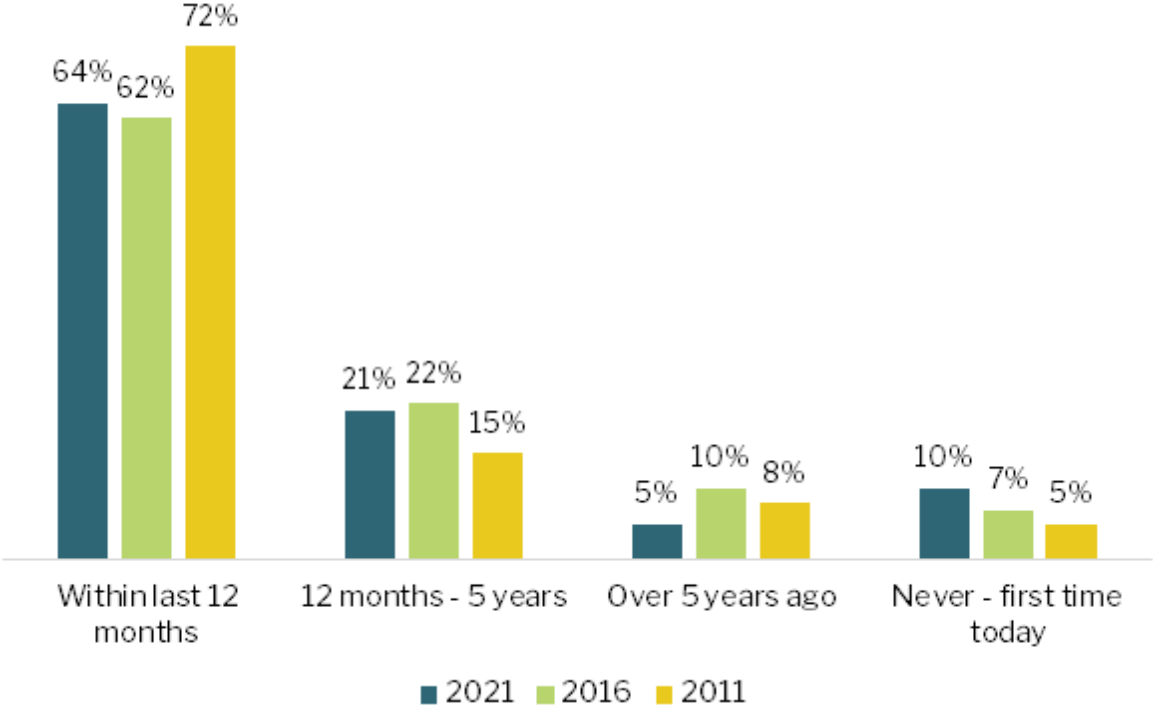


Sample: All, 656

Over half of respondents are now staying visitors, with short breaks (4 nights and under) increasing to 31% of visitors, compared to 23% in 2016 (growth of 35%), while those on a

longer trip accounted for 22% of respondents. In comparison, day trips from home have fallen to 46% (vs. 54% in 2016).

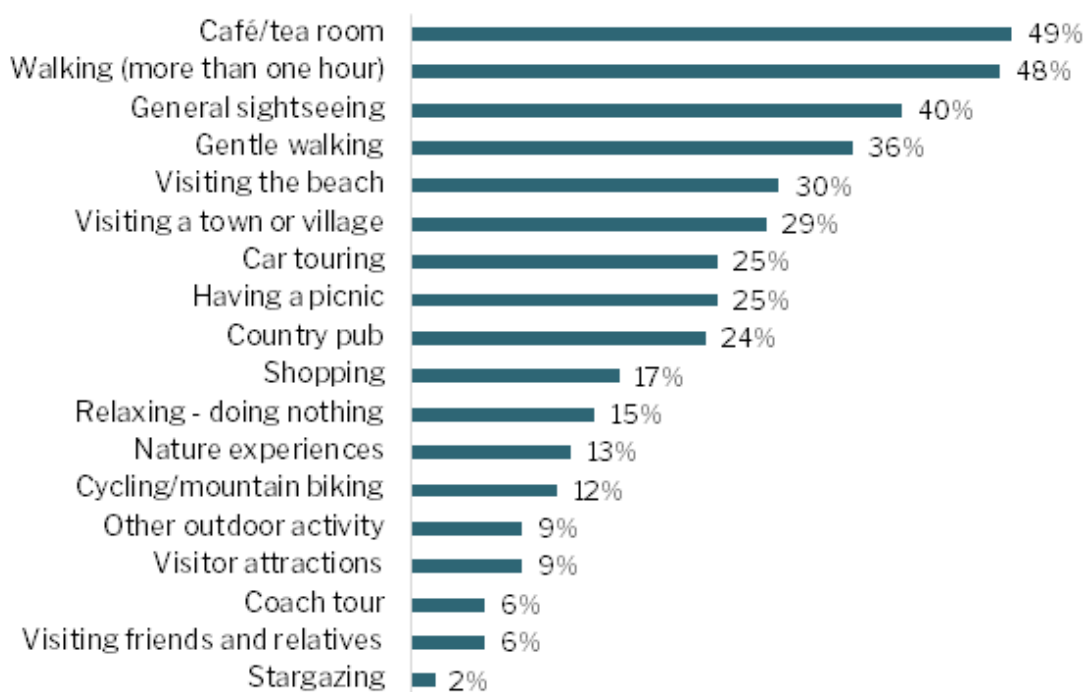
**Previous visits to the North York Moors**



Sample: All, 656

A broad variety of activities were cited by respondents, with visitors taking part in 4.4 activities on average in a day (up from 3 in 2016), indicating a wide-ranging visitor offer. In the main, visitors spend their time outdoors in the National Park, be it going for a walk (84%), visiting the beach (30%) or having a picnic (25%) (see next Chart).

## Activities participating or participated in during a visit



Eating out is very popular after all that fresh air, with nearly half of those interviewed visiting a café or tearoom and a further 24% frequenting a pub.

Cycling/mountain biking, visitor attractions and nature experiences have seen significant growth since 2016 (increases of 200%, 200% and 117% respectively). Stargazing has doubled to 2% since it appeared for the first time in 2016, despite the survey being undertaken over the summer when long daylight hours mean skies never get truly dark.

Disappointingly car touring has more than doubled to 25% in 2021, and car usage remains high overall as a mode of transport during visits (94% of respondents). The pandemic is likely to have had an impact, with lockdowns and use of public transport discouraged initially; a return to pre-Covid travel patterns has yet to materialise.

## Proportion of the region's population who are aware of the North York Moors National Park

	2004	2011	2016	2021
Visitor awareness of North York Moors National Park	n/a	34%	92%	98%
Visitor awareness of Special Qualities	n/a	18%	51%	34%
Visitor awareness of being in a National Park	83%	73%	83%	86%

Source: North York Moors National Park Authority Visitors Surveys

### Tourism Trend: Positive

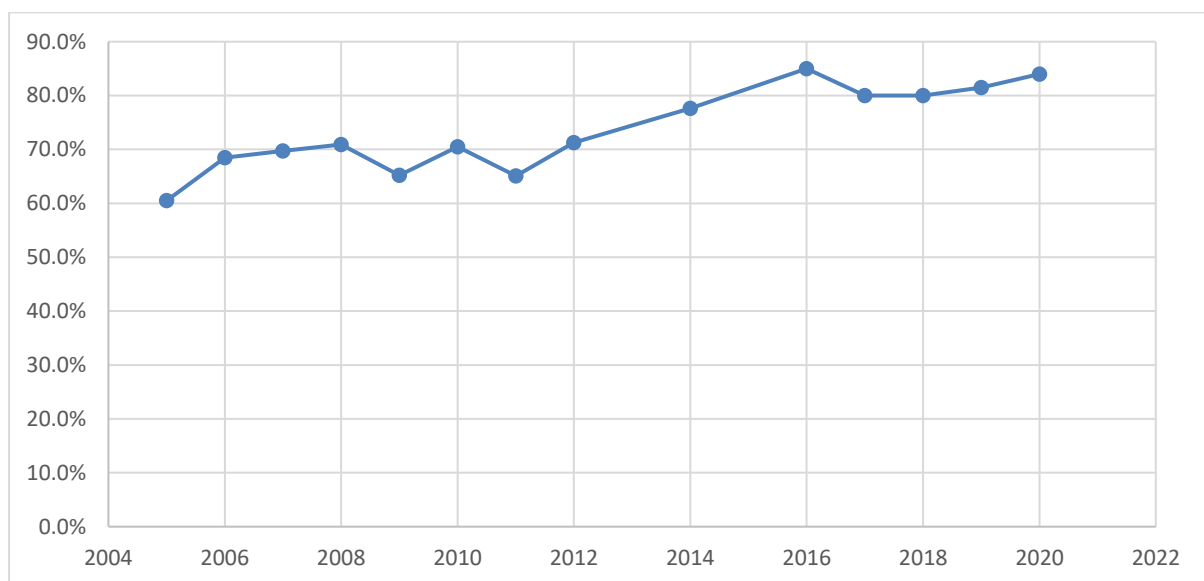
The promotion of the North York Moors has been a priority for the Authority over the last ten years and this is reflected in the increase in tourist numbers, their length of stay and value to the economy.

## Public Rights of Way

There are 2,355km of public rights of way in the National Park (excluding permissive footpaths) which includes 1,488km footpaths (including the 175km Cleveland Way National Trail, the final (typically three day) legs of the Coast to Coast and the 40-mile Lyke Wake Walk) and 838km bridleways. It is important that these rights of way remain easy to use to encourage visitors of all ages and abilities to access the National Park.

The ability for the wider public to access and experience the National Park remains a priority for the 2022 Management Plan. In a post-covid environment, access to nature and the great outdoors has never been more important for people's health and wellbeing.

### Percentage of Public Rights of Way that are "easy to use"



### Public Rights of Way Trend: Positive

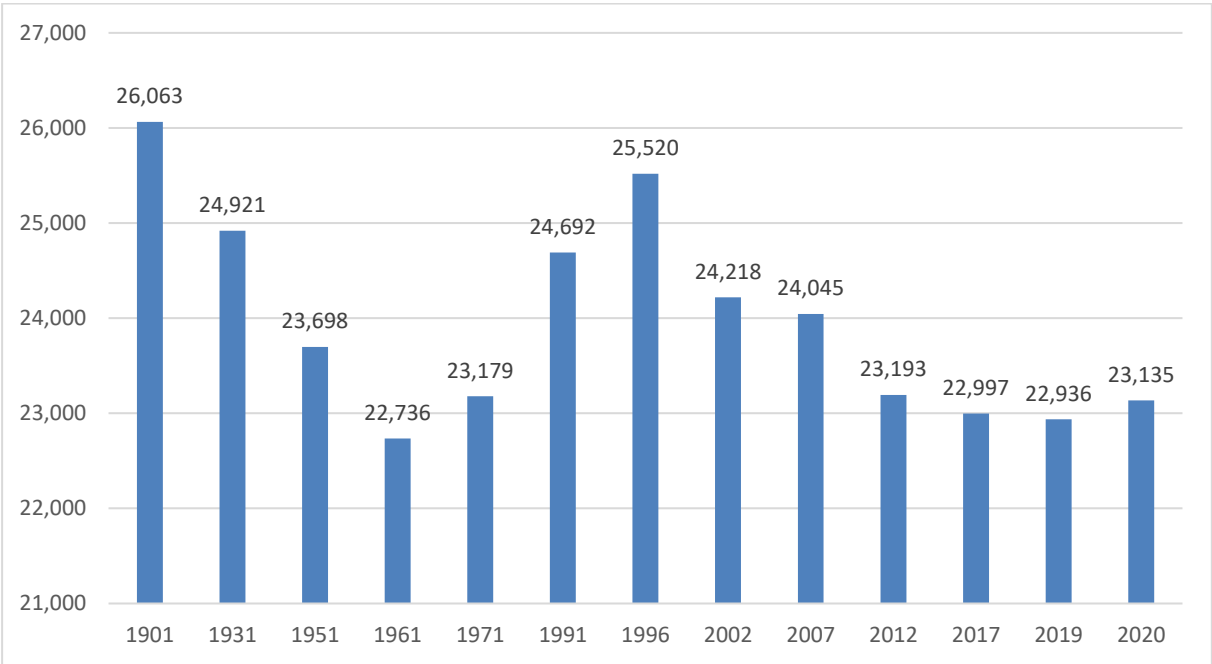
The Authority continues to priorities public rights of way ensuring members of the public can easily access and enjoy the National Park.

## Communities

The National Park Authority also has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the National Park. The Authority is also the local planning authority for the National Park which gives it an additional role and involvement in community life. In practice it can be difficult to separate community issues from those relating more directly to the Authority's statutory purposes.

# Housing and demographics

## Population of the North York Moors National Park



Source: ONS Census and Mid-Year Population Estimates for National Parks

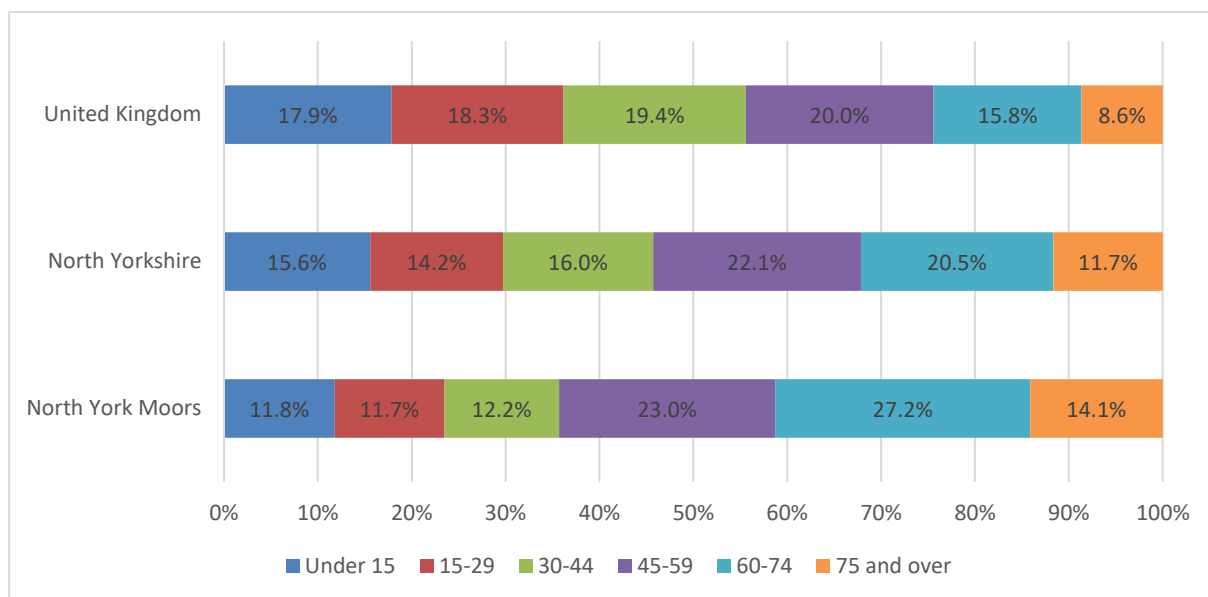
The most recent population estimates we have date from 2020<sup>4</sup> when the population of the North York Moors was estimated at 23,135 with slightly more females than males.

Between 1991 and 2001, the population of the National Park declined by 3%, the following ten years saw a further decline of 2.3%. Population levels do however remain comparable to those recorded in the 1961 and 1971 censuses.

The population of the National Park is significantly older than the County or UK average:

<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics' Mid-Year Population Estimates (2020)

## Population of the North York Moors National Park by age range



Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

41% of the National Park population are aged 60 or over compared to 24% nationally and 32% for the county of North Yorkshire. Conversely, only 23% are below the age of 30, compared to 36% nationally. The change in the composition of the population since 2001 is as follows:

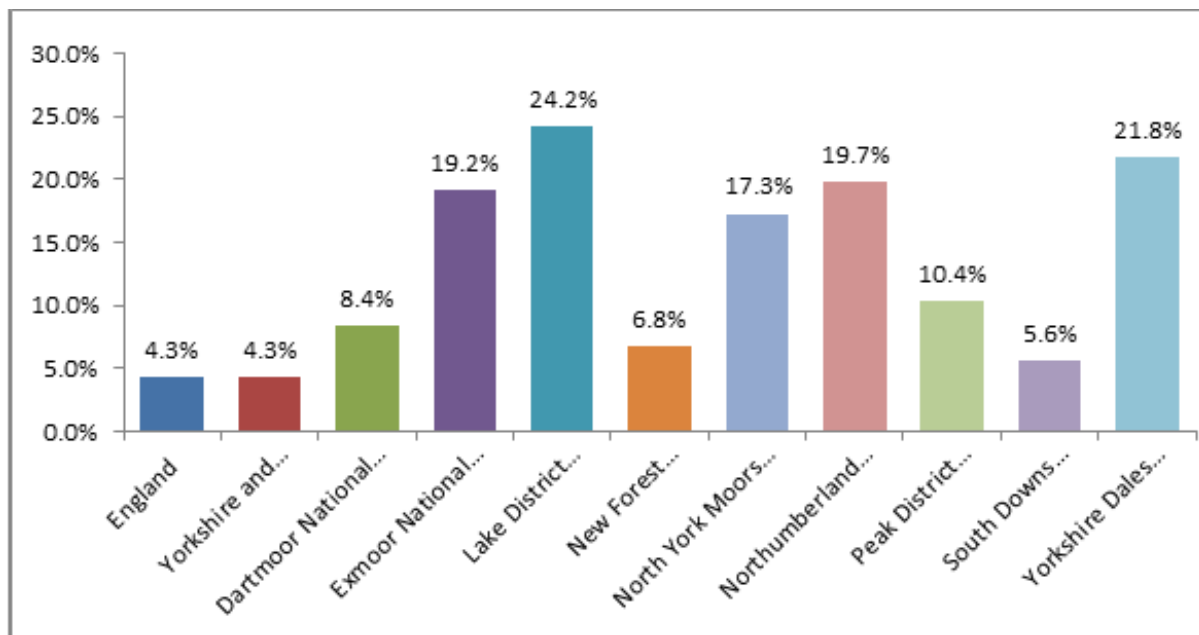
Age	2001	2020	Change	% Change
<b>Under 15</b>	3,750	2,730	-873	-23.3%
<b>15-29</b>	2,982	2,705	-8	-0.3%
<b>30-44</b>	4,506	2,824	-1,387	-30.8%
<b>45-59</b>	6,204	5,328	-576	-9.3%
<b>60-74</b>	4,440	6,284	1,454	32.7%
<b>75 and over</b>	2,112	3,262	622	29.5%

Source: ONS Census and Mid-Year Population Estimates for National Parks

## Housing completions

According to the last census there were 12,490 dwellings in the National Park. Since 2011/12, a further 422 units have been completed, adding a further 3.4% to the dwelling stock. However, a proportion of the existing and new dwelling stock may have become second homes (around 17.3% of homes in the National Park were recorded as 'households with no usual residents' in 2011).

## Second homes in English National Parks in 2011 (%)

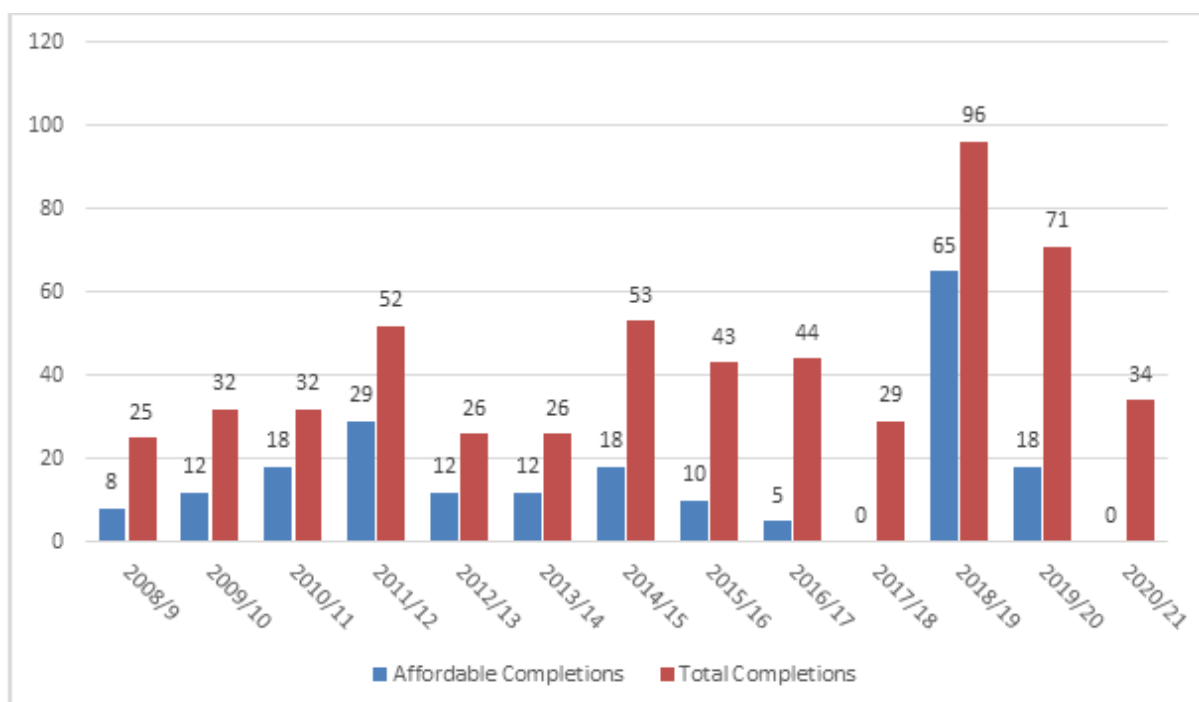


Source: ONS Census

Since 2008/09 (the publication date of the now superseded Core Strategy and Development Policies Document), a total of 563 dwellings have been completed in the National Park (13-year period). This is an average of 44 homes per year, 37% of which were affordable.

Since 2016/17 (the base date of the 2020 Local Plan), 274 homes have been completed. This is equivalent to 56 per year, against a planned rate of 29 per year. 32% were affordable units. High completions rates in 2018/19 and 2019/20 include major housing developments at Helmsley, which are now completed.

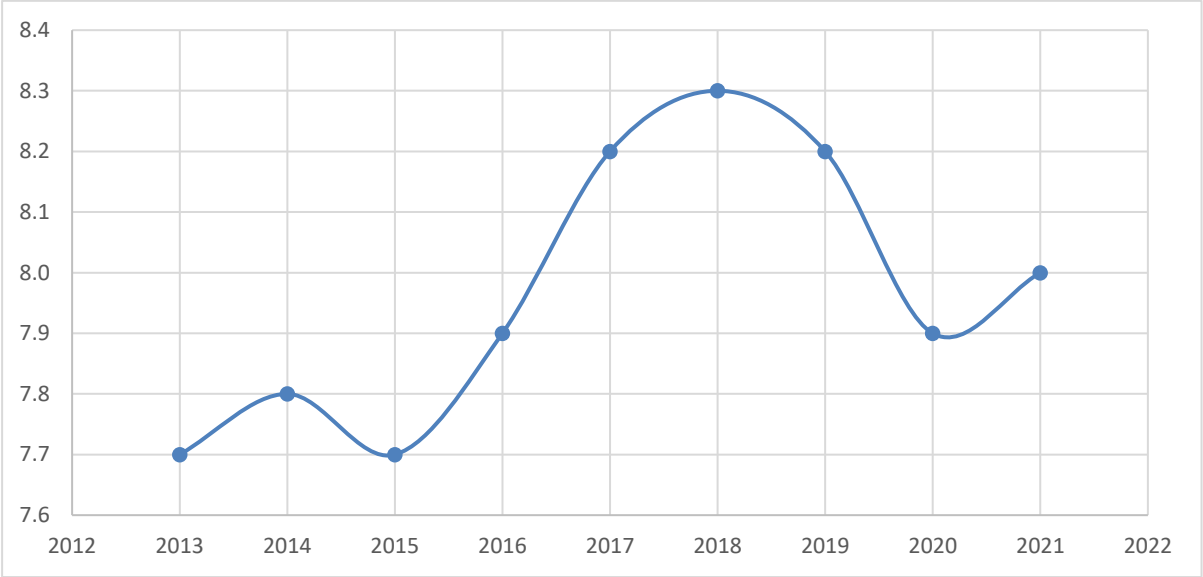
## Housing completions in the North York Moors National Park



Source: North York Moors National Park Authority Housing Monitoring data.



### House price affordability index



Source: North York Moors National Park Authority interpretation of the ONS Local Authority District Lower Quartile Affordability Ratio

House prices are not affordable to many local people due to the lower-than-average earnings versus the higher-than-average house prices in the National Park. In 2020, the average house price in the National Park was £297,753 compared with the UK average of £267,000<sup>5</sup>.

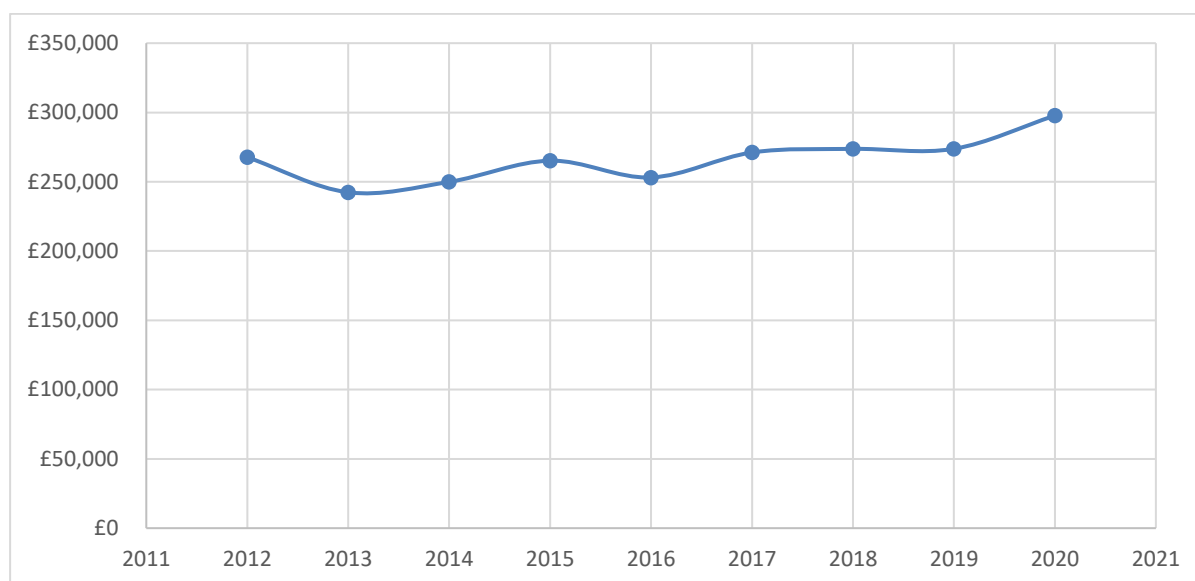
The house price-to-income ratio is an indicator of affordability in an area. House price-to-income ratios are calculated by dividing property prices by annual earnings. Earnings data is not cut to the National Park boundary, so figures are taken on average earnings of the three districts<sup>6</sup>, (Hambleton, Ryedale, and Scarborough) to provide a best fit figure for the National Park.

Based on Yorkshire Building Society estimates, the average house price to earnings ratio for the UK is 8.35 in 2019. For the National Park in 2019 this figure was 7.9 rising slightly to 8.0 in 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Taken from the ONS UK House Price Index, January 2021

<sup>6</sup> ONS House price to workplace-based earnings ratio statistics

## Average house price in the National Park



Source: North York Moors National Park Authority House Price Survey

## Village services

To have thriving communities, villages need to be well served by shops, village halls, pubs and play areas. Nationally, rural services are on a declining trend and the North York Moors is no exception.

Whilst planning policies seek to resist loss of facilities, their under use, competition from facilities in the larger urban areas just outside the National Park boundary and online shopping (particularly with regards to general stores) has resulted in the decline of these services and facilities within settlements in the National Park. Often alongside the loss of general stores is the loss of the post office and banks, and many villages now rely on mobile services.

However, it is acknowledged that lifestyles and the way people shop are changing, with an ever-increasing use of online shopping.

## Percentage of National Park villages with key facilities

	1995	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018
General Store	40%	40%	30%	28%	28%	27%	26%
Post Office	72%	42%	32%	27%	29%	23%	20%
Village Hall	70%	70%	62%	81%	69%	72%	76%
Village Pub	74%	72%	64%	71%	71%	69%	74%
Children's Play Area	28%	35%	25%	36%	39%	35%	38%

Source: North York Moors National Park Authority Community Facility Survey

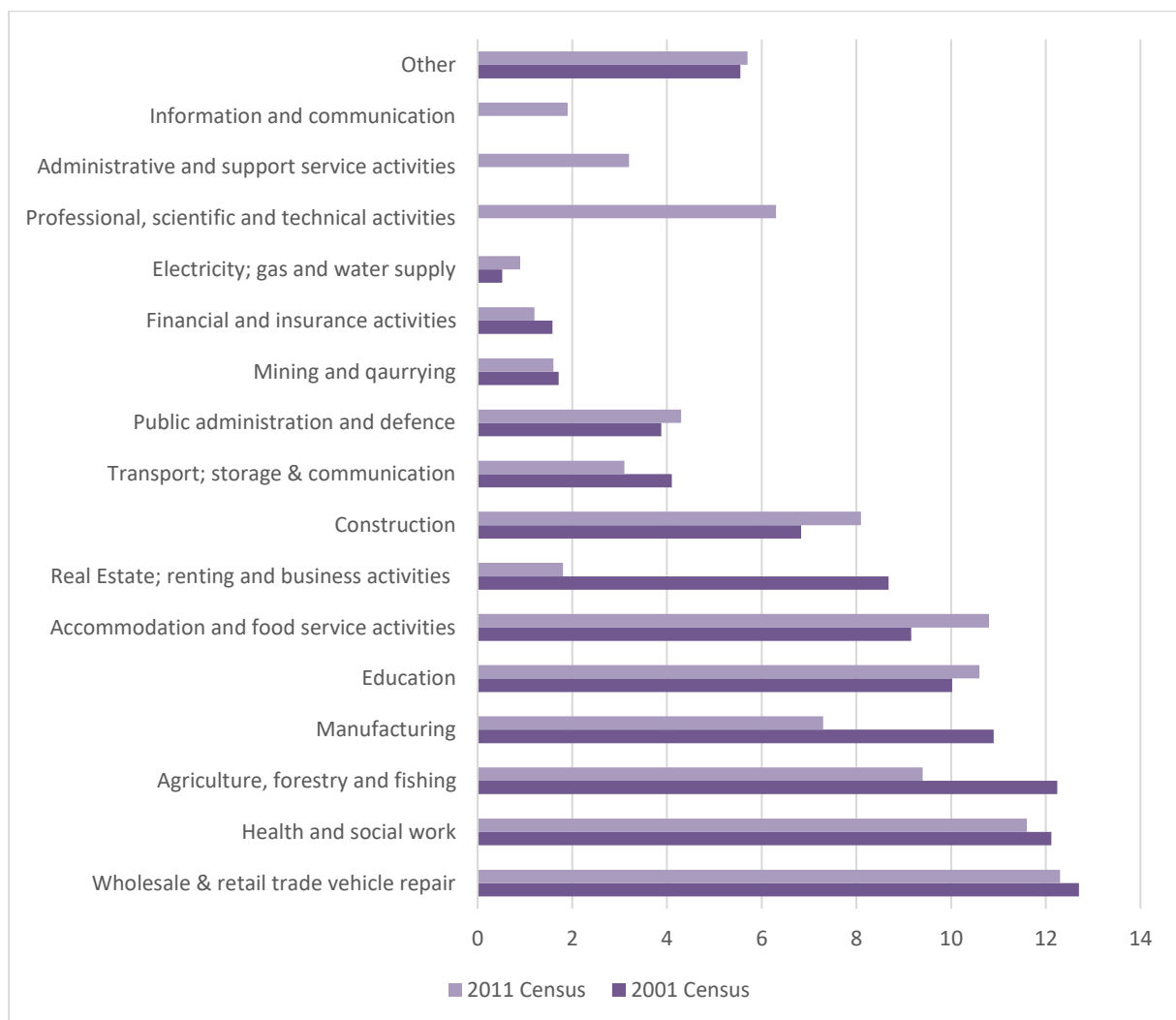
## Population, Housing and Services trend: Uncertain

The population of the National Park is declining with an increasing percentage of elderly people residing here. Along with increasing house prices and second homes, the ability for the younger generation to live or move here is difficult. Affordable housing is being built but greater numbers are required to address the challenge; however, with many houses continuing to be used as second homes, addressing housing need is difficult.

## Economic activity

Most information on demographic, economic and social pictures are captured by the Census data. Not all information is cut to the National Park boundary as census data is often calculated on district boundaries. Where information is available this is reported or in some cases data requires complex calculation. Comparisons with previous censuses may also be unavailable.

### Economic activity variations in the North York Moors between the 2001 and 2011 Census:



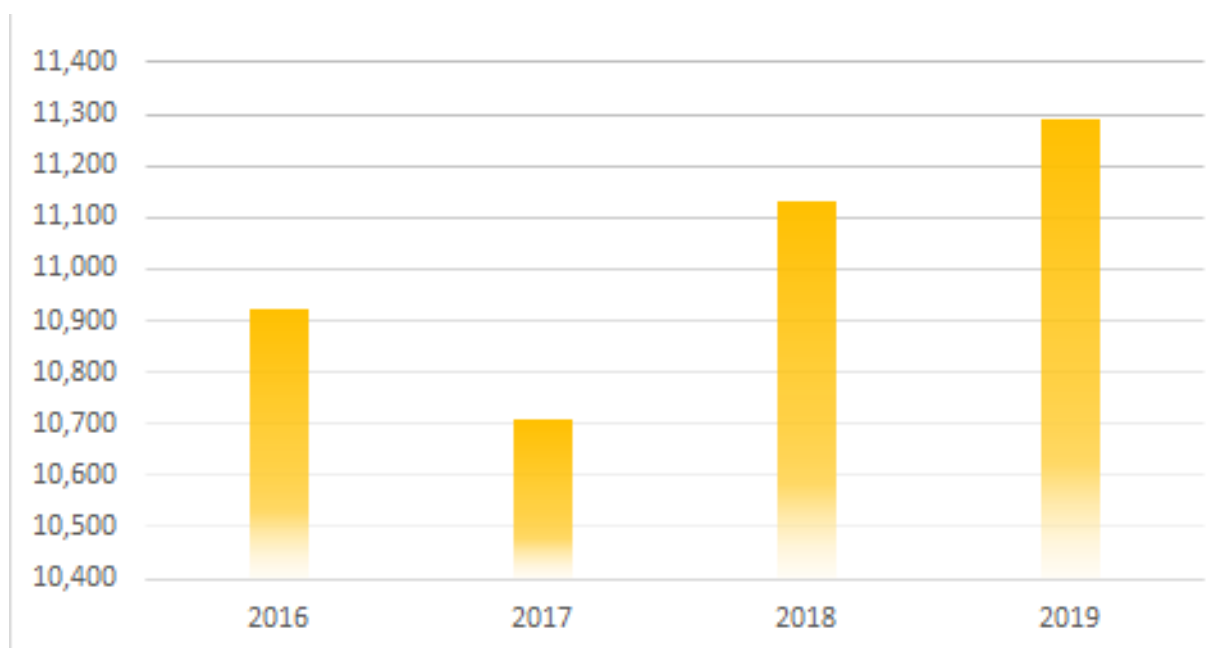
Source: Office for National Statistics Census 2001, 2011

## Number of employees working in the National Park (2019)

Business size	No. of businesses	No. of employees
Micro (0-9)	1,880	4,420
Small (10-49)	180	3,399
Medium (50-249)	15	1,263
Large (250+)	0	0
Total	2,075	9,082

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register

## No. of people employed in tourism (thousands)



Source: Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) annual reports

## No. of people employed in agriculture (commercial holdings)

All Holdings			Commercial Holdings			
2007	2008	2009	2009	2010	2013	2016
2,243	2,286	2,554	2,147	2,220	2,164	2,182

Information taken from Defra dataset (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june#history>)

Results for 2010 onwards relate to commercial holdings only. Commercial holdings are those with significant levels of farming activity. These significant levels are classified as any holding with more than 5 hectares of agricultural land, 1 hectare of orchards, 0.5 hectares of vegetables or 0.1 hectares of protected crops, or more than 10 cows, 50 pigs, 20 sheep, 20 goats or 1,000 poultry. Results for 2009 have been displayed for all holdings and for commercial holdings to allow comparisons to be made.

A new survey was carried out in June 2021 but at the time of writing the information for National Parks was not yet updated and therefore the 2016 figure for commercial holdings remains the most recent.

### **Economy Trend: Uncertain**

Employment within the National Park is largely within the tourism and land management-based sectors. Tourism employment is often seasonal and there is uncertainty around the changes being made to the farming and land management sector with the new ELM scheme and the impact this will have on this sector of employment.

## **Transport**

### **Annual traffic count figures at Saltersgate, A169 (annual average daily traffic)**

<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
5,863	5,749	4,048

Source: North Yorkshire County Council traffic data

The traffic and transport data reports the annual number of vehicles passing the Saltersgate traffic counter and is important in assessing the vehicular activity in the National Park. In 2012 the traffic counter stopped receiving data and the problem was not resolved by NYCC until 2018 when the counter was reinstated. However, the data now collected by NYCC calculates the annual average daily traffic (AADT), not total figures, and therefore true comparisons can only be made from 2018.

### **Transport Trend: Negative**

The ability to reduce traffic travelling in around the National Park is difficult given the rural nature of the area and the poor transport links. It is difficult to ascertain whether the traffic generation is from tourism, business or local traffic but given the figures reported in 2020 when the nation went into lockdown, it would infer that most of the traffic is local, or business related.