

## Response to local authority consultation

Authority: Yorkshire Dales National Park

Type of consultation (insert DF/planning application/appraisal etc:  
Management plan consultation

Full details of application/consultation:  
Yorkshire Dales National Park draft management plan 2019-24 consultation

Type of response (insert comment/support/object  
Comment

Date of submission: 22 April 2018

All responses or queries relating to this submission should be addressed to  
The Chair,  
The North Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England  
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The charity will be referred to as CPRENorthYorkshire throughout this document

All CPRENorthYorkshire comments are prepared by the charity using professional planners whose research and recommendations form the basis of this response in line with national CPRE policies.

external planning consultant:



KVA Planning Consultancy  
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The North Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England CIO operates with the help of planning wardens in the different local authority administrative districts reporting directly to the branch following a recent restructure. All correspondence should therefore be directed to the 'Chair of CPRENorthYorkshire'.

CPRENorthYorkshire is the only authorised body to represent CPRENorthYorkshire issues within the local area.

CPRENorthYorkshire welcomes the opportunity to comment on this review of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan.

It should be noted that CPRENorthYorkshire have not commented on each individual objective listed within the draft document and have selected those of most pertinence to the charity. In general, the Trustees of the branch are supportive of the proposed objectives as set out in the draft document.

### **Comment**

S66 of the Environment Act (1995) sets out that National Park Management Plans should be the subject of a statutory review at intervals of 'not more than five years'. Furthermore, the National Park Circular makes it clear that the Management Plan is the most important document for each National Park (NP), therefore, it is imperative that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) publishes the most robust version of this document that it can as all other strategies (including planning policies) will assist in delivering its vision and objectives.

### *Vision*

CPRENorthYorkshire welcomes the vision as set out in the Management Plan which is, in effect, a continuance of the vision within the existing Plan, setting out how the NP will be perceived by 2040. Delivering the vision in six separate elements is supported, as is the note that objectives written with the aim of delivering these elements should be considered holistically.

### *Objectives*

A1 (and A8) - CPRENorthYorkshire welcomes the fact that YDNPA have committed to supporting farmers and landowners through Brexit. The NP has been predominantly shaped by agricultural development. It is thanks to this that we have the scenic beauty and well-maintained stone walls and buildings which are eponymous with the locality. It is, therefore, vital that agricultural workers continue to be supported. The introduction of land management schemes will support the livelihoods of those working in this sector and will enable young people to remain in the sector and within the NP in general, thus, maintaining the vitality of the NP which will benefit residents and visitors alike.

A2 - The National Tranquillity Mapping Data 2007, as developed for CPRE and Natural England by Northumbria University, clearly show that the NP is relatively tranquil. Whilst tranquillity can be subjective and a matter of perception, it is still essential to ensure this important quality is retained, enhanced and where possible expanded. Increasing volumes of traffic, alongside the potential pressure for housing and tourism related developments to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors are challenges which will potentially impact the tranquillity of the NP in the future. CPRENorthYorkshire, therefore, supports the YDNPA with its aim of maintaining tranquillity.

CPRENorthYorkshire would also support the YDNPA in obtaining a 'Dark Skies Reserve' designation to promote the enjoyment of its dark skies. Nationally and locally CPRE campaign for the protection and promotion of Dark Skies. They have produced a 'night blight' mapping service and other tools which may be useful to the YDNPA in attempting to obtain the designation:

[http://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw\\_ODWBRCTARIsAE2\\_EvX-KvZvfWpeZVY4D3XfxSL5IS7xipbtMjp7oVtfbME8xJGKC86cxi0aAlVxEALw\\_wcB](http://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw_ODWBRCTARIsAE2_EvX-KvZvfWpeZVY4D3XfxSL5IS7xipbtMjp7oVtfbME8xJGKC86cxi0aAlVxEALw_wcB)

A3 - CPRENorthYorkshire welcomes the recognition that new Landscape Character Assessments for the NP are needed, especially as the existing ones do not cover the new area of the NP. This would be an effective tool for helping to conserve and protect key landscapes, biodiversity and heritage assets within the NP in the planning process amongst other strategic priorities.

B1, B2 and B3 - CPRENorthYorkshire welcomes the fact that the YDNPA have recognised that the Pennine Trails, other long distanced routes and Public Rights of Way need to be enhanced, maintained, promoted and be accessible for all. Access to the NP and countryside in general has many proven health benefits and it is vital that these potential access routes are upgraded to the highest standard possible for all users, enabling communities to access these benefits and enjoy the tranquillity and remoteness offered by the NP.

C - Objectives within this section are supported in general. It is particularly welcomed that the YDNPA are supporting farmers, agricultural workers and landowners to recognise the importance of restoring and protecting areas of high nature importance. It is vital to encourage them to manage land effectively that is designated at both international and national levels for flora and fauna.

C7 - CPRENorthYorkshire support the intention of restoring and maintaining ancient semi-natural woodlands to being in good condition. Given that 50% of this type of existing woodland is currently in good condition,

CPRENorthYorkshire believe that setting a target of 60% by 2023 as being in 'good condition' is not ambitious enough. It is considered that the YDNPA should be aiming for a higher target in this time period given the importance to biodiversity these woodlands provide.

D - Objectives within this section are welcomed. Climate Change is one of the biggest threats to the natural world. All organisations and charities are required to put strategies in place to respond to Climate Change and where possible reduce its impacts.

CPRE, both nationally and locally, are campaigning to increase awareness of the effects of climate change. A step-change in the reduction of harmful emissions is needed to reach the legal requirements set out in the Paris Agreement, therefore these specific objectives are particularly supported.

E - the objectives within this section are welcomed and supported by CPRENorthYorkshire. Farming and tourism are fundamental to the National Park and intrinsically linked. CPRENorthYorkshire welcomes the recognition, within the rationale for these objectives, that farming and landowners have often used traditional techniques that have helped to create many of the National Park's special qualities.

It is hoped that the delivery of these objectives will ensure that tourism is supported and promoted within the NP and that consequently farming and land management techniques are able to endure and thrive.

F1 - CPRENorthYorkshire questions the rationale behind the proposal of this objective to deliver at least 325 new dwellings within the NP by 2023. Whilst recognising that this minimum target is not only challenging and ambitious, given that most of developable land is within private ownership and commands unrealistic values, CPRENorthYorkshire are aware that this is well above the objectively assessed housing need for the NP as a whole. This is also well above the figure of 150 homes (50% split between market value and affordable need) in the previous Management Plan at objective F1.

CPRENorthYorkshire are aware that the YDNPA has a duty to foster and encourage existing communities to thrive including residents and businesses within its boundaries, however, are concerned that this level of new building will detrimentally impact upon the special qualities and biodiversity of the NP. Should this objective be promoted in the final version of the Management Plan, this would need careful monitoring by planning departments to ensure that only the most suitable development in appropriate locations are awarded permission and any harm carefully mitigated against.

## **Conclusion**

**CPRENorthYorkshire welcomes the opportunity to comment on the vision and 50 objectives that the YDNPA are considering within its emerging Management Plan.**

As stated above, the branch currently campaign for the recognition, protection and enhancement of all the areas which have been individually recognised as special qualities of the National Park and are on the whole supportive of the vision and objectives.

CPRENorthYorkshire look forward to seeing the next version of the Management Plan published by the YDNPA and would wish to be kept informed of the Plans progress as appropriate.

