How peat moors affect your cuppa

Page 6
Chair’s introduction

In the last issue I highlighted three issues that I wanted to focus on as chair of the authority. I want to update you on these.

The first was the issue of managing 4x4s and trial bikes on green lanes. Many residents that I have met since becoming chair have told me how important this issue is to them.

In December, despite tough budget cuts, we agreed to spend a further £100,000 on managing routes used by 4x4s, enabling us to deal with more routes and speed up the work we do to protect the green lanes. You can find out more about this by visiting www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles.

My second pledge was that members of the authority would be more visible and accountable to local communities. On pages 4 and 5 you can see some examples of the work being done by members of the authority to support local communities. I am keen to keep up this work. I know from my own experience how important it is and the benefits it brings to everyone involved.

The third area is continuing the improvements to the planning service. We have acted on your feedback and improved our website so that information about planning is written in plain English and more logically laid out. This can be seen at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning.

We have also produced a guide to help people understand the planning process and improve communication about planning issues. There is still more to do but I hope you are noticing a difference. You can also see some great examples of where planners have worked with local farmers to help get schemes approved that make their farms more efficient (on page 15).

NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

In April we are launching a new plan that sets out how the national park will develop over the next five years. It is called the National Park Management Plan and is the single document that guides the work of everyone who plays a part in the life of the national park.

It isn’t the plan of the authority. It is a plan that has been written with the agreement and involvement of a range of partners. You can find out more about the plan on page 3.

I have been really heartened to see the level of support for the new plan and its vision. It is a reminder of just how dearly national park residents, like you and me, hold this special place in our hearts.

If we are to achieve the aims set out in the plan we need the support of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the national park. Only by working together can we ensure the national park develops as we all want it to in the future.

Councillor Tony Favell

tony.favell@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Contact us

We are always keen to hear your comments about Park Life.

Take part in our survey at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/parklife or contact us directly.

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Park Life is produced twice a year to keep national park residents informed about the work of the Peak District National Park Authority and its partners. The authority’s £7.4 million budget is funded directly by the Government.

Moving forward together

A plan that will impact on the lives of all national park residents, businesses and community groups is launched next month.

The Peak District National Park Management Plan called Partnership for Progress sets out what all organisations and community groups that operate in the national park want to achieve between April 2012 and March 2017.

It can be seen at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/npmp from April. Paper copies of the key actions will also be produced.

The plan marks the end of a 16-month period of dialogue with partners, including a four month public consultation. The consensus was that people wanted to see:

• A greater emphasis on farming and land management

Residents and representatives of local communities, businesses and voluntary groups played a key role in writing the management plan.

One of the people involved, Neil Moulden, chief executive of the Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), believes the final plan reflects the views of local people.

He said: “An area like this faces a lot of challenges in terms of people being able to lead sustainable lives.

“Some of the most significant issues are the cost of petrol and the availability of public transport. The need for fast broadband is very important in the development of small and medium sized businesses, while other key issues are people having access to services and the availability of affordable housing.”

“We want people to still be able to live and work in the national park. We don’t want it to become a stockbrokers’ ghetto where only the super rich can live.”

Neil believes all the organisations involved in delivering the plan need to work together to ensure action happens on the ground.

He said: “No one organisation has the resources to do everything for everybody any more. I can see residents and the voluntary sector playing an important role in delivering the actions in the management plan.”

Efforts continuing to make more affordable housing available to local people

• Conservation projects continuing, particularly moorland restoration

More support for local businesses and a recognition of the important relationship between the health of the environment and the health of the economy

Neil Moulden (right) of the Council for Voluntary Service, with a volunteer from the Matlock Fruit and Veg Bag Scheme, one of many community groups he works with. The voluntary sector will play a large part in helping put the National Park Management Plan into action.
Explaining the role of members

The authority is governed by 30 unpaid members: 16 are local councillors appointed by district, county and city councils within the national park, six elected by parish councils within the park to represent local communities, and eight appointed by the Defra Secretary of State for their expertise on major national park issues.

This unique set-up is designed to ensure a balance between effective local representation and a strong technical input on matters of national interest from the Secretary of State members.

The duty of all members is to make efficient, effective and accountable decisions in the best interests of our national park and provide leadership, scrutiny and direction for the organisation.

In 2013 the Peak District will pilot a scheme for direct elections for some members. The Government is still considering options for doing this and is planning a public consultation in early spring 2012.

Communication is key

Andrew McCloy joined the Authority in 2011 as a parish member. He has been a member of Youlgrave parish council for 10 years and chair for 5 years.

Andrew said: “Being part of a very active parish council stands me in good stead for my authority role as I know how important it is to ensure that residents’ voices are heard. "Communication is key and in Youlgrave I edit the monthly community newsletter ‘The Bugle’. It is available online and there’s a team of volunteers who distribute 800 copies for free to every home in Youlgrave, Alporr and Middleton, so everyone knows what is going on locally and in the national park. (see www.thebugle.org.uk )

“I see my role as a parish member as an intermediary between residents and the authority, acting as a positive bridge between the two.”

Last year the River Bradford, which runs through Andrew’s home patch, ran dry for 16 weeks.

Andrew said: “This was an anxious time for everyone as Bradford Dale is held dear by the villagers. The river is also an important resource for biodiversity and the local economy, including our own independent village water company which draws water locally.

“I helped host a public meeting attended by over 120 people about the issue. We’ve set up the Bradford River Action Group to raise awareness of the river’s importance and apply for funding to examine issues. It has been a real grass roots call to action.

“Now we hope to work with officers from the authority and the Environment Agency to discover the causes of changes in the river flow and look for lasting solutions.”

Andrew is also a long running supporter of Sustainable Youlgrave, a community-led environmental group.

John Herbert is chair of the authority’s planning committee and also chairs Sheldon parish meeting. He has been on the authority as a parish member since 2002.

John said: “Parish members are advocates for all parishes and residents of the national park so it’s my responsibility to ensure all local people are involved and have their voice heard. I like attending parish council meetings, hearing about local concerns and how we can improve our planning service. It’s all part of being that vital two-way bridge between the parishes and the authority.”

John attends planning surgeries run by the authority to give residents the chance to discuss their planning cases at venues around the national park outside of normal office hours.

He also sends regular email updates to parish councillors in the national park to keep them informed about the work of the authority.

John added: “As chair of planning I am heavily involved in further improving our planning and enforcement service. As a national park resident, I understand how important having the best possible ‘planning package’ is to people and I like to stress the important role parish councils have in the planning process.

“As planning chair and a parish member I make sure their views are listened to. I try to be readily available to everyone and it keeps me very busy, every day, dealing with emails, letters and phone calls. I welcome this community involvement; it’s one of the joys of being a parish member, this instant accessibility.

“I like to see public participation at planning committee meetings. Anyone who wishes to is welcome to speak, so long as they don’t repeat what others have said. We held January’s planning committee meeting at the Medway Centre in Bakewell to accommodate the great number of people who wanted to do just this. It is good for everyone to see how we make our decisions and take part.”

David Chapman joined the National Park Authority in 2011. He lives in Chelmorton and is a member of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

He said: “I have been on the district council for 10 years which is a good grounding for my role as an authority member. As a local resident, businessman and councillor I am well aware of national park issues and in touch with the views held by local communities.”

David has been closely involved with the community of Hartington since 2009 when Long Clawson sold the cheese factory there to a property developer.

The scale of development proposed for the site has been a major concern to the community and David has been keen to represent their feelings. A residents questionnaire in 2011 achieved a 75 per cent return rate and showed the majority were opposed to the scale of the proposal for 39 houses.

Twenty two villagers spoke against the application at the planning committee meeting in January 2012. David also spoke but took no further part in the proceedings. The application was turned down by the Authority.

David said: “In Hartington, I’ve been able to represent the views of residents, the parish council and members of local groups and societies, and made sure local people have a voice that is heard by the relevant authorities.

“My role is to ease communication and understanding – it’s important to me that people can put a face to a name. We don’t just want questionnaires to tell us what people are thinking – it’s about talking to people and letting them know that authority members are there, on the ground, to help.”
How peat moor restoration affects your cup of tea

We all like our cup of tea or coffee in the morning but how many of us realise that 70 per cent of our drinking water comes from the peat moorlands in the Dark Peak?

The quality of this peat helps determine how much the water in Peak District reservoirs needs treating before it becomes safe to drink.

Where peat is eroded, primarily due to industrial pollution and wildfires, water companies have to spend more money making the water safe, with those costs passed on to us as consumers. Restored peat helps to produce cleaner water that needs less treatment.

Moors for the Future - a partnership of many organisations that is managed by the Peak District National Park Authority - is carrying out the largest moorland restoration programme in Europe to improve water quality. Restored peat also traps in huge amounts of carbon which helps with climate change.

As part of the restoration work a small group of volunteers have helped Moors for the Future collect measurements of water levels on several sites throughout the Peak District and South Pennines. These are vital to measuring the effects of restoring the bare, damaged peat on the quality of the raw water coming into the water treatment works.

Lynne Fox, of Moors for the Future, said: “Week after week the volunteers have hiked up to some of the remotest worksites in the country and in all weathers they have installed and manually measured the hundreds of dipwells that have helped to collect the 7,000 readings taken so far.

“This will monitor changes in water levels in the peat before, during and after restoration work and compare that to intact and undamaged peat areas.”

More information: www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/volunteering

Volunteers help protect water quality

Jes Bartlett got involved as a volunteer with Moors for the Future as a way of getting out and about in the national park.

She said: “Having spent the last three years studying for a zoology degree I wanted to do something outdoors that would have an impact and help the national park countryside that I use as a walker.”

Jes, who lives in Darley Dale, typically spends one or two days a week volunteering on the project alongside volunteers aged from their early 20s through to retired people.

She said: “Since August last year I have done water table surveys, vegetation surveys, measured peat depth, carried out water vole surveys and measured the water table depth.

“A lot of the volunteers are people like myself, who are keen on hill walking because you get to do that while carrying out this important work.

“Before I got involved in the project I had no idea how important all this work was that was taking place on my doorstep. I have learnt so much about my local environment.

“Despite living locally I had no idea about the implications of losing peat, how old it is and how important it is in improving water quality, trapping carbon to help with climate change and enhancing biodiversity.”

Planning information at your fingertips

New website pages have been created to make it easier for residents to make or comment on a planning application.

Responding to feedback from website users all the information on the planning pages - which can be seen at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning - has been re-written to be shorter, avoid jargon and make it easier to understand.

The information is now organised into four sections covering:

- pre-application advice and guidance, including answers to frequently asked questions
- making a planning application
- commenting on a planning application
- application, reporting a planning breach or providing feedback about planning services

For the first time the pages enable residents to search for information about planning applications and any related appeals in one place.

Further improvements are planned later this year, including the production of a video to explain the process a planning application goes through and to show what happens if an application goes to planning committee.

Removing cables adds to the view

Views of important landscapes have been improved as part of work to remove overhead electricity poles and cables from key sites in the national park.

Electricity North West took down 20 wooden electricity poles that used to carry 1.2km of overhead lines between Tunstead and Wormhill. They have been replaced with underground cables enabling residents and visitors to see clear views of the Pennine Bridleway national trail for the first time in generations.

Western Power Distribution Ltd is carrying out two schemes to remove overhead cables from Handley Lane, near Edensor to Ballcross, near Bakewell and between Rakes Lane and Chapel Lane at Tissington.

And Northern Powergrid has removed obtrusive overhead lines and poles across Blacka Moor nature reserve, west of Sheffield. Due to the extra ecological sensitivity of this route the 25 electricity poles that were removed were taken away using a Shire Horse called ’Big Lad’.

The Peak District National Park Authority and the charity Friends of the Peak District have been working together with all electricity companies in the national park to identify areas that would most benefit from removing overhead electricity cables, while ensuring that local wildlife and archaeology are protected during the engineering work.

Andy Tickle, of Friends of the Peak District, said: “There’s a real momentum behind this innovative project now – especially as all the electricity companies who operate in the Peak are fully behind the initiative.

“the next couple of years should see lots more overhead wires being removed – both in historic villages and some of the Peak’s most treasured landscapes, for example at Chatsworth. The only fly in the ointment is the fact that the project doesn’t apply to the telephone poles which also spoil some villages.”

Residents are being encouraged to suggest other places where overhead cables could be replaced. Suggestions can be made at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk/Campaigns/Overhead_wires/
New Community Interest Company takes up the baton for green businesses

In response to changes in funding, the Environmental Quality Mark (EQM), our award for green businesses, has been transformed to ensure a financially sustainable future.

From April 1, the EQM community interest company will operate as a ‘not for private profit’ organisation, running on a commercial basis as a social enterprise.

In addition to meeting strict environmental criteria, EQM businesses are now charged an annual fee (£150 for businesses below 10 employees and £350 for 10 and above).

Bill Purvis is leading the development of the community interest company. “The EQM shows customers that businesses are working hard to look after the special qualities of the Peak District. And, we are helping businesses save money by reducing their use of environmental resources. It makes good business sense in a tough economic climate.”

Contact Bill Purvis on 07901 860094 or eqm@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Margie’s new spin on old woolcraft skills

Margie Stuckey is one of the first fee-paying EQM holders and used an on-line application procedure. She believes the benefits outweigh the costs. “The EQM network is great for sharing ideas and shows our commitment to looking after the Peak District. Customers have confidence in the EQM’s reputation for products made in an environmentally friendly ways.”

Margie’s Peak Yarn and Fibres is based at Brough Lea Farm, a 30-acre farm in the Hope Valley. Australian born Margie learnt woolcraft from her mother. “I’m recycling old skills in new ways.” Her skills run from crocheting, dyeing and spinning to planting trees and repairing traditional drystone walls to stop the sheep escaping. She has 34 North Country Mules, a hardy breed of sheep purchased from Ashes Farm, another EQM business. She uses natural plant dyes to colour the wool so waste water can be recycled on fruit trees.

“Mettrick’s, who are EQM-holders, butcher the meat we produce on the farm so our food miles are minimal. That got me thinking about clothes miles. I made my husband’s favourite has from wool grown by our sheep – it’s about as environmentally friendly as you can get. Producing yarn adds value to the wool so we can make a living from the sheep’s wool as well as the meat.”

Live & Work Rural programme adviser Dan Yates helped Margie develop her business and get a grant to refit her workspace and set up a website. “My business wouldn’t be at this point without the help of the national park.”

www.broughleafarm.co.uk

For the first time the diverse businesses of the Peak District have an organisation – Business Peak District – to unite them in a common cause.

Whether they are tourist operators, farmers, shopkeepers, food producers or manufacturers, these businesses are working together to promote a vibrant economy for this beautiful area.

Led by local businesses, Business Peak District is run in collaboration with local colleges and the Peak District National Park Authority, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands councils.

Chaired by Jim Harrison of Bakewell’s Thornbridge Brewery, the group is co-ordinating strategies to: • push for Government support for Peak District businesses • establish a training agency to facilitate youth apprenticeships • promote the Peak District “brand” in marketing campaigns • organise networking and training events, and discounts on business services • attract investment in high-speed broadband, create conditions for growth and boost job opportunities.

www.businesspeakdistrict.com

Butcher John Mettrick

When John Mettrick goes on TV he’s aware that the producers – and many of his customers – are drawn as much to the Peak District as they are to his products.

The university-educated, fifth-generation butcher runs the award-winning J.W. Mettrick & Son in Glossop and Hadfield, which has featured on TV programmes from the Hairy Bikers on BBC2 to Ade in Britain on ITV.

“This locality and its environment are crucial to our business,” said John. “Visitors come to our shops, and we sell ourselves closely with the Peak District landscape and its farmers who supply us.

“I joined the Business Peak District board because it provides us with a common voice and a forum to share ideas. For the first time we’re going forward as Peak District businesses together.”

www.mettricksbutchers.co.uk

Hotelier Paul Roden

Business Peak District board member Paul Roden (below left) used to travel the world on business – now the world comes to him at the 4-star Losehill House Hotel, near Hope, which he runs with his wife Kathryn.

“The Peak District is what differentiates us from the rest of the market, and Business Peak District celebrates that, which is why I wanted to be on the board,” says Paul.

“We’re all diverse businesses with a common goal, to promote business in the Peak District, look after the environment and bring benefits for the wider community.

“It’s a well-regarded group that is already being listened to by local politicians, and we’ll soon be offering training schemes and marketing tools.”

www.losehillhouse.co.uk
Introducing the Peak District Award

Inspiring learning in the national park

The Peak District offers many opportunities to discover and learn. Seeing the place as an outdoor classroom is the inspiration for a new award that encourages people to spend time studying the national park.

The Peak District Award motivates people to find out what makes the national park special and celebrates their knowledge of topics such as wildlife, plants and local history.

To gain the award, people must study for at least 10 hours and keep a record of what they have done, such as a diary, scrapbook, video or a blog. Sarah Wilks, who co-ordinates the award, said: “We want people to experience what’s special in the national park then spread the word and let others know what they have learnt.” Certificates are awarded to recognise people’s achievements.

Learning is an adventure

Teenage and adult learners from Buxton College cleared rhododendrons at Goyt Valley, repaired a path at Millers Dale, lopped back trees alongside the Tissington Trail and made a habitat pile out of the sticks for birds, hedgehogs and insects.

Catering student Beccie Shepard, 15, who has special needs, took part: “It was an adventure being outside and we had a lot of fun doing conservation. We learned how to use tools safely and we had a lot of fun doing conservation. We learned how to use tools safely and we had a lot of fun doing conservation.

To celebrate achieving the award, the students gave a presentation, ‘Changing the environment for the better’, which highlighted their conservation work.

Tutor Ian Tremayne tied the award into an existing course, “Everyone found the experience exciting, fun and interesting. For most of the students it was the first time they had done any practical conservation and they learnt a lot from the national park rangers.”

Be a Peak District Award pilot

The Peak District Award will be piloted with the public in the summer.

Award co-ordinator Sarah Wilks said: “We are looking for individuals, families or groups to complete the award during National Parks Week, July 30 to August 5.

“This could mean going on a ranger guided walk, taking part in a learning and discovery event, visiting cultural heritage sites or volunteering for conservation, community, cultural or arts projects. If you fancy the challenge contact us for more details.”

For more information contact the Award Team on 01433 620373 or learning.discovery@peakdistrict.gov.uk www.peakdistrict.gov.uk peakdistrictaward

Sense of belonging

Children, as young as five and up to 11, from schools at Edale, Flash and Longnor studied their environment and did experiments with the help of national park rangers to achieve the Peak District Award.

Amber Gilbert, nine, from Edale, “It was really nice to look at what is out there in the wild. We learnt how rare our heather moorland and peat bogs are in the world. It makes you think about the things you see on a walk and we don’t want them to go extinct.”

Leon Bolderstone, nine, from Flash, “We liked the Curlew game where we wore bird beaks of different lengths and had to dip into a bucket for worms – the short-laping beaks did worst, snipe beaks got a few but the long curlews beaks won.”

Sarah Green, eight, from Longnor, “We made bird boxes and went pond-dipping to look for tadpoles. We enjoyed learning about wildlife and going outside to learn.”

Sue Evans, headteacher for Heathylea Federation of Flash and Longnor school, believes studying for the award gave the children a greater sense of belonging to the Peak District: “It’s the children’s environment and habitat too and they need to be part of it. They are the farmers and residents of the future and will need to be innovative to look after, live and work in the national park. They are learning to take responsibility for the area they are growing up in.

“The award is particularly good for small schools like ours as it involves all the students and teachers. It’s set up to develop year on year so we can repeat the award with different activities as the children progress through the school.”

Celebrating success

Tony Favell, chair of the Authority, presented the first Peak District Awards in a ceremony at the Devonshire Dome, Buxton.

“It was good to hear that these young people have learnt something new about the National Park and enjoyed doing so. I hope it will inspire them to do even more and get involved in helping look after this wonderful place. I look forward to more schools getting involved in the year ahead.”
Volunteering

People power for the national park

Hundreds of people give their free time to help the national park. Whether they do it for enjoyment, friendship or ‘to make a difference,’ the national park benefits hugely from their enthusiasm and skills.

Some join the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers to repair paths, mend gates, clear scrub, dig ponds or rebuild walls. Others give their time to groups such as Friends of the Peak District or community organisations.

And some undergo comprehensive training to become one of our 300 volunteer rangers. Among them is Margaret Black...

“Rangering kept me sane!”

Who would choose to end a hard week working in mental health care by driving 70 miles from Scunthorpe to the Peak District to be a volunteer ranger?

Margaret Black did it for six years – “rangering at weekends kept me sane!” Then on retirement in 2002 she moved to Leek “to be near where my heart was,” and has continued volunteering ever since.

Though small in height, Margaret is big in character. She puts in numerous hours unpaid work repairing footpaths, mending stiles, guiding walks or helping at special events.

She regularly assists health walks and she has dressed up as everything from a Bronze Age woman to a Tudor farmer’s wife or a fearsome Hallowe’en goblin.

Why did she start? “I loved walking in the Peak District and occasionally caught sight of a tall, striding figure with an aerial sticking out of his rucksack.

Someone told me about the rangers and I decided I too wanted to feel a sense of ownership and responsibility towards this wonderful area, and not be just a visitor.”

After 15 years, she says, “I enjoy the comradeship, and the equality – we have a real mix of skills, from ex-judges and doctors to telephone engineers – we wear the same red jackets as full-timers and we’re all treated the same. I’ve made a lot of friends, and the jobs I do help the national park - even litter-picking.

“There is so much to learn, so many interesting people to meet, no two duties are the same. I feel that in a small way I make a difference.”

Users groups are increasingly helping “put something back” by volunteering to repair some of the routes they use. Among them is Peak Horsepower, a bridleways group affiliated to the British Horse Society.

Last autumn, members filled ruts and moved stones on Taylor Lane and Wigley Lane, a bridleway and restricted byway on Longstone Edge.

Peak Horsepower chair Wendy Nelson said: “We are very pleased to have played our part with others in helping to restore Taylor Lane to a wonderful long gallop. We organised a ride on Longstone Edge to celebrate the improvements – 35 riders from all over the Peaks took part and thoroughly enjoyed it.”

The lanes are part of the Black Harry trails, 10 routes covering 20km suitable for horse-riding and mountain biking, completed with help from the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers.

For more details: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/black-harry-trails www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ppcv

Hathersage open air pool’s 75th anniversary last year was a testament to the achievement of Hathersage Parish Council who have run it since 1936.

But despite the sunny celebrations, the councillors – all volunteers – were conscious of storm-clouds threatening the lido’s future. For many years it has been subsidised by grants from local authorities, health bodies and individuals, but now these are drying up.

Peak District National Park leaders heard the councillors’ worries and offered advice from Live & Work Rural officer Adele Metcalfe. Adele arranged a grant to pay for the pool’s first-ever Business Plan.

Drawn up by Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service, the Business Plan charts a way that could lift the pool from dependence on subsidies towards a self-financing future.

Hathersage Recreation Committee chair Cllr David Jackson said: “We have to adapt to the loss of income and the Business Plan gives us a basis to re-organise and bring marketing, forward-planning, fund-raising and grant-applications to the fore.

“Everybody says it’s a wonderful facility, but if we can’t make enough money to balance the books they’ll be saying ‘oh what a shame it’s closed.’

“With public finances being cut back we need local people, businesses and volunteers to really get behind it. It’s a smashing community facility, it benefits health and tourism, and we’re trying our best to make sure it stays open another 75 years.”

For more details: hathersageswimmingpool.co.uk For business advice: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/liveandworkrural

Diving in for another 75 years

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Riders gallop in to help repair routes

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Diving in for another 75 years
Quarry restoration – new life for old sites

Quarrying and mining have gone on in the Peak District for centuries due to its mineral resources and proximity to markets.

But the environmental impact of quarrying – mainly for limestone, gritstone and vein minerals – can be huge and abandoned sites have been a major UK source of dereliction.

Nowadays any land taken for mineral working is expected to be reclaimed by the operator as soon as possible, with quarries being returned to farming, forestry or nature, often progressively as a quarry is worked.

There are currently 45 quarries in the Peak District National Park; 73 per cent must be restored as soon as possible - enforcement action is taken for failure to comply.

But some planning permissions were granted before restoration was required, so the Authority is reviewing these and working with operators to modernise standards.

Government policy is that major mineral development should not take place in national parks except in exceptional circumstances, to protect the nationally designated landscape.

There is a long history of frustrating events before this restoration, but it became an excellent example of co-operation between the Authority, landowners the Dalton family and neighbouring Lafarge Cement to achieve a satisfactory outcome in the interests of the national park.

The site was abandoned by a previous mining company and Lafarge provided generous assistance in helping to restore an old mineral working that it was essentially not responsible for.”

The majority of the site is now used for grazing, but the rock face has been retained for future study into the complex geology of the area. It also provides a habitat for nesting birds.

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National recognition for quarry restoration

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But by 2009 its 70-year working life was over, and now the quarry is being returned to nature by operators CEMEX, under a restoration scheme agreed with Authority planners and ecologists.

Stark quarry faces, processing plant and piles of rubble are being removed or re-profiled, making way for cliffs, grassland, woodland and ponds typical of a White Peak dale, with habitats for protected species.

CEMEX UK has a biodiversity strategy and, in partnership with the RSPB, it is committed to creating and maintaining 1000 hectares of UK wildlife habitats by 2020.

CEMEX sustainability director Andy Spencer says: “Quarrying is a temporary land use and progressive restoration means that sites are effectively borrowed. Restoration provides the opportunity to enhance the quality of the land, returning it back to agriculture or creating a nature reserve for the benefit of the local community.”

Wildlife haven on way near Stoney Middleton

Goddards Quarry, near Stoney Middleton, was operating before the national park came into being, producing limestone aggregate for construction.

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Planning officers helping farmers solve pollution problems might not seem an obvious partnership but Staffordshire Moorlands farmer Brian Goodwin found it so.

Brian runs the 100-hectare Pheasants Clough Farm at Meenbrook. The 45-year-old farmer is proud to farm at the foot of the Roaches.

There have been issues with run-off from local farms getting into rivers. To overcome problems like this the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) initiative was introduced in 2007 by Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). This has seen more than £1.5million of grants awarded to Peak District farmers to carry out schemes to improve water quality.

Brian wanted to improve the family farm’s operations with modern buildings but knew this meant making a planning application to the National Park Authority. “I involved the planners from day one. I outlined what I wanted to do and they told me what they thought would be possible.”

With CSF grant aid, Brian built a shed, in 2010, to cover an outdoor feeding area for his 140 Holstein Friesian cattle; and in 2011, added a cover to the slurry store to keep rain off and increase the time he can store slurry in winter.

“The deadline for applying for CSF grants is tight when you need to get planning permission. It makes life easier to talk to the planners - Chris Fridlington, the planning officer, explained everything. We worked together to find agreement, the lines of communication were good - it helps when both sides know what is required of them.”

Planning support for farmers

Farmers have a major influence on the landscape and help protect wildlife and heritage. But market forces continually put the farming community under pressure to intensify production. The new National Park Management Plan (page 3) gives greater emphasis to farming. One way we are delivering more support on the ground is by giving farmers timely planning advice.

Where there’s muck there’s a planning solution

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GETTING PLANNING ADVICE

Last year, we approved 85 per cent of all planning applications. Many successful applicants took advantage of our free advice before submitting their applications.

DROP-IN SERVICE: Get free advice from a planning duty officer, 9.15am to 12.45pm, Monday to Friday, at Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell DE45 1AE. Bring as much information as possible. We allocate 20 minutes for each visit.

TELEPHONE ADVICE: Speak to the duty officer by calling our customer service team on 01629 816200. E-mail advice: customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning
80 years on...

Trespass to Treasure

On April 24 1932, hundreds of walkers staged a Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout to call for the freedom to roam the uplands. When five rammers were later imprisoned, the outcry united the rammers’ cause, eventually leading to a legal right to roam in 2000.

Now a week-long “Kinder 80 – Trespass to Treasure” festival (April 24-29) is planned to celebrate the anniversary, with organisers keen to pass on the enthusiasm of their forebears to the young people of today.

National Park staff and the National Trust, which owns and manages Kinder on behalf of the nation, are holding workshops with Edale and Hayfield schools on its wildlife, ecology, history, art and music, and the children will join the Kinder 80 festivities.

The festival will include:
- A Kinder Surprise treasure trail and a Woods and Water Day for families (April 28 & 29)
- More than a dozen guided walks including From Both Sides Now, a re-enactment of the trespass (April 25)
- Talks, including Wild Vision, an audio-visual show by photographer John Beatty (April 26)
- Displays at Edale’s Moorland Visitor Centre, Castleton and New Mills and a ceilidh in Sheffield.

On the anniversary itself an invited audience will hear tributes from speakers such as author, broadcaster and fell-walker Stuart Maconie (pictured top right) and folk-singer Mike Harding at the Moorland Centre, followed by walks.

For the full Kinder 80 programme, go to: www.kindertrespass.com or visitor centres.

The Kinder 80 Festival comes as Kinder’s future looks brighter than ever: its future calendar, and many people believe that the sacrifice made 80 years ago by these rammers should never be forgotten. But we also want to celebrate what has been achieved on Kinder since then.”

Out of the classroom – into nature

Our rangers work regularly with 46 primary and seven secondary schools across the national park. Why?

Well, as ranger Terry Page put it: “Many children nowadays live in a clean bubble: they’re not allowed to get dirty or muddy. We take them out into the wild to see wildlife as it should be seen, in its natural habitat, rather than on TV. It’s amazing to see their faces when you put a frog or toad in their hand, they’re absolutely fascinated.” Teachers generally decline the toad, but there are benefits for them too, for rangers can offer structured, hands-on learning experiences, tailored to the national curriculum. Some programmes also lead to certificates of achievement.

It all helps to open up young minds in a very practical way to nature, conservation, local history, archaeology, geology or global issues such as climate change.

In return, this work puts us at the heart of local communities. As rangers become familiar to the children and parents, it helps build bridges between local people and the national park authority.

Rangers re-create Tudor life for children

A school party skips down the hill to Under White Farm near Sheen - and tumbles through the centuries to Tudor times.

They are here for a Tudor Farming Day, courtesy of Peak District National Park Rangers and the Dove Valley Education Centre.

Soon dressed in Tudor clothes, the children fan out across fields farmed in the 1500s, some to plough, some to spin, some to gather vegetables to make potage.

Later they’ll eat a Tudor lunch, see real-life skulduggery acted out by Tudor players, and even write a will with a quill pen.

The Tudor Day developed as a partnership between Elspeth Walker, who runs the Dove Valley Centre and the Ranger Service, with set-up costs grant-aided by the Sustainable Development Fund.

Largely run with volunteers, it was piloted last year with children from Hartington and Biggin primary schools. Gillian Francis, head of Hartington School, said afterwards: “The children really got a lot out of it. It was an excellent hands-on, practical day, and this summer we’ll be doing the Tudors, so it will remind them of what they learnt. It’s a memorable day that doesn’t involve costly travel. I’d definitely recommend it.”

This summer children from Longnor, Flash, Hollinsclough and Elton schools will get a chance to discover life on a Tudor Farm.

For more details about rangers’ work: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/rangers
To make it easier for residents to have regular contact with authority members the national park area has been divided up with named members for each area.

A colour coded map on the back page (with a smaller version on this page) shows which members cover the area where you live.

If you need to talk about a national park issue contact them using the details given.

**PARISHES IN YELLOW AREA ON MAP:**
Abney & Abney Grange, Highlow and Offerton, Barlow, Bradwell, Brampton, Eyam, Foolow, Hucklow (Great Hucklow, Little Hucklow, Grindlow & Windmill), Grindleford, Hathersage, Hazelbandge, Holmesfield, Litton, Outseats, Tideswell, Wardlow, Whiston

**PARISHES IN GREEN AREA ON MAP:**
Bradbourne & Ballidon, Brassington, Eaton & Alsop (Newton Grange), Elton, Fenny Bentley, Gratton, Harthill, Hartington Nether Quarter, Hartington Town Quarter, Middleton & Smerrill, Over Haddon, Parwich, Thorpe, Tissington & Lea Hall, Youlgrave

**PARISHES IN RED AREA ON MAP:**
Aldwark, Ashford, Blackwell, Brushfield, Chelmorton, Flagg, Great Longstone, Hassop, Ible, Ivanbrook Grange, Little Longstone, Monyash, Nether Haddon, Rowland, Sheldon, Taddington & Priestcliffe, Winster

**PARISHES IN BLUE AREA ON MAP:**
Bakewell, Baslow & Bubnell, Beeley, Birchover, Bonsall, Calver, Chatsworth, Curbar, Edensor, Froggatt, Pilsley, Rowsley, South Darley, Stanton-in-Peak, Stoney Middleton

**PARISHES IN ORANGE AREA ON MAP:**
Aston, Bamford with Thornhill, Bradfield, Brough & Statton, Castleton, Derwent & Hope Woodlands, Dunford, Edale, Green Fairfield, Hartington Upper Quarter, Hope, King Sterndale, Langsett, Peak Forest, Stocksbridge, Wormhill

Contact them using the details given.

We’re here for you...