

FACT SHEET II:



Living in the Peak District National Park

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Living in the Peak District National Park

National Parks are beautiful and spectacular places which are specially protected by law. Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the Peak District [PDNP Fact Sheet] became Britain's first National Park in 1951.

Covering an area of 1,438 square kilometres (555 square miles), about the same size as Greater London, the Peak District National Park is a protected landscape because of its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and the opportunities it provides for people to enjoy and learn about its special qualities.

Shaped by natural forces over millions of years, and by human activities over thousands of years, the Peak District National Park provides a breathing space for millions of visitors [Tourism Fact Sheet] and is home to around 38,000 people.

National Parks are managed by a National Park Authority, an independent public body funded by the Government. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act set out the purposes of National Park Authorities as:

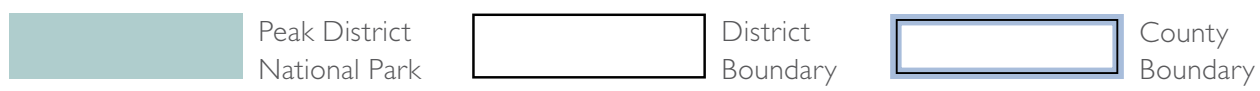
- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of National Parks; and
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of National Parks by the public.

The Environment Act 1995 updated this so that National Park Authorities must also consider the economic and social well-being of local communities. Where the purposes conflict, conservation [Conservation Fact Sheet] takes priority.

The National Park Authorities work in partnership with many other organisations to achieve these goals.

The Peak District National Park Authority acts as the local planning authority and produces strategic, local and management plans setting out its **policies**. These policies have to balance the needs of conservation with the needs of the local community (e.g. houses, jobs, services), the needs of visitors [Tourism Fact Sheet] (e.g. car parks, information) and national needs (e.g. minerals extraction [Quarrying and Minerals Extraction Fact Sheet]). Sometimes these will conflict and the Authority must find a solution. The Authority works in partnership with local communities and with many other agencies and organisations through, for example:

- **Stannage Forum;**
- **Peak Park Parishes Forum;**
- **Local Access Forum;** and
- Rural Housing Project.



Distribution of Peak Park residents by Constituent Authority in 2001

Constituent Authority	% of Park residents
Barnsley	0.2
Oldham	0.2
North East Derbyshire	0.4
Kirklees	0.5
Sheffield	2.6
Macclesfield	3.4
Staffordshire Moorlands	10.7
High Peak	17.2
Derbyshire Dales	65.3

A place called home

The Peak District National Park is home to **38,000** people, most of whom live in the picturesque villages and hamlets dotted throughout the White Peak [Rocks and Minerals Fact Sheet]. The population has remained fairly stable over the last 40 years. About 10% live in Bakewell [Bakewell Fact Sheet], the largest settlement and only market town.

In comparison to the rest of England the Peak District is sparsely populated, with a density of 0.26 people per hectare compared with a national average of 3.77. The most densely populated area is the Derbyshire Dales. Cattle outnumber humans in the Peak District by nearly 3 to 1 and sheep outnumber humans by more than 10 to 1!

There are some significant differences in the Peak District National Park's population structure compared to national figures:

- the average age of residents is 43 years, compared to 38.6 years nationally;
- there are more pensioners and less children; and
- 2.1% of residents did not consider themselves to be White British (compared to 13% in the whole of England).

Proportion of Population by Age Group in 2001		
Age group (years)	Peak District (%)	England (%)
0-4	4.7	6
5-15	13.2	14.2
16-24	7.5	10.9
25-44	24.1	29.3
45-64	31.2	23.8
65+	19.4	15.9

Employment

Some 34% of National Park residents were in full-time employment in 2001 (compared to 41% nationally), 18% were self-employed (compared to 8% nationally) and 13% were in part-time jobs. Unemployment in 2003 was 1.9% (3.3% nationally). Around 40% work in manufacturing, trade and other businesses, 21% work in education, health and social care, 7% in catering, and 7% in farming, fishing and forestry. Just over 6% work in construction and less than 2% work in mining and quarrying. Around half of all residents commute to jobs outside the National Park, particularly to Manchester and Sheffield.

There are around 2,800 businesses in the Peak District National Park, employing 14,000 people in 2007. Three-quarters of these are micro-businesses employing less than five people. Research commissioned by the East Midlands Development Agency revealed that businesses in the Peak District National Park contributed £155 million to the East Midlands' economy in 2007.

The National Park Authority supports sustainable economic activity by:

- providing marketing and grants for tourism, food, craft and innovative enterprise;
- helping farmers [Farming Fact Sheet] with grants;
- helping businesses which have social, economic or environmental benefits and which do not harm the Park's natural beauty, wildlife or cultural heritage.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MARK

The Peak District Environmental Quality Mark (EQM) is a certification mark. The first of its kind in England, the EQM is awarded to businesses that actively support good environmental practices and the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

Housing

There were 17,196 dwellings in 2001 in the Peak District, but 4.1% of these are second or holiday homes (compared to 0.6% nationally). A large proportion of householders in the Peak District owned their property outright (43%) compared to the national average (29%) in 2001. The number of householders who had a mortgage (32.2%) was lower than the national figure (38.9%). The proportion who rented from private landlords or letting agencies (8.5%) was similar to the national average (8.8%).

The proportion of residents renting from social housing providers was significantly lower in the Peak Park (10.1%) compared to the national average (19.3%) or the regional average (17.5%).

In 2001 37,937 people were living in 15,949 households in the Peak District. This is an average household size of 2.36 people, which is similar to the national average (2.34 people).

There is high demand for affordable housing in the Peak District National Park. Demand for affordable housing in High Peak and Derbyshire Dales

within the National Park is estimated to be around 30 per year. The National Park Authority encourages the building of **affordable housing** to meet local needs. Since 1994 it has permitted more than 400 such homes including, between 2006 and 2009, 22 homes in Tideswell, 42 in Bakewell, 12 in Bradwell, 16 in Baslow, 10 in Eyam and four in Hope.

In the early 1990s, the Authority led the way for other UK National Parks in requiring all new housing schemes to include 'local needs' homes where there is a shortage. It attaches local occupancy clauses to ensure properties remain lower-cost for local people whenever they change hands.

Percentage of Household Types in 2001

Household type	Park (%)	England (%)
Single person of pensionable age	16.19	14.37
Single person not of pensionable age	11.15	15.70
All people of pensionable age (more than one)	12.04	9.33
Couple with no children (married or co-habiting)	22.26	17.77
Couple with dependent children	21.32	20.79
Couple with non-dependent children	7.41	6.28
Lone parent with dependent children	2.93	6.42
Lone parent with non-dependent children	2.88	3.05
Other households with dependent children	1.61	2.24
All students	0.02	0.39
Other	2.18	3.67

PLANNING CONTROLS AND CONSERVATION

Many of the buildings are made of local stone and the National Park Authority provides guidelines on what new buildings should look like so they blend in with the existing built landscape. The Authority carefully examines **planning applications** for new buildings to decide whether they are justified (especially outside villages) and ensure they are in keeping with the environment.

As the planning authority for the Peak District National Park, the National Park Authority can designate Conservation Areas – places with ‘special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’. There are 109 Conservation Areas [Conservation Fact Sheet] in the Peak District National Park. Enhancement projects in a Conservation Area might include paving, burying overhead telephone and electric wires, tree planting and restoring

traditional features such as wells, pinfolds or lamp-posts, as well as providing grants for the repair and renovation of non-listed buildings.

There are nearly 2,900 **Listed Buildings** in the Peak District National Park that are of special architectural or historic interest. Special care is given to their conservation and grants are available from the National Park Authority or English Heritage for their repair or restoration.

Village Services and Communities

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There are 125 civil parishes wholly or partially in the Peak District National Park, represented by 113 parish councils. A survey in 2000 found that, apart from GP surgeries, there were proportionally fewer services in parishes in the National Park than nationally:

- seven parishes (6%) had no services at all, and a further 14 had only one;
- 21 parishes (17%) did not have a scheduled bus service;
- 51 parishes saw a loss of services between 1994 and 2000, a trend that has been accelerating in the Peak District.

Due to the wealth of services provided in the towns and cities surrounding the National Park, access to essential services for residents remains fairly good for all but the most remote households. However, this does mean that private ownership of vehicles is high, and this is reflected in the higher than average number of cars per household within the Park (1.5) compared to national figures (1.1).

Tourism can help keep village services viable, particularly in popular places like Hartington and Castleton [Castleton Fact Sheet].

The National Park Authority controls new developments through the planning system. The policy is to limit new building to the level needed to keep the population at around the present level and to encourage the following types of building:

- affordable housing for local people;
- appropriate conversions (e.g. unlisted barns in villages);
- houses for agricultural/forestry workers;
- developments that will enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

The National Park Authority seeks 'to maintain economically viable and socially balanced village and farming communities'. New buildings or the extension of existing buildings must be of a suitable scale and normally within or on the edge of villages. New development must be seen as part of the Park as a whole and must be in keeping with the objectives of National Parks.

The Authority is a partner in **Peak District Community Planning**, a project to promote local involvement in village management. The project helps village residents to:

- highlight the most important community issues;
- **develop improvement programmes;**
- **find funding;**
- manage the impact of tourism [Tourism Fact Sheet];
- encourage participation in community activities and events;
- develop effective partnerships with the National Park Authority and other agencies and organisations.

The Peak District Sustainable Development Fund channels nearly £200,000 a year from the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs into environmental, educational and social projects across the Peak District. Projects include renewable energy

schemes, organic gardening workshops, energy efficiency and conservation, and improving wildlife habitats.

A twice-yearly newsletter, Parklife, is delivered free to households within the Peak District National Park, and is

available from libraries and information centres in and around the Park. Published in January and July, it reports on how the National Park Authority is working with communities and organisations to keep the Peak District special.

A cultural landscape

The Peak District is not a natural landscape. Although the underlying rocks [Rocks and Minerals Fact Sheet] have been formed by natural forces over millions of years, much of the landscape we see today has been profoundly influenced by human activities. Bronze Age forest clearances, Iron Age hill forts, medieval packhorse routes and field systems, 17th century land enclosures,

lead mining and quarrying [Quarrying and Mineral Extraction Fact Sheet], farming [Farming Fact Sheet] and tourism [Tourism Fact Sheet] – have all left their mark on both the landscape and the people.

In order to understand how the past informs the present and so help develop a sustainable future, the National Park Authority has produced a

Cultural Heritage Strategy.

The Cultural Heritage Strategy is underpinned by two guiding principles – sustainable development and partnership. The first means meeting today's needs without damaging the National Park or preventing future generations from using or enjoying it. The second reflects the importance of partnerships to meet the needs of the National Park and its various communities – all those who live within it, work within it or visit it.

Live & Work Rural

Live & Work Rural is a three-year (2009-2012) £1.253 million programme to help businesses and communities in the Peak District.

Launched in April 2009, the initiative is being managed by the Peak District National Park Authority and is funded by:

- £595,000 from the East Midlands Development Agency and the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership;
- £458,000 from the National Park Authority; and
- £200,000 from various other partners.

As well as supporting local community projects, the scheme will focus on working with small rural businesses and people who want to set up new businesses but need help getting started. Live & Work Rural is designed to complement and reinforce the services available through Business Link East Midlands and other organisations.

Further information

- **Live & Work Rural**, tel: 01629 816338, liveandworkrural@peakdistrict.gov.uk
- **Giving Businesses 'Pride in Their Place': The Development of the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark**
- **Friends of the Peak District**
- **Source of the Peak: A Young Person's Guide to the Peak District**
- **Parklife**